

Dungeon S 341

Chapter 341 Northern War Theatre - Part 3

Neither the cultivators nor the goblins expected it. They thought everything was going to be just fine. The anti tank cannons had managed to shoot down the catapults, rendering them useless. The marksmen repeatedly fired their M1 Garand Rifles and managed to score more kills than they ever had in their entire military career. Some of the marksmen had to shout at others to pass them some ammo since they managed to nearly burn through it despite the supposed cost. Even Jia Le, the Breathtaking Bellflower, and Luo Bo, the Illusive Rabbit Cultivator, shot out uncountable kunais and arrows until their hands hurt.

Yet, roughly half an hour into the battle, the Orcs in the front line had managed to reach the fort walls using whatever means possible or necessary to head towards their destination. Shields, dead Orcs, leftover pieces of armour. It seemed like a mostly one sided massacre; nevertheless, the overwhelming numbers gave them the sole advantage especially when they were pitting against a small number of goblins. At this time Spear General Argent started to notice a noticeable change in the siege formation. There were no Orcs who attempted to break down the front doors at all as if they were actively avoiding that place. This should not be the case since it was the weakest link of the defence fortification.

Instead, the Orcs were attempting to climb up the walls which were fifteen metres tall and they were doing it hastily. Each unit was carrying a ladder with them for that exact purpose. The first few orcs died under arrow and gun fire and eventually became the foundation for their rickety ladders. Some of the stronger or more agile Orcs used sickles and claws to climb up the walls instead. Others were successful in reaching the top and started distracting the marksmen from the regular orcs allowing more of the ladders to be placed. (Of course, those orcs were taken care of immediately.)

There were two castle towers at the side of Gob Gob Bu fort walls and the goblin militia that was not manning the fort walls as bowmen were responsible for transporting hot oil to be thrown over the walls. Because goblins were small in size, it was relatively difficult to throw those heavy pots of oil over alone. Luckily with the help of either Sandy the Sand Witch and Zhi Nu the Immortal Weaver who were at each side of the castle towers, the goblins managed to do so without getting scald by the hot oil pot.

Those orcs that were climbing up the siege ladders, however, could not avoid that. They had their skin melted off entirely and some of the less lucky Orcs had the hot oil running down along their throats, causing them to suffocate and die. Still, that was not the only purpose of the hot oil. The goblin militia bowmen lit up their arrows and shot the areas where they poured the hot oil. Some even just threw their burning arrows or empty quivers doused in oil and fire to burn the makeshift wooden siege ladders. Regardless, the orcs were not deterred at all by these horrors. It seemed as if the effects of the taboo magic that Spear General Argent had seen during the days of Goblin Rebellion was even more potent this time around. However, he did not have a clear look at the Orcs themselves to verify it.

"Damn it, they were branded taboo for a reason! How can they care so little for the life of their soldiers, those cold hearted bastards!" General Argent swore in a fit of anger. Overseeing the battle, he finally felt something was off when he accidentally noticed that there was a gap getting larger in the orc siege formation. Never one to doubt his instincts he moved towards Luo Bo and asked if she could fire a few of her flare arrows towards the end of the mountain valley.

Luo Bo did not hesitate and shot the chi enhanced flare arrow breaking the looming darkness of the coming night. This particular flare arrow was somewhat special in that it released little flares periodically at every ten metre interval which provided General Argent with the vision he needed. True enough, the siege formation was split into two with the middle emptied just as suspected. As Argent was waiting for view at the end of the trail, the flare arrow disappeared when it was reaching the other side of the valley instead of burning brightly.

"Shit! They are using illusion magic! Whatever they are hiding can't be good!" General Argent immediately commanded the anti tank guns to shoot at what seemed to be the end of the valley and called out the militia to raise their shields up. Even Sandy's Sand Shield Sentinel Spirit went into full defensive mode.

However, before the anti tank gunners could pull off the next volley of explosive attacks, a large energy beam silently ripped through the optical illusion that was well covered in darkness and a ray of intensely bright light blasted through the centre of the valley. It instantly destroyed the fort gates and the subsequent makeshift barricades that had been created by the goblin militia.

The blast was strong enough to decimate and burn almost everything in its path, creating a hole not just through the fort wall but reaching the other end of the town as well. The M4 Sherman tank which was stationed at the 25 metres away from the fort walls took a hit too.

Fortunately, the Grade 10 thunder resistance inscription managed to protect the electronics and ammunition in the tank, but it was obviously more than the inscription could have handled alone before fading away along with the additional metal sheets plating of the tank. The tank was only able to survive due to the help of Sandy's Sand Shield Sentinel Spirit that had focused all eight shields and placed them as a layered defence absorbing part of the ray or else the beam would have eliminated not just the fort gates, but probably the entire town and whoever was inside it too.

"Tsk, I did not expect that foreign magical summon of theirs to be that strong. Even though it seems to be on the verge of disappearing, this is unacceptable!" Colonel Ayse was disappointed at the result of the attack as she looked through her binoculars at a distance. She did not hesitate to order her war wolf to devour the Orc officer in charge right in front of her for showing such poor results. Yet, she was equally excited. Her gut was telling her the Spear General must have survived if they had such a summon to protect the city. And if he did, that would mean she had the opportunity to slay him with her own hands.

"Shame it's a one time use, but its output is something that we can improve on." Colonel Ayse ordered one of her orc guards to get the caged humanoid responsible for researching these artefacts to write the details down before she continued to feast her eyes on the town.

In the meantime, Spear General Argent was the first to recover from the intense shockwave emitted from the energy ray attack. He looked at the portion of the wall that had the fort gates disappear completely. Rubble were littered all around the remaining sides of the fort and the goblins tried their best to recover from the shock too.

However, the Orcs were not giving them any quarters and had rushed forward through the opening while others continued to climb up any surviving makeshift ladders to the top of the fort walls. The victorious orc war cries lowered the morale of the goblins but it was not enough to break their spirit.

The goblin marksmen reloaded their rifles and continued to shoot from the sides of the remnants of the fort wall, using whatever vantage point they still possessed.

The first thing the Orcs ran for was actually the metal box. They did not care if the energy ray attack destroyed it or not. The Orcs had witnessed its capabilities and would capture it for their own use and reverse engineered it if possible. The cultivators that were scouting around the houses recovered from the blast shockwaves and tried their best to return to the M4 Sherman Tank as soon as possible to provide support.

Bin Yong rushed to the open space and was horrified by the destruction brought by the enemy's siege attack. The ground was still scorching from the attack and everything in its path was burning. There was even one or two goblins militia being burnt into half while trying to avoid the attack. But what caught his attention was the orcs that were climbing up to the tank's cockpit.

Sad to say, those poor orcs did not know that Hou Fei was still in the cathedral tower sniping down at those who attempted to loot the M4 Sherman tank. The orcs that reached the cockpit and tried to open it with brute force were first in priority to be shot in the torso. (He knew a bullet of that calibre from the Barret Sniper Rifle would kill them almost instantly, besides time was of an essence. It was better to hit something than a miss because he wanted a confirmed kill via a headshot.) Blood and body parts were splattered all around the tank. Even though it did not deter them, their numbers were dwindling, giving Bin Yong ample time to rush towards the Tank.

Another reason their numbers were limited was because Zhi Nu. Her position was away from the fort gate giving her more time to assess the situation as compared to the goblins attempting to recover from the blast. She took the opportunity to 'decorate' the opening between the fort walls with her lovely deadly steel threads.

Such intricate decoration proved to be quite deadly for many of the Orcs Calvary. Their only large company of Orc Boar Calvary had waited for the fort gates to be broken and the town to be defenceless. They believed it was that golden opportunity to dash down the middle lane with overwhelming speed and power to occupy the town as soon as the gates were brought down.

Hence, the war boars rushed in. Unfortunately, due to the poor visibility with the coming darkness of night, they were unable to see those thin steel threads clearly. As expected, they were sliced into pieces by their own speed and momentum. Although the calvary subsequently noticed it, their speed rush made it difficult to stop in time, causing various accidents before the calvary behind finally realised there was something wrong at the front. The remaining calvary later notified the Orc infantries about the steel threads after and tried to cut them down but it proved to be difficult to pass through. Many were stuck which provided the goblin marksmen with perfect stationary targets.

That does not mean the goblins were recovering from the change of situation. With the Sand Shield Sentinel Spirit removed from the equation of the fort defence, the goblins were exposed to arrow fire and magical attacks and it also meant that they could no longer proactively continue to suppress the orcs, giving the Orcs the chance to climb up the fort walls too.

Bin Yong managed to activate his tank and Shi Zuo caught up to take the driver's seat. "Fuck! Will that beam thing happen again?" Bin Yong tried to zoom into the big laser cannon that was smoking at the

end of the valley. If not for the infrared and night vision options, Bin Yong would not have been able to see it.

"Just concentrate on the defence first! Such big ass laser cannons definitely have either high cool down or a one time use. Let's just hope it's the latter for now! Implementing such a weapon in this Raid Instance, I can't be sure if this is madness or genius." Shi Zuo did not give a damn as he decided to push forward close to the steel threaded opening and Bin Yong took the chance to fire towards what he could see from the limited vision.

"Time to earn our points." Xiong Da said as he climbed up the fort walls along with the other melee cultivators like Bu Dong, Kong Xian, Deng Long, Ruo Ying and Se Lang. They smashed and slashed the orcs down and decided to take the offensive by jumping over the walls and force their way through.

The Orcs officers were not expecting a strike force from a defensive battle because that would be stupid to risk your already small numbered forces for an attack against a large army. But because of that mindset, Xiong Da and the others had a good time taking some revenge against the Orcs that killed some of the goblins.

Xiong Da being the leading vanguard of the group rushed in with his War Club and the Great Axe which he borrowed from Shi Zuo. In possession of two great weapons, he smashed and bashed his way through the siege formation, running as much as possible creating space for the other cultivators to fight too. (He was afraid he would accidentally hit one of the cultivators especially when his instinct was to kill everything on sight.)

Despite the attack by the humanoids, the orc frontline officers themselves were not to be underestimated. Their body size was larger than the regular orcs and they had activated their magical armours and weapons, making them strong opponents for the cultivators. They personally engaged with the cultivators and challenged them to a duel. (Needless to say, the other Orcs did not care, they would steal the kill if it means earning glory and rank from their higher ups.)

If one were to scrutinise the fights, they could see that almost every Pandawan was engaging with at least one Orc officer while fighting against their orc's rank and file. It was basically a free for all match against the cultivators. Fortunately, they were outnumbered but not outpowered.

Each of them pushed their limits to the max, activating the most powerful techniques they had mastered till then and did their best against the Orcs. Nobody had the mindset that this was just another dungeon instance. The fights felt too real to even think of taking a step back and hoping the difficulty would be lowered for them.

They could feel their hearts beating crazily when their weapons clashed with the Orcs. Bu Dong, the Angry Ape Cultivator even tried out new fresh techniques, hoping to drive his cultivation to the limit and achieve a higher grade. Kong Xian pulled taunting cry techniques against the Orc rank and file to cover Bu Dong's back while he tangoed along with the orc officers. Before this raid event, those high school brothers had continuously entered the Shaolin Football Arena for experience and they grew closer with better teamwork. (Sadly, the Savants remained unbeaten.)

"If only that traitor Yue Han was here." Bu Dong complained as he remembered Yue Han saying he would come as soon as possible after his date with Xing Li, the Hedgehog Cultivator.

"Just let him enjoy himself. They haven't seen each other for days because of his girlfriend's part time job. Don't worry you will always have a place in his heart." Kong Xian teased Bu Dong while asking him to be understanding as he cleaved a few orcs into half.

But the battles were not focused on just them as the objectives of each side did not change. Orcs that were not occupied with the cultivators tried their best to seize the town as commanded. The goblins on the fort walls were desperately keeping their wits together, fighting to ensure the orcs did not take over the chokepoints resulting a constant exchange of bullets, arrows and magic bolts causing damage to both the fort walls and orcs army.

Just when the cultivators' assistance started to turn the gears of war into a battle of attrition, that was also when the representatives of their army send in their specialities. Colonel Ayse commanded the Ogres to be sent out for battle instead of them just lying around doing nothing. Those Ogres were hastily outfitted with heavy makeshift armour on the spot and ordered to destroy the fort walls.

If the lost artefact laser cannon was unable to do the job, old fashion brute strength should finish it. The Ogres charged into the scene and did not care about their orc 'comrades' since mind control techniques had crippled their intelligence. In the meantime, the veteran Orc mages who were summoning the spawn of their Shaitan Noble Syldra finally succeeded.

Though the ritual consumed the lives of the orc mages, they gladly sacrificed themselves for the Shaitan Noble of Thunder. The spawn was smaller in size than their revered Thunder Serpent, which was aptly named as the Storm Viper by their followers. Like its name suggested, it cast supportive lightning magic to the Ogres and they started to move out at thrice the speed towards the fort walls. (Those Ogres were a bunch of creatures that did not like to move much. Three times the speed was equivalent to the speed of the charging war boars which was already commendable. Most mages' high level supportive movement magic would not be able to achieve twice the Ogre's speed.)

Colonel Ayse who became the highest ranked officer of this particular frontier army after they lost their initial chain of command from Luo Bo' attack, could not care less about the lives of these orcs which were trampled by the moving Ogres. As long as the walls were brought down, the fallen would receive their desired honour and that was all it matters.

She kept pointing at her personal pocket watch to the second most senior orc officer in the army who was in charge after his senior officer got eaten by Colonel Ayse's war wolf for being terribly 'incompetent'. "What are you wasting time for? Waiting for the Sun to come up? Quick, get the walls down with the Ogres! We are expected to welcome our General inside the city! I will ensure that you suffer a fate worse than your predecessor if we dally around! " Colonel Ayse bellowed impatiently. The Orc Officer could only bite his lip and nodded at his head reluctantly before scolding his own subordinates for not assisting the ogres that were rushing ahead.

At the same time General Argent had commanded his own Wyvern to appear which became the signal for the rest of the Dashing Wyverns to enter this messy War Theatre. The Wyverns were initially responsible for thinning the advancing forces once they took care of the range units. But with the Ogres advancing faster than they expected, General Argent had commanded his goblin riders to aim for them first.

Even Piercestriker joined the Dashing Wyverns too as he had taken over one of the surviving wyverns that recently lost its rider. Piercestriker thought it would be difficult to ride a wyvern tamed by another goblin rider, but the mind to mind connection connected almost instantly. It was as if the Wyvern had known him before and seen Piercestriker proving his worth. Regardless, the other riders even congratulated Piercestriker briefly during their uneasy rest time but they knew they had to heal up before going into battle again.

That was their plan until another large metal bird appeared within the sights of General Argent when he ordered his Dashing Wyvern unit to enter the fray. However, unlike previously where the large metal bird took off after dropping a few of Master Jin's comrades. This time around, the metal bird flew very close to the ground and the Pandawans inside were shooting the attached machine guns freely at the backlines of the Orc army, wreaking havoc amongst the remaining Archer and Mage units of the Orc army.

The most prominent figure in the C130 plane was standing at the edge of the plane when it opened its cargo doors. "Looks like they really do need help. Pandawans, when the plane does another pass along the valley, get ready to jump." Zeru folded his arms observing the situation while the 'third wave' of cultivators came in as reported by Kraft to Jin. Kraft initially wanted to send Peppers in but Jin had decided to use Zeru instead.

Jin's rationale was that he wanted Peppers to work with another Jin to prep for Operation Pompeii but Original Jin only sent out one Another Jin to work with Peppers because he was too tired to split anymore for the day. Peppers did complain about not being able to dispense some pent up stress on the Orcs but Jin assured her that if she did this operation well, she should be able to create a scene that could possibly be remembered for the ages.

"I will hold you to that! I am not going to care about the budget at all!" Peppers stuck her tongue at Jin as she worked friendly with the Another Jin.

"How does that even work?! I am that Jin too! It's as if he is another entity..." Jin shook his head as he saw them chatting so lively.

"Maybe the Other You has a personality that Peppers cannot resist despite it being controlled by your subconscious. It seems you have the potential to be quite the ladies man..." Kraft rubbed salt on Jin's wounds before returning to focus on the screen.

As the plane began to make its second descent, the orc army's ranged support was too thinned out to even make a dent against it. Yue Han, the Blind Bat Cultivator, saw his mates and jumped when the plane made its descent. The aircraft was flying so low that Yue Han could execute his shadow sword and movement techniques with style and assist Bu Dong who was fighting against two Orc officers at once.

"Sorry that the hero is late!" Yue Han smirked at the two as he did a landing pose but instead of them being delighted, Kong Xian and Bu Dong actually found the time to push Yue Han down to the floor and kicked him a few times.

"Hero my ass! We are eating dirt and arrows while you have fun with Xing Li!" Bu Dong still had some residue feelings for her, the Hedgehog cultivator and he was throwing his punches of jealousy to Yue Han.

"I am just following what Leader is doing. Hehe!" Kong Xian kicked lightly whereas Bu Dong was more serious while still deflecting the blow from the remaining Orc Officer who thought Bu Dong lowered his guard.

"Come on you guys, give him a break." Yue Wen, the Healing Maiden Cultivator, arrived via the floating platform from the C130 plane and healed all three of them as Jing Ru the Gunning Giraffe cultivator covered their backs from the usual Orc Rank and file. Meanwhile, her friends Jia Ying and Shi Hui assisted Se Lang and Deng Long.

"BLEARGH! I AM THE FOURTH WHEEL AGAIN!" Deng Long shouted in agony as he smacked an orc with his baton repeatedly that its bleeding nose was flattened.

"Oh come on, bro. I did not expect them to come." Se Lang tried to soothe his police partner's feelings but the two girls had to make it worse for him.

"But Big Brother Se Lang, if you do not fight with us...We might fight against each other for you and only you~!" Shi Hui, the Shadowy Swan Cultivator, sexily dance towards Se Lang and creating a sort of hypnosis dance that made the Orcs dizzy which Jia Ying, the Sanguine Stag cultivator, took the opportunity to clear them off with her spear techniques.

"My dear Shi Hui, I do not need to fight for him, he is already mine." Jia Ying winked confidently at Se Lang making him speechless and Shi Hui pouting.

"I get it! I GET IT!" Deng Long kicked one of the Orcs away and continue to fight through the orcs all by himself.

"Bro!" Se Lang was slightly hesitant since he really did promise Deng Long he would play this raid event with him even when his two girlfriends asked for his presence. That was when Shi Hui and Jia Ying finally broke into laughter at Se Lang's helplessness.

"Go Wolfie, we knew that you promised him but we did not expect to be in the same battlefield. Have fun with him." Shi Hui smiled and slapped his sturdy back hard, indirectly casting a support boost on him that increased his agility a little more than usual. "Shall we get back to our training? We cannot lose out to our boyfriend." Shi Hui said and Jia Ying smirked and nodded her head.

In the meantime, Zeru was busy occupying himself defeating the ogres with no techniques. Just mere brute strength against those blobs of meat and metal. All he did was to jump to their faces and a seemingly gentle hit with Zeru's wooden sword made the Ogres fell. Some of the Ogres got more aggressive after seeing their fellow kind killed, but they were the ones who got it worse from Zeru. Their faces were cut into two, spilling blood, saliva and contents of the brain out all over the battlefield. One Ogre even went into a raging fit when his head was separated from him.

This gave General Argent some breathing space as he and his Dashing Wyvern unit decided to head towards the Lost Tech Laser cannon, hoping to destroy it before it could fire once more. (They did not know it was defunct after that attack.) If not, the Storm Viper would be their other target.

However, when he got closer, a thin beam of purple electrical energy was released towards him and General Argent barely evaded it. That was when he noticed a bunch of heavily armed orc guards, that was distinct from the rest of the orc army or its officers.

"That uniform!" Argent's blood boiled as he could see a particular female Orc was smiling at him hysterically and with a snap of her finger, the Storm Viper who was standing around nonchalantly immediately slid up in the air towards them.

"Wyverns! Spread out and go with flanking formation against the Storm Viper! I will deal with the commander personally!" General Argent shouted as he charged in.

"Hahahahaha! ARGENT! It is nice to see you again 'Brother'! Adopted son of the Head Researcher Vox! Of all the people he treasured! You were the one that betrayed him so badly and still holds on to his treasured gun!" Colonel Ayse commanded her guards to attack Argent as he came down striking one of them.

"AYSE!!!!!" Argent roared as he and his wyvern swooped down towards the Colonel and her guards.

Chapter 342 Northern War Theatre - Final

Argent dodged yet another energy laser attack from Ayse as he jumped off his wyvern and pierced one of her guards with his spear. "You dare to say I was the one who betrayed him!? You were the one who planted that wicked idea into Father's head and the previous King's! You forced us to kill each other!!!" Argent shouted back as he did a spinning like attack with his spear before distancing himself away from the guards.

Separately, the Dashing Wyverns were finally given the opportunity to show off their teamwork against the Storm Viper who tried to attack them in the air. Despite being able to fly, the creature who prefer land combat, shot numerous thunder bolts out of its mouth to force them back on the ground. Yet the wyvern's air to air combat was unparalleled and they had an easy time dodging those thunder bolts because of the six degrees of freedom in mid air. Launching attacks of their own the Dashing Wyverns split up. One half distracted the Storm Viper by letting out multiple breaths of fire while the other half had the goblin riders nose dive from above before retreating thereby slowly accumulating damage to its lengthy body.

Yet the proud Spawn of Syldra, would not accept going down like this. It stopped with the thunderbolts and started to emit electrical charges out of its body to protect itself instead. Unfortunately those lightning attacks were not as effective as the Storm Viper had expected them to be. Goblin healers had made use of their resting time to cast magic that gave them higher lightning resistance. The goblins also had gone through the Town's alchemical stores and gathered bags of magical powders that reduced the effectiveness of static discharge around them after having learnt that their enemy would be the Lightning Army.

This allowed the Dashing Wyverns to act bolder in their attacks and try eliminate the Storm Viper before it could potentially inflict serious damage to the entire unit.

When all of this was going on one goblin stood out from the rest. Piercestriker flew up vertically high with his new wyvern as if they were going to launch a death strike from the skies yet that was when something miraculous happened. Piercestriker body started glowing alongside the Wyvern while he felt the chi within him rotating around him eccentrically.

"User, Goblin Piercestriker seems to have fulfilled the criteria to be entering a stage of evolution. This evolution is outside of the planned one which was promised as a reward. Do you wish to allow it, so that

System shall provide aid to speed it up?" The System noted and Jin who was looking at the overall battle was shocked at the content of the sudden message.

"Erm, go ahead I guess?" Jin moved his console to look at Piercestriker and his stats popped up too. The console immediately updated a new page of stats and an updated card picture for his Tact Tweaker.

"The Goblin seems to have managed to develop a unusually high affinity with the Wyvern it was currently riding. Such evolutions are considered symbiotic evolutions, a subtype of side evolution rather than a step up evolution. Bellator Peppers has left a note for you in case of such situations arising. System is now playing back her explanation: 'Think of side evolutions as unlocking and changing hidden class instead of a step up evolution which is more like a class advancement' ." The System played the recording of Peppers voice and explained it further which lead Jin to understanding that it was more like a Goblin version 1.5 than a totally new form.

"Ah, you scared me back there. I thought for a moment that he would change into some sort of winged flying goblin after making friends with a surviving wyvern from the Dashing Wyverns. " Jin sounded relieved after he saw the new stats of the new 'goblin' form.

"Negative. Only through a step up evolution will there be such cases of major changes, whereas a symbiotic evolution will strengthen both parties and enable them to improve their teamwork. Side evolutions are more commonly encountered in the wild, though they are still rare. The changes may happen instantly after the requirements are met. User's monsters only require the proper equipment, other new minion or certain skills. All it takes is the right click. System will help out in speeding up the process and enable the monsters to get in peak condition in such situations." The System noted, stating that Piercestriker's name to be changed to WyrStriker.

Wyrstriker experienced some minor body changes as the side evolution occurred. He became aware that he no longer required the saddle which was burdening the Wyvern with more weight. Instead, his body could automatically create a kind of mechanism that allowed him to stick to the Wvyern.

Piercestriker did not understand how this happened but he guessed he would find out later. Upon reaching higher altitudes, the Wyvern did a backflip and dropped into a free fall towards the Storm Viper. Being pushed back for a while, the Storm Viper was attempting to gather her energy to annihilate the pesky wyverns flying around it even at the cost of its own life. But before it could do so, a spear pierced through its head at Mach speed. Wyrstriker did not stop there, he continued to push his old spear into the snake's body and headed for the duel against Argent and the guards.

General Argent being a seasoned Wyvern rider could roughly sense the change in the air and decided to ruse the guards by skitting around to fight against them. The guards thought the General was fighting defensively and decided to go offensive as predicted by Argent himself. Even Ayse's war wolf mount participated with the collective offensive. "Hmph, Dad sure has a keen sense." Wyrstriker lowered his body to increase the aerodynamics, hoping to achieve terminal velocity and raised his spear that was filled with chi with the snake on the front.

"Because he had been through many battles, although I feel that you had your own fill too." The Wyvern who previously only answered through its emotions via the mind to mind connection, was now seemingly able to communicate via his thoughts to Wyrstriker.

Wyrstriker was initially shocked by it when his new mount suddenly introduced himself as Iwen. It was the ability of a Wyvern Knight, which was the current new class Wyrstriker attained. Even in the whole Dashing Wyvern unit, there was only one that achieved the same and unsurprisingly it was General Argent himself.

During the descent, Iwen also shed his old brownish red skin for bright red scales and prepared to ignite the gas he produce from his mouth to incinerate some of the orc guards.

As expected, the corpse of the Storm Viper fell towards them and impacted and electrocuted the Orcs to a certain degree. (The Storm Viper was acc.u.mulating discharge before it was stabbed by Wyrstriker.) Seeing how the impact killed almost every guard in sight, Iwen withheld his attack. He later turned his body and glided towards Colonel Ayse and shot out multiple fireballs at it.

"Heh, it seems our reports were wrong. You have another rather fiesty Wyvern Knight in your possession." Colonel Ayse blocked the fireball attacks with her multilayer barrier, though the outermost layer went down which irritated the female Orc. Wyrstiker controlled Iwen to glide straight towards her until the very last minute before he used the momentum to spin around and smack the shield with his tail destroying even more layers. Not letting up, Wyrstriker himself jumped out to strike her with his old spear... only to get bounced back. Changing his spears he took some distance before charging towards Ayse once more.

"So cute. I like hard working goblins. But I love them even more when they are dead." Colonel Ayse raised her other hand up and conjured a fireball of her own version. It was purplish in colour and it crackled, only to see that it was imbued with lightning element. General Argent understood what kind of attack that was and wished to aid his child but he was too far.

"GET OUT OF THE WAY!" The Spear General shouted as he threw his own spear in the hopes of distracting Ayse even just a little bit. He even went so far to shoot repeatedly at her barrier with the laser gun he was holding till it overheated but to no avail. This was because her gravely injured war wolf mount sprung out to protect its own master for one last time. Most of the laser gun shots were block by the wolf's body but Argent's spear pierced through him cleanly with immense force that it was able to impact strongly against the shield barrier Ayse created. Unfortunately, the Lightning Fireball flew out of her hand and headed right towards Wyrstriker as she ignored and the subsequent laser gun shots and spear attack from Argent.

But Wyrstriker simply smiled.

He pushed his gearbox spear forward and suddenly his spear spread out like an umbrella which allowed him to block the particular fireball. More so, he was able to absorb part of the energy of the fireball and stored it within his spear as he continued his charge. The dust and explosion from the lightning fireball gave Wyrstriker some cover as he diverted his movement a little and jumped out from the left. Ayse was pleasantly surprised that the kid goblin survived and created the same initial barrier once more.

"Have a taste of your own medicine." Wyrstriker smiled as he plunged the gearbox spear into the barrier and released the absorbed energy. An even louder explosion occurred. Ayse unable to see through the smoke realised that there was something foreign in her stomach. Wyrstriker had utilised his old spear, doused with wyvern poison from Iwen's tail spike.

"What?!" Colonel Ayse was so shocked that for a moment she was unable to comprehend that she was pierced. Being a scholar she lacked much in battle experience, limited to the theoretical knowledge about it, yet she always assumed that her multilayer barrier would be able to hold against any attack just as it did against the Orc Generals. Especially when her mana was not expended as since it was powers bestowed by Shaitan Noble of Thunder Syldra. She simply stood there with a hand on the spear not believing the situation.

That was when Argent walked towards her after picking up his spear that was now glowing in white light. Ayse started to realise that she had completely forgotten that Argent's weapons were imbued with the power of light which could nullify the Shaitan's magic and that included her multi layered barrier.

"F.u.c.k!" Ayse coughed out blood as she knelt on the ground with the bitter realisation that she had underestimated the Father and Wyvern Knight duo. General Argent was not ashamed for his son 'stealing' the glory for putting down a high ranking Orc. However, before General Argent could get any words out from her mouth, Wyrstriker stabbed his gearbox spear into her heart and the old spear into her neck to ensure she died quickly from it.

"Ahh...I actually wanted to ask some questions..." Argent thought his son was out for blood taking care of such a high ranking officer but Wyrstriker shook his head.

"Master Jin will have his ways getting your request fulfilled this way. Please don't question why. Instead I have questions for you, Father. I'm sure you can see the slight transformation which have occurred to me. Who exactly is that Wyvern? Why did it feel so familiar when I initiated the mind to mind connection with him?" Wyrstriker brandished his gearbox spear as he noticed other orc officers and orc rank and file heading towards them.

In actual fact, they were trying to retreat after seeing Colonel Ayse's demise. When Ayse died, the taboo magic cast upon them faded away almost immediately and the orcs all were able to see that they were stuck in a losing situation after their leader was cut down. Regardless, some did not give up without a fight though most retreated back hoping to rejoin the main Thunder army again.

"Half of these Wyverns that my goblin riders are using were found by both you and your brother? Don't you remember?" General Argent cleared the Orcs that were charging towards them before their Wyverns flew in upon being called and brought them out of their retreat path.

Some time later they rendezvoused at the Valley Town of Gob Gob Bu and during the flight back, they talked about the past. Wyrstriker learned that it was the nest of eggs that his brother had discovered one day. The next day he aided his elder sibling to move them to the house, hoping to have a good delicious meal of fried eggs.

It was their mother who noticed that those eggs were heavier and shaped slightly different from the usual ones. Consulting with their father, Argent assumed that what they found out had to be abandoned Wyvern eggs. Without being near the right temperature they were unable hatch. After learning that inside were those majestic creatures both brothers immediately asked their parents to keep them. Hence, Wyrstriker's brother and him took great care of the eggs until the first hatched and Argent delivered it as well as the rest to the Royal Pet Farm.

"So in other words, Iwen must have been the first one to hatch. Seeing as you and your brother were around at the time he must have imprinted on you and was more than happy to finally see you again. ... Although it's a little late, congratulations on getting the form of a Wyvern Knight. The scriptures of the olden days used to tell us that it is a form of blessing from the Gods for worthy goblins, it is a kind of new life starting, so... Any title or name you wish to be bestowed upon or would you prefer to continue to use the name of Piercestriker." General Argent pat Wyrstriker on his back when they reached the ground.

"Wyrstriker. Master Jin decided on that name long ago. He had trained us in the hopes of achieving this kind of breakthrough but we seemed to have lacked something, which is why he had taken us out. " Wyrstriker lied as he knew it was the System that came out with the name since it informed about it when the evolution happened. Nonetheless, if Wyrstriker wished to change his name, all he had to do was to ask Jin.

The cultivators were finally able to relax as the Orcs were retreating. Many sustained wounds but they were not as major as they thought they could be. Zeru commended their efforts before mass teleporting them to the Recovery Instance for check up and healing. In the meantime, Hou Fei came down from the Cathedral Tower and talked to Zeru about a few things, hoping to get some update from Jin. Zeru was happy to scratch that itch or curiosity and gave Hou Fei the rough version of what his Master was planning.

"Huh...Operation Pompeii?" Hou Fei was surprised by the new updates. Meanwhile the goblin militia handled their wounded and gathered their fallen. Separately, the remaining Anti Tank users and goblin marksmen came to report to Hou Fei who told them he could not be any prouder. They nearly used up all their ammunition and scored tens if not hundreds of confirmed hits. It was unfortunate that a number of Anti Tank Guns were busted by the Super Laser Beam attack but it was to be expected during the war. Even the now abandoned M4 Sherman Tank took much of beating defending the weak point of the broken fort walls. Hou Fei later dismissed them as he and Zeru discussed more about Jin's new development.

"I shall overlook the area for a while longer and report to Jin when necessary. You can return to the recovery instance and enjoy some good sleep. A private room was allocated for you with shower and afterwards you can enjoy a fresh hot meal. The time dilation in that room matches with this particular world so you can rest easy." Zeru said and Hou Fei agreed wholeheartedly as he passed a tablet that controlled the detonation of explosives to Zeru before leaving.

Afterwards Zeru went forward to General Argent who was passing orders to his subordinates. "Master Jin would like to have a talk with you. General Argent." Zeru opened a portal requesting General Argent to enter as soon as possible.

"As much as I'd like to entertain Master Jin's request especially after he sent such a major assistance to the operations here, I can't abandon my men." General Argent shook his head reluctantly until he heard sounds of howling coming from the other side of the town.

General Gladios, Slashreaver and the best response unit Gladios could muster entered the town before the main army officially arrive.

"Bro, it is nice to see you well and alive." Gladios came down from his personal wolf mount as he surveyed the surroundings.

"You are indeed a sight for sore eyes." Argent kindly asked Zeru to wait for a while as he summarised the events to Gladios. Sword General Gladios could not help but pat Argent on his back for a good job well done.

"If King Sol hears of this, you and the rest of the goblins here will most definitely receive a medal for your efforts. We will conduct a proper military funeral for the dead once this is over." Gladios looked at the dark moonless night once more.

"Please, as if I need another medal." Argent grumbled as he thought back at the award ceremonies being so boring that he regretted being forced to attend them.

"In any case, you do not have to worry, I am here to supervise." Gladios declared proudly while Zeru also reassured Argent that he would be staying watch too.

Argent sighed as he adjusted his battered armour before stepping forward into the portal.

Chapter 343 The Interrogation...?

Spear General Argent entered a dark room. A lamp with a dim light was all he could make out at first.

Just after getting used to his environment he heard some muffled noises from afar. He followed the sounds only to find Colonel Ayse all tied up, but alive and kicking while Master Jin and someone unfamiliar in a long trench coat were sitting at her side. The unknown person seemed to be enjoying the rest of a meal before turning his attention towards the goblin. "She is all yours to interrogate. If you fail to learn anything from her, it will be my turn to have some fun." Kraft said as he plucked the debris between his teeth with a toothpick.

"Sorry for the late introductions, this is Kraft. He is my erm personal...erm... He is a specialist who helps convince people to reveal their secrets." Jin put it nicely and Kraft could only grin. "Rest assured. Both of us haven't done anything to her. You two seem to have history so we will leave you to yourselves before we interfere." Jin finished his sentence and asked Kraft to disappear into the darkness with him.

Argent understood that they were establishing some kind of good cop bad cop scenario so that Ayse would confess what the Orc race was planning. He dragged the chair Jin had been sitting on over and faced Colonel Ayse who only had her hands cuffed at the back of the seat.

"10 minutes. That is all you are getting." Kraft threw the toothpick on the ground and with a snap of his fingers both figures disappeared into the darkness. Argent thought that the dimness of the light was playing a trick in his mind but he got into business quickly.

"You seem strangely comfortable being chained down. I had always hoped to meet you under different circumstances... So how does it feel to be on the other side for once?" General Argent removed the tape over Ayse's mouth as he tried to start the conversation.

"What does it matter to you? Let's skip the bullshit and get to the point. So speak up. This may be the last time we see each other Brother." Ayse begrudgingly acknowledged Argent's existence for now. He was the last person she wanted gloating over her, yet she was in no position to do anything about it.

"Fine let's get right down to it. Is Orc King Hamu suffering from the same thing as what Father did to the previous Orc King?" Argent asked bluntly and Ayse smirked.

"Heh, you still acknowledge him as Father even after what you did to him, huh?" Ayse stared at General Argent for a moment before continuing to speak. She was after all commanded by Jin to answer truthfully to Argent. After being 'baptised' by the System she was loyal towards him but under normal circumstances, important secrets could still be withheld from Jin. Similar to the conditions that Nubwort, Black Disaster described, until Jin proves himself worthy he would not reveal much... Although, a small bite from Evon, one of Kraft's foxes, made non compliance no longer an issue which Jin usually tried to avoid unless it's urgent.

"Yes, but I used a different mixture. Orc King Hamu always enjoyed his pork soup to be served first before every dinner. All I had to do was to plant a mole inside his Royal Kitchen and continuously feed him 'that' drug." Ayse emphasised the last word which made Argent rage inside.

"The dosage was small but the effects started to become apparent after a month or two. I doubt he ever even considered the possibility he could fall into the same shithole as the previous Orc King." Ayse laughed as she revealed that.

Argent knew one thing was for sure, Ayse's insanity knew no bounds and she inherited it from their 'father'. Because of her distorted way of thinking and immense knowledge as a young researcher, she was hailed a genius creating all sort of gadgets and devices. To date, she might have created more inventions to improve the military force and indirectly affect the Orc population than anyone else, even trumping the previous Head Researcher after his demise.

Ayse was also the one who managed to decipher the lost tech map; a task which her father failed in his lifetime. This accomplishment lead to the Orcs discovering the mysterious island which was filled with old lost tech. She was also the one who suggested to capture the humanoids to operate the lost tech as well as the one who aided Orc King Hamu to contract the Messenger of Shaitan, Diabolos.

"So you are the mastermind after all... Why did you not learn from Father's mistakes... You saw where such a path lead to, didn't you?" Argent asked with a sad tone which ironically pissed Ayse off.

"Please, my methods should be considered less crude compared to Father's. He personally shafted the idea into the previous Orc King's mind! I could never do that do our Saviour and King, Hamu!" Ayse was being sarcastic and making a fool out of Argent.

"Although, I must admit following Father's legacy was indeed thrilling. We were all wrong about him. Everyone thinking he was a monster in person, was just too blind to understand him. If only you could have seen his research notes and secretly kept papers. That knowledge was out of this world! In retrospect, he was a saint. Such a pity that you had to kill him." Ayse complained with disdain.

"What else could I have done? Just wait at the sidelines and let him sacrifice the whole race of goblins so that you could have pursued some fake immortality? Please! That whole plan was just madness!" Argent got up from the chair and pulled Ayse's collar towards him as he shouted.

"Oh, Brother. Seeing you act all protective for the inferior race is amusing. But you know what is even more amusing? Knowing that the hypocrite in front of me also not only ordered but even took part in

the deaths of his brethren so many times until he felt guilty about it. My only regret is that I did not notice this weakness of yours soon enough. Otherwise, I wou---" Ayse laughed out loud.

"Enough!!!! What is the current plan of Orc King Hamu?" Argent demanded and Ayse rolled her eyes.

"Why should I tell you? I am done for anyway. No reason to give you this satisfaction. So what are you going to do know, General Argent? Do you believe you could force me to tell you by beating it out of me? Maybe take revenge before I get the chance to tell the whole world that you had tortured hundreds of goblins all back then as well?" Ayse taunted with the truth against which Argent could not fight back.

"This is just painful to my eyes. Not even five minutes in and you fell into her pace. That's it, let me take over Mr Goblin. Time is of the essence after all." Kraft yawned as he grabbed Ayse by the throat with the chair attached and threw her to the wall. The chair broke from the impact and Ayse coughed for breath.

"We will deal with this ourselves. You can go back now." Kraft dismissed him as he opened a portal for Argent. The middle aged goblin grasped his own fist tightly and walked towards Ayse instead and punched her. Once. Twice. Three times. Many times.

He beat, slammed and punched until his knuckles were filled with blood. He did not care if it was his blood or coming from Ayse, he was punching until Ayse was knocked out. Argent then walked towards the portal with no remorse. Kraft did not seem to care about the goblin's fit of rage and just waited before he clapped lightly and escorted him out.

"What was that all about?" Jin asked as he resurfaced from the darkness and into the slightly dimmed area.

"I probed his memory after he entered my domain. Young Argent had rescued Ayse when she was just a tiny little baby orc. There had been some terror attack by some rebellious goblins. As a simple servant back then he had been tasked to look through the rubble for possible survivors. He found her screaming in a burning house and did what he could just to rescue her. Apparently, the Head Researcher was there at the time who witnessed the whole thing. Impressed with not just his bravery but his quick wittedness to grab a bunch of draft research papers which the Head Researcher so happened to be working on, he tasked Argent to bring her up. Especially since he had other more important assignments to do. The Head Researcher granted him the status as the personal servant for Ayse which elevated his rank to be the same as an Orc citizen." Kraft explained as he picked up the female orc who was disfigured by the attack.

"Growing up this little young Orc kept close to Argent despite being surrounded by other excellent Orc guards. Their relationship became very cordial and Ayse regarded Argent as her brother despite their different races. The Head Researcher became interested in observing their strange relationship and figured if Argent learnt how to fight, read and stuff like that, Ayse would naturally try to copy him so too. She did and they eventually uncovered her talent for researching things, which lead the Head Researcher to invest more resources in her. In turn, he also elevated Argent's status even more and allowed him to stay as Ayse's personal servant. However, Argent was also made to perform personal tasks for him too. As you might guess it involved torturing and killing his own kind. Well, that is where the tragedy started. Little Ayse witnessed this and started to develop a superiority complex. Some

boring stuff happened in between and in the end when the Rebellion happened Argent was forced to kill his own adoptive father. " Kraft summarised it for Jin.

"Oh...so Ayse did this kind of taunting is to break the bond with Argent?" Jin asked as he pushed the chi regeneration potion into Ayse's mouth.

"My best guess is that she could not forgive Argent for killing her father, but you would need to ask her yourself for her side of things," Kraft answered as he laid back on the chair and waited for Ayse to regain full consciousness.

"I hope you had a nice little nap darling. But now that you are up it's time to tell us what we want to know. So what's the Orc King's plan?" Kraft yawned lazily. There was no reason for him to enter her mind to search for the answer.

"He will personally enter the capital kingdom of Gob Gob in 15 days alongside the avatars empowered by the Shaitan Noble," Ayse said without any hesitation in her voice.

"15 days?" Jin queried as he thought the King would do a swift strike, similar to what he has done with the Kingslayer Ambush

"He is waiting for the full red moon phase, that is when his Shaitan powers will be at their peak. At the same time, every offering the Avatars present to the Shaitan Nobles at that time will be rewarded handsomely. If you are wondering where are they going to enter from the North or West, you would be sorely mistaken." Ayse warned with a serious face and the duo giggled together before taking out the lost tech artefact Jin had found on the Orc Raider Captain.

"How did...oh wow." Ayse realised what was happening and chuckled too. It seemed that she was captured by either a fairly capable person or a person with heaven defying luck.

"Then I guess that settles the Capital Kingdom part. You could now control where he would be teleported. Though I would not celebrate too soon. He always has a backup plan if things do not seem to be according to plan. Also, you can be damn sure, that the King is not going in first but should be last." Ayse said as she calmed down.

Jin then explained his operation to Ayse and she could not help but laugh loudly till her stomach hurt. "Are you freaking serious?! Here I thought that the one to enslave me would be boring, but you are just crazy. However, I really do like the sound of that plan. And that will definitely should not make him suspicious. That is at least what I think. But beware he is not alone. Diabolos and the other Shaitan Nobles should not be underestimated. I doubt simply dropping him in a volcano will be the end of it."

"Let that be our problem. Just let us know if there are any good large volcano places around?" Kraft asked since the orc researcher might have stumbled on geographical knowledge or perhaps detailed maps of the regions.

"It so happened that I know of a displaced island that would fit those criteria," Ayse replied and Kraft did not hesitate to scoop that information out of her head and transmit it to the System.

The System then projected the information to a floating digital screen in front of them and Ayse verified the location. Both Jin and Kraft agreed it looked very suitable for the Operation but before they wrapped up the entire conversation, Jin asked Ayse of something important.

"Wanna play spy?" Jin asked politely which both Kraft and Ayse grinned widely.

Once Sword General Gladios finished supervising the area, he went around town and ahead to the top of the fort walls to overlook the destruction that was left by both parties. The bodies were many and the distinct smell of blood was obvious.

He later ordered a group of militia to go outside to collect any usable swords, axes, spears, shields and arrows. Even pieces of armour and helmet would be great but were placed lower in priority. The orcs might have carried weapons larger than what a usual goblin would hold but the salvaging was to reuse and recycle. The metal collected could still be melted down and those arrows that were left untouched could be used against the orcs. This would also prevent the possibility of Orcs taking them up and made them even more deadly.

In the meantime, Slashreaver was looking at Wyrstriker's new form and his wyvern. "Wow, I did not expect you to evolve faster than Ripcaller. I always thought he was the superior one..." Slashreaver tried to pat Iwen but the red wyvern seemed to proud to allow that and even gave him an annoyed look.

"Who knows maybe Ripcaller already evolved?" Wyrstriker wanted to be humble but at the same time, he unknowingly hurt Slashreaver's feelings. Noticing this he tried to salvage the conversation by consoling him. "Anyways didn't the System promise we would evolve no matter what when we finished this so called war thing?"

"True that...oh yes talking about the war thing. I discussed with my Pops about loaning a goblin army to be used for helping with the Rat Demon eradication. He said it would definitely be an honour for a part of the army to serve under Master Jin. My Pops himself told me that he wanted to experience Master Jin's training." Slashreaver boasted to Wyrstriker who became surprised.

"You told him about the Rat Demon eradication part?" Wyrstriker questioned.

"Nah, I just told him Master Jin might ask for Pops to loan an army once this particular war is over. He agreed to it immediately. Didn't even have to tell him what it would be for." Slashreaver replied.

"And now after seeing first hand how the young Piercestriker turned into a magnificent Wyvern Knight and earning himself a personal title, I feel even more compelled to go along with Master Jin. Whatever he needs us to do, I am sure it would definitely push my limit even more." General Gladios had accidentally overheard their conversation and decided to chime in after entering their tent.

"Son, you better buck up or Princess Starfire may fall for Wyrstriker instead. Hahahahah!" Gladios gave his son a large pat before extending his hand to congratulate Wyrstriker on his advancement to Wyvern Knight.

"Pops!" Slashreaver blushed a little. Suddenly a portal appeared beside them and Spear General Argent came in with his fist bloodied. Gladios saw that and quickly shouted for a healer to attend to Argent.

Argent explained what had exactly happened and both Wyrstriker and Slashreaver revealed a little more about Master Jin's unique summoning skills which surprised their fathers. Jin allowed them that so they could reveal such an ability but limited it to their fathers and no one else. The two generals were left distraught for a while before a guard rushed in alerting them that the main goblin army finally arrived.

"Looks like more work hands has arrived. I shall go out give some orders. You three have a rest first. You have earned it. Unless something major happens I'd say enjoy it." Gladios said as he went out of the Command Tent and started to organise the incoming military reinforcements.

In the meantime, Zeru overlooked the entire town from the cathedral tower Hou Fei was using. He picked up a few used gun shells and twiddled them around his fingers as he passed time.

"What are you thinking?" Yun came out from a portal that was situated right beside him. She carried a tray containing two drinking cups and a bottle of sake from the Hot Springs instance.

"Lady Yun, it's a pleasant surprise to see you here." Zeru wanted to kneel in front of her but Yun stopped him.

"The cultivators were pouring in non stop ever since the start of this Gobin Raid Event. Many new customers too after they heard about the price. Thank the System for the shop instance which has the ability to expand indefinitely, otherwise there would be a giant queue outside. That itself would be another headache to settle." Yun placed some large ice cubes into the drinking glass cup and opened the bottle of sake to pour.

"It is good to hear that the business is booming for Master Jin." Zeru thanked Yun as he accepted the cup from her and sipped it slowly.

"In any case, I've asked Mr Patsu and Bear Cub One to tend to the store for a while. I am only 'human' and also need a break every now and then." Yun poured herself a cup as well and began drinking hers while leaning on a pillar at the top of the cathedral tower.

"How is his progression?" Yun asked Zeru since she knew he was always observing Jin silently at the side lines.

"Not fantastic, but he is my first student so it could be partially my fault for not guiding him properly. Though I suspect that he has another master teaching him things too which is why I pulled myself back and let him decide who he wishes to follow." Zeru shook his glass and the ice in it settled down.

"Heh, Jin thinks he can hide it but it was obvious once he started fighting. The System is aware that Kraft is helping him to hide something from us, but chooses to ignore that matter since that master you talked about is putting positive changes into Jin." Yun revealed as she sat opposite of Zeru in a rather provocative manner. Zeru did not care about Yun's sitting posture and stared at her intently.

Yun somehow enjoyed the attention she gave was being reciprocated she smiled unabashedly as she consumed her cup of alcohol. "I know what you want. Well nothing like a little exercise." Yun whispered across the tower and Zeru smirked.

Both of them slowly placed their cups down simultaneously as they leaped towards each other with their weapons out and clashed in the night with all their might.

Chapter 344 Winding Down

Two wooden swords clashed against each other with such force that the goblins thought there was another attack incoming. Panic spreads across the majority of goblin army, who have not seen such a sight and they picked their arms up. But when Sword General Gladios noticed the silhouettes of the two

humanoids above, he calmed the goblins down saying it was nothing to worry about although he warned them not to interfere in any way.

Some of the resting goblins continued with their business while others who saw such humanoids before came over to watch the fight as if it was some sort of martial arts contest. Yun was wearing a full white plain mask with no holes at all when she started the fight with Zeru while Zeru's one quarter mask was covered with a lotus petal design. However, from the inside, she could see everything as if the mask was not really there.

One would wonder why would Yun spar with Zeru? That was actually way before Jin had his first training session that they had been sparring in secret.

There were multiple reasons for their little bouts. One was to make sure Yun was capable of fighting if the need for that arises. Two was to keep Zeru in fighting form and three was merely to kill some time and release stress. Yun being part of the System had copied Zeru's fighting style and allowed Zeru to somewhat spar against himself. Surprisingly, this initially resulted in a very quick defeat for Zeru when they first fought against each other. Instead of feeling down, Zeru was more than happy with the result that he immediately asked Yun to spar with him whenever she was free.

Zeru hoped that he could learn about the flaws of his own techniques and improve them accordingly as no one in the real world or in his past life had managed to defeat him nor copied his style. Mainly because he created this series of techniques from his own experience and kept to himself.

The System even went beyond Zeru's initial request and gave Yun access to the amalgamation of all the martial arts, experience and techniques acquired by the System so far in its lifetime. This made it hard for Zeru to predict what he was up against as Yun's style could change daily while sometimes staying the same just to throw him off. Unfortunately, this was only a temporary power up and once it was over she only had her own style to back herself up in order to fight.

It was due to the fact that each time Yun accessed such information from the System, it would take precious resources away from the System, mainly Souls. That was because those experiences and techniques were the embodiment of other cultivators' memories. There was no way to replicate its actual technique through just sending said information to Yun's brain... normally.

Thanks to her special constitution as a being created by the System when it extracted her spirit from the broken Dantian, her Soul was "incomplete". For that reason, it was possible to assimilate other souls to fill that gap and complete itself. The System made use of this by coding the information into a particular soul and sending it to her for use and experience those souls for oneself. After a set amount of time, the soul would devour the "foreign" soul as it was not part of it. Yun had asked the System if there was a way to make it permanent but the answer was that by sending a larger part of a foreign soul would create the risk of her being taken over or simply go crazy by too many different experiences. It assured her that through collating more data via Zeru's sparring, there might be a way to prevent, overcome or maybe exceed that.

For this reason, Yun was more than happy to accommodate Zeru with his training as she enjoyed trying out the new techniques. Hence, the techniques that Yun used when she fought with Jin in the random arena with the large cleaver was not her own but came from another cultivator whose fighting style was noted down by the System. In a way, this was also the last resort the System had in place to protect Jin

in case of any catastrophic incidents such as fighting against a Grade 19 cultivator. However, if there was ever a Grade 20 cultivator who was trying to kill Jin, the System was unsure how much it could help Jin out as its records only included the entry for one particular Grade 19.

Former Panda Lord Zhou Lin.

Despite that, Yun was able to copy Zeru's moves was because Zeru worked enough for Jin to earn a partial soul fragment a day as his daily reward. (Yeah, bellators were given daily pay too, Heh.) Therefore, Zeru always paid for Yun a set number of souls to copy his techniques and sometimes more to incorporate other techniques for him to train himself up or else he would not be in shape. Other bellators had their benefits too. Peppers were given partial soul fragments to recover her body or used them to buy books. Milk used those partial soul fragments to strengthen her magic while Kraft refused the soul fragments but instead bargained with the System for things whenever he needed them. (the System gave in to the bargain because he had done too much for the System defences compared to the other bellators.)

The fight was proceeding like the ones before it. While both fighters seemed to be evenly matched at a point, Yun managed to push her advance mainly because she was so familiar with his fighting style unlike him who had to adapt at the fly. Till this day Zeru had not seen Yun utilising her own cultivation technique as if she wanted to hide it from Jin or even Zeru for some reason or another.

The two wooden swords clashed one final time and the impact from the swords even made the heavy cathedral bell rang out once. After the gong, Yun called it off. She wiped her sweat off while adjusting her business skirt. "As always I find it incredible how you manage to fight at this level with your skirt on and still show off your style in coolness." Zeru complimented her as Yun opened a button from her shirt to release some heat.

"Its a subtle way to distract male fighters and made them think I do not have the mobility." Yun winked as she cleaned up the tray and disappeared into a portal without saying another word.

"She is as elusive as ever. Oh Yun, how do you manage to appear so close at times and so mysterious and distant as if you were someone else at others. I wonder what Jin would say if he knew..." Zeru sighed before he smiled and looked up into the sky. He took a good look at the foreign black sky before he resumed to keep watch at the corner of the tower after a satisfying workout. The rest of the goblins clapped for such a show before they returned to their work. Even Sword General Gladios learnt a bit or two from their fight.

"Heh, loaning an army you say Master Jin? You yourself already have that many One Man Army in your possession." Gladios reflected while he patrolled the area to ensure the goblins were doing their job recreating the defences.

Xiong Da was lying in a private ward recovering peacefully in his sleep with light snores escaping him. At the same time in the same ward as him, Ruo Ying had just woken up in a separate bed. She stared at the ceiling confused for quite some time before realising where she was. Then her mind replayed all that she had gone through in the last hours (even though in their world not too much time has passed) only to

become aware how many times she could have died in that particular dungeon instance. It was hard to believe anyone could create something like that.

The monsters felt too realistic, their screams of horror when their comrades went down. The victorious war cries of the orcs during the laser cannon attack. The heat emanated from that laser cannon even when she was tens of metres away from it. Her mind briefly wandered and as if it was just nearby, she could still hear the far-off ringing noise of the anti tank cannons and the sounds of the marksmen shooting their rifles. She did not know why but it made her heart uneasy and her body started producing adrenaline. Only what seemed like a few seconds on, there was a light knock at the door.

"Miss Ruo Ying, we noticed your heart rate and blood pressure elevated to an abnormally high level in a short period of time. Do you feel alright? Is anything hurting or does something feel strange to you?" A panda nurse came in to check on Ruo Ying and she did not know how to respond.

"I think I am alright. I do not know. It's just me thinking back at what we just experienced. I am unsure if it was fear or excitement. Whenever I think back about the horrific orc and goblin deaths, I consider myself lucky that I am to still alive here through my own sweat and blood...I feel ecstatic and the same time scared. Is it stupid of me to think that way?" Ruo Ying told the Panda Nurse about how she was feeling.

"It is alright you are not the first one to feel that way. You just need to remember. This is just a dungeon instance. However, Boss Jin has made precautions in such cases as yours. We have a specialist who can help you to cope if the memories are too burdensome but it requires some more time and you would not be discharged that soon." The Panda Nurse offered. "Else, we can let you see a counsellor and talk about this. Remember, all you experience might feel real but it's just a dungeon instance."

"Give her some time to rest, I had those thoughts at the start too but after I got over the fact that all this was just a dungeon instance, my mind seemed to relax. Boss Jin aims for perfection, though I have to admit that he may have taken it a bit too far." Milk came into the private ward, lying so blatantly that it somehow convinced Ruo Ying.

Unknown to the cultivators while they were relaxing in the recovery instance, the foxes of Kraft were making their rounds to reduce such possible cases of PTSD or general anxiety disorders one might feel after the raid instance. After all, it was a real world that they had joined and not a controlled environment.

However, for veteran customers of Boss Jin, the past dungeons they experienced had already triggered both placebo and nocebo effects of the cultivator and conditioned them to think that everything was not real. It was mainly for new cultivators where it might trigger the effects of anxiety orders. With the new Goblin Raid Event, gossips and rumours were making their rounds that you can experience a true fight. Of course, some of the gossips were more extreme, stating that everything was possible with the Dungeon Store as long as Boss Jin was behind it and he actually listened to the requests of his customers.

Jin too heard about such rumours and he himself would love to keep it that way by exposing them sufficiently just for a fight and not too much to learn about the whole grand scheme of stuff. It was indeed a dangerous move by him but he felt that with the current state of dungeon suppliers being just

an entertainment venture rather than something to train the mind, body and ultimately the improvement of oneself. If possible, he would like to return to the roots of being a Dungeon Supplier.

Despite it being an unorthodox move, Jin had the System in place to regulate his customers properly. With the System being somewhat omniscience and omnipotent when it came to the well being of innocent third parties, it was there to ensure incidents did not happen at all cost. (Customers always first right?) Worst come to worst, a memory wipe would suffice though Jin does not like that a single bit and that would be the last resort.

Milk personally went to check on Ruo Ying and at the same time apply a calming spell on her to let her relax. Ruo Ying was finally able to lay down peacefully but at that moment, she did not realise that there was a black fox in her peripheral vision. When she blinked and turned to confirm what she saw, it disappeared. She thought she was seeing things as Milk reassured once again before allowing her to sleep peacefully. Milk smiled and walked out of the private ward to check on the others.

Bu Dong and his other high school mates who were allocated in another private ward were not resting as compared to the first wave of cultivators. They were excitedly discussing what had happened in the Raid Event. Of course, Bu Dong was still trash talking about Yue Han but he did not care much since Yue Han knew it was Bu Dong way of showing concern to him.

"That combination is not that bad huh?" Kong Xian talked how proud he was to showcase a new attack during the counter offensive which he used after Bu Dong unleashed an intermediate sword technique. Yue Han was curious and all three of them gathered at Bu Dong's bed as they watched the replay which was exclusive to the raid members.

While the System did not have any 'magic eye' similar to its own dungeon instances per se, it was already monitoring the goblin world's battlefield in its own way, hence allowing the replay for Bu Dong and the others to watch. (The System was in control of its own dungeon instances, any replay was easy to capture.) Therefore, the goblin raid event footage was more expensive than normal because the monitoring footage was not cheap to process. Those who had subscribed to the 'Netflix' of Jin's dungeon replays had to pay 20 Yuan more to get the footage which Bu Dong gladly did so.

"Oh wow, Kong Xian, I did not know the Towering Tortoise had such an attack." Yue Han was complimenting him. The high school kids continued watching the replay though they somehow made a ruckus everytime the footage showed some crazy stunt made by one of them. That was when the Panda Nurse had to step in and asked them to keep quiet and made them to go back to their beds to rest like little kids. They initially obeyed but when the Panda Nurse closed the doors, they all scurried back to Bu Dong's bed to continue watching.

Meanwhile, Luo Bo signed a waiver form for early discharge as she wanted to see the rewards in the redemption store. "You sure, you do not wish to stay here longer to rest? The time dilation here would be more beneficial for you to rest right now, allowing you to save more time in the real world." The Panda Nurse asked to reconfirm her decision.

"I want to go check out the store, with these much points there is definitely something to buy!" Luo Bo noticed that her normal clothes were already washed and dried when she changed from her ward gown. Shi Zuo was awake but he was lying down lazing in the bed and told Luo Bo to have fun while Bu Dong and Jia Le were peacefully asleped in their own beds.

"If there is anything nice, do take a picture for me to see. Don't go overboard with your purchase." Shi Zuo said sluggishly as he waved goodbye to Luo Bo.

"Heh, if there is anything pretty, it will be mine." Luo Bo stuck her tongue out to Shi Zuo as the Panda Nurse escorted her out of the recovery instance.

Chapter 345 Event Redemption Counter

"You must be kidding me..." Luo Bo's jaw dropped when she entered the Event Redemption Counter. She was expecting something similar to an Arcade Redemption Counter when she entered the instance but it was more similar to the Armoury store only with more accessories and miscellaneous items in stock. The products were lined up neatly and the variety was extensive. Wall paintings, T-shirts, mugs, figurines, plushies, snacks, keychains and many more.

Luo Bo was initially taken aback by the many sizes of graphical monster paintings when she entered. Some were hanging from the ceiling and rest were on the top part of the wall. All of them were seemingly in top quality and it was so real that they could jump out of the picture. Some were imprinted on metal, others were canvas portraits. There were solo pictures as well as combinations of various monsters in those pictures. For example, Shu the Sakura Tree Treant together with Ke Mi playing with her beloved zither while her Great White Snake was lying nearby listening in peace. It did brought about a sense of serenity from within when one looked at it attentively.

The Event Redemption Counter also offered various dungeon monster figurines that were so detailed that it put famous toy production companies to shame. Luo Bo saw two dynamic fighting poses of the Werecoats, Nyami and Meomi in their sleek sexy outfits. The werejackals in their half transformation with fire sparkling on their hands captured in a cool victory stance. Luo Bo could still remember the first time she got beaten after underestimating them. That was exact same pose they had used to celebrate beating her. (Along with some victory quotes, she could not remember.)

"Judging from the production value, they must cost at least over a 1000 Yuan (150USD). But damn...I wouldn't be surprised if they actually could sell for 2500 Yuan (372USD). Maybe even more to passionate collectors." Luo Bo analysed the figurine in the display boxes.

Working in an animation company she had dealt with her fair share of designs for many anime figurines. This had provided her with the expertise to notice the quality of plastic and the details estimating their worth.

"...not to mention scrappers...hmm but Boss Jin is not 'that' famous right?" Luo Bo briefly entertained the thought of gathering all these figurines as a personal collection. However she quickly abandoned the idea of doing that... at least alone. The sheer volume was just too much, but maybe she could convince her friends to help her . After all they could serve as a wonderful work inspiration. She did not know who Jin had contracted as there there no obvious toy company stamps nor any artist signature to it. Browsing through them, there was one that caught her eye and made her start to drool a bit.

It was possibly the largest, most comprehensive and likely also one of the most expensive set that was available to be redeemed. "Oh my god how long did Jin plan this for?! I did not expect this to be on sale and they have her as well!" Luo Bo squealed on the inside at the figurines on display in a glass box. She took out her phone to take pictures of it.

It was the notorious Team Savant.

Although it's not the entire eighteen, the set featured the initial five which had become famous after crushing Bu Dong's team. Up until now Jin had kept some of the Savants a secret from his cultivators. Some of the classes were hidden for future surprises or maybe Jin wanted to sell them as part of a second series. The ones that featured in the redemption counter were truly branded into the brain of every cultivator who had tried to beat the Shaolin Football instance.

Hence the current team on display included the Lord Knight, Lancer, Archer, Assassin and Warlock. Despite the fact that they were the ones most often encountered, Luo Bo remembered Mr Know-It-All stating that they were not necessarily always together. However, she only cared for one model at this moment, the Archer Savant.

Luo Bo grinned with joy as she took pictures of it and was excited just for the Archer Savant alone because she herself was an archer. When she first joined the Shaolin Football Instance, Luo Bo had sulked after being beaten, even though it seemed that a win was so close at first. However after watching the replay of her loss she paid extra close attention to the Savant Archer. After a couple more matches she analyzed the footage and tried to copy what she saw. Luo Bo learnt quite a number of tricks this way from her, especially skills that did not involve any particular techniques at all. For example, when to optimally shoot a scatter shot, how much she needed to nock and turn her body to release a spin shot which could curve slightly so that an enemy would not notice until it was too late. It was surprising how perfect the Archer Savant managed to display her skills.

However, the display model in the glass box seemed to indicate that it was the whole team that was to be sold rather than merely the archer on her own. Nevertheless Luo Bo decided to just ask one of the Panda Attendants whether if the archer figurine could be redeemed by itself.

"Hmm...technically they are supposed to be sold in a set, but let me check something real quick and get back to you." The baby Panda attendant replied with an adorable smile before it went under the glass box display which had a red cloth covering the legs of the table. It seemed to be sniffing around for something for a while, but then started to move backwards. It was pulling a box out from underneath the glass box display and lo and behold. It was a solo Savant Archer figurine.

"Here you go!" The baby panda gave a childish smile which could make every humans go 'awww' for it.

The Panda attendant wanted to stand up to give Luo Bo her Savant Archer figurine box but because of its clumsiness, it fell down before it could stand up although the Panda was aware enough to grab on to the box tightly preventing the figurine box to suffer any damage at all. Luo Bo nearly had her heart skip when the Panda fell but more so for the box. She was relieved when everything was okay.

"You okay there little buddy?" Luo Bo squatted to assist the little Panda attendant as she rubbed the fur of the panda. Naturally, the Panda attendant responded with a slight growl and Luo Bo could not take it anymore. Giving in to her urges she picked the Panda attendant up to pet and got a slight yawn in return. Thankfully, unlike normal animals, Jin's Pandas had a natural perfume smell instead of stench wild animals which made Luo Bo cuddle it even more.

"Miss! Your box!!!" The Panda wanted to get away but Luo Bo was not giving him any chances. Suddenly, she heard a loud stomp from the entrance of the Event Redemption Counter and it was none other than Xiong Da who was panting loudly.

"Brother Xiong Da! Why do you look so flustered?!" Luo Bo carried the Panda attendant to show how cute it was but Xiong Da hurried to the Panda attendant as if he was carrying some sort of life and death message for it.

"Where is that Panda plushie?! That large one! Fluffy one!" Xiong Da exclaimed and the Panda Attendant calmly pointed it to the left hand corner and Xiong Da being large and tall in stature immediately saw what he wanted to see. Relieved that it was still there he picked up the Panda from Luo Bo and oddly thanked her for her assistance before he rushed quickly to that place as per the baby Panda Attendant's direction. On his way to the plushie, Xiong Da did not care if he bumped into people (he did say sorry though!) but as he reached the large Panda plushie, he saw the price and nearly vomited.

"Panda, if I combine the Raid points with my girlfriend's, is it possible to get that particular plushie?" Xiong Da purposely took Ruo Ying's phone when she was sleeping and turned on her Pandamonium app in case if he did not have enough points and hoped to use her points together if it's possible.

"Sir, your request is unusual but not impossible. We are here to provide compromise and satisfaction whenever possible. Please place your phones on my paw here to redeem your XXXL Panda plushie." The Panda Attendant who was in Xiong Da's arm raised its paw out.

Xiong Da did not hesitate to place his and Ruo Ying's phone on its paw and the transaction was done immediately. Xiong Da could see that Ruo Yong's account only have four Raid points left while his was completely empty.

"Congratulations on being the first to receive this XXXL Panda Plushie!" The Panda clapped its paw as the Panda plushie which was hanging on the wall suddenly dropped down and smashed into Xiong Da's face.

Instead of being angry, Xiong Da was overwhelmed by a heavenly cushion of comfort from the soft embrace of the cuddle from the XXXL Panda plushie. Luo Bo was curious about what was happening and sniggered when she saw Xiong Da being so comfortable with the Panda plushie.

"I did not expect a large and mature guy like you to enjoy a Panda plushie this much!" Luo Bo said as she held on to the box though she had yet to make her payment of raid points.

"I will not argue with you on this Luo Bo. Just give it a try and everything should make sense to you." Xiong Da let go of his large new toy for a while and the Panda Plushie returned to its previous normal size. Luo Bo was a little apprehensive at first but she guessed there should not be any harm in trying it out...

She was dead wrong.

The plushie embraced her like a baby in her mother's bosoms. Luo Bo suddenly felt whatever fatigue she'd gathered from the battles in the Goblin Raid Event was lifted from her. She could not remember

when the last time was she had enjoyed such homely feeling. Even when she was deeply in love with Shi Zuo, this warmth...This softness...This comfort. She never felt anything this impactful before.

"Okay that is enough." Xiong Da smirked as he pulled Luo Bo out of the XXXL Panda Plushie and she felt she was being pulled out with a rough awakening.

"NOooOOooooo!!" Luo Bo cried out because she wanted more cuddle time with it. After looking wronged at Xiong Da she shifted her attention the poor Panda Attendant who got scared because of her eyes burning with desire. In the meantime, other cultivators were starting to gather as they noticed the more well known cultivators in Jin's shop were fighting over a product.

"I want that thing now!!" Luo Bo demanded and the Panda attendant shook its head.

"I am sorry Miss, your account does not have enough points to purchase this." The Panda attendant said regrettably.

"What if I remove this particular archer figurine away from the cart. I should have enough right?" Luo Bo's heart was getting a little agitated and the Panda attendant regrettably shook its head again.

"You are still missing over a thousand points." The Panda answered and Luo Bo felt like flipping a table.

"Can I pay with medals instead?" Luo Bo asked with a bit of agitation in her voice as if she was really desperate and there were some other cultivators who began to try out the Panda Plushie that was for redemption too which got on her nerves. Unfortunately the Panda apologised and she could only sigh in regret.

"Why Xiong Da! Why did you have to show me this!!!" Luo Bo felt she would have preferred staying ignorant about this particular plushie especially after she found out more of its functions. Frustrated, she placed the Archer Figurine box back and started to call Shi Zuo. However, he was not picking up his phone and she knew that there was no way to return back to the recovery instance from the shop instance since it was a one way exit.

"Arggh! That does it! I will go do another goblin raid!" Fuelled by the rage, desire and the need to own one, she bought the ten ticket package and pointed at the Panda. "You better keep one for me, or I will rip you into two!"

"Miss please refrain from threatening us, we are here to help you. I am afraid I cannot reserve any items, its against the store's policy no matter how veteran you are in this store." The Panda gathered the courage to deny her request and Luo Bo went off in a fit of anger.

She teleported away and found herself in the same scene of the C130 where she saw Captain Bai and Hei. "Oh, you are back so quickly. Are you waiting for your other team members or joining oth-" Luo Bo suddenly banged the red button on the C130 without the permission of the Panda Captains.

"Give me a mission to kill those orcs. I will do it solo." Luo Bo said with eyes of murderous lust to which the Captains reluctantly obliged and gave her the same monitoring ring which she had returned to one of the Panda nurses.

"I shall be your companion." A lady walked out with a slight robotic voice and to her surprise Luo Bo saw it was none other than the Archer Savant. At least, her luck seemed to turn around.

"There are raiders chasing after a goblin merchant caravan, you can- Sigh...couldn't you at least listen to the briefing?" Panda Captain Bai shook his head as Luo Bo and the Archer Savant jumped out of the C130 together while scaring the cultivators that were waiting for their turn to sortie.

"Do not worry, she is a veteran. Maybe someday, you can be as daring as her." Captain Bai assured them as he continued the briefing with the others while Captain Hei closed the cargo door of the C130.

"Target on sight. Fire a few, I will later assist you with your landing." The Archer Savant was cold in her words but calculative in her actions, a feature which Luo Bo secretly admired.

"Let's rain some arrows on these orcs." Luo Bo smirked as she activated her far sight and nocked her bow- She aimed with the intent to kill.

All for the XXXL Panda Plushie!!!

Jin was experiencing an overwhelming success with his new Dungeon Raid Event. Many people tweeted, shared in the social media and continued the event for the next few days. Various dungeon supplier reviewers had began to take notice of this particular shop because of the hype it was producing even though it did not have a social media account. Most was spread through the word of mouth and it was surprisingly effective.

The new customers were speechless when they first joined the shop instance and the crowd it could handle despite it being just a storefront from the outside. Sure, there were some people loitering around outside Jin's shop but the newbies did not expect it to be this grand when they were teleported in. Jin's store really was a hidden gem, if one could overlook the outrageous prices in comparison to others.

Luckily the Dungeon Raid Event was so cheap that newbies managed to get their first taste and some of them found the prices of the other Dungeons acceptable given the dungeons' complexity and high details.

Jin had also changed the interior decorations for the month of November again to something more goblinish in nature to reflect the Goblin War. He took inspirations from the towns of Gob Gob Kingdom and the interior layout of the tavern he visited.

Jin even made Mr Patsu and Bear Cub One wear green goblin ears and have a goblin mask at the side of their face. The restaurant train instance was also remodelled to the scenery of the Goblin World after the System had gathered sufficient information from the satellite. As the days went by, the redemption store was not only stocked with Jin's merchandises but it even introduced local Goblin products which Qiu Yue had traded. Of course, most of the products were repackaged with more of the modern context while retaining the authenticity of the goblin theme.

For example, the beer was sealed in mini kegs with modern plastic sealings to prevent people thinking it was not airtight. The local delicacies like goblin cookies were repacked with a more colourful packaging which helped attract the sight of females. Qiu Yue introduced those modern packaging styles to the Goblin Trade Ministry and to their surprise, it also became quite a boon for their own markets too. (Qiu

Yue did charge them a little more for all this cosmetic packaging which earned her and Jin quite a nifty profit as well.)

Of course, with customers sharing such a wonderful event, it did not take long for the competitors to take notice of it. Ruby Rats owned Dungeon supplier store, King's Monster launched a similarly major campaign called the 'King's Advance' to attract people. It even bundled it with major discounts to their dungeon instances for a limited time only. Being the current market leader in the region it unsurprisingly attracted quite a crowd, but compared to Jin's store, it did not retain many customers willing to try the event again. Once seemed to be enough for most of the customers.

The whole event helped gave a commercial boost to the Tiangong shopping district and some took the chance to offer discounts to attract more people to dine or buy items when they visited Jin's dungeon supplier store. While it was true that Jin's store did offer food that was off the charts, a number of customers simply preferred to have a cheaper food alternative. Some of the shopping district shops just adapted and started to offer cheaper alternatives of equipment for the new customers. Clothing shops collaborated with inscribers and sold cheaper defensive options after they themselves tried samples from Jin's store. A new weapon store was built not far from the dungeon supplier store and it was shockingly popular amongst the newbies. Even Shen Si Fang, the owner of Lele café had created a goblin themed breakfast.

Jin really did not expect such a response from the Shopping District, but he was happy that others also profited. While he wished to relax there was one thing on his mind which he did not know what to expect from. "I know that you said, that your memories are hazy and incomplete, but do you by chance remember anything about her? From what I was told Grandma Yuan has been around for ages. Surely you and Ming must have met or at least heard anything about her." Jin asked Yun as she tended to the stores.

"No sorry, nothing comes to mind, which could help you. All I know is that she as a Guardian and that she could be considered just as influential as the Royal Zodiacs around these parts. You just have to be relaxed and yet attentive to her needs." Yun tried to calm the anxious Jin down while she prepared an announcement signage ready to be placed outside of the shop just for Grandma Yuan's arrival.

"Besides, she got you out of jail. You owe her that much." Yun proceeded to tell the customers that there would be an early closure for some maintenance purpose and almost everyone jeered at that.

"Yeah right, my 'servers' needed rest too and I have placed the announcement since a day ago so no one should be able to complain. Those who wish to dungeon, you have five more minutes to enter an instance. The Raid Instance is closed for now and the rest of you, please get your asses out of here." Yun said to Jin before announcing the closure of the shop through the speaker system. Mr Patsu and Bear Cub One later tried to salvage the ruthless announcement though many knew that when Yun was rough, she meant business. Hence, many obliged and decided to call it off for a day.

All except for Jin who felt the pressure mounting up and for once that time was passing way too slowly.

Chapter 346 The Wait for Grandma

As Jin was waiting for Grandma Yuan, he was looking through the details for Operation Pompeii. The preparation was hectic but it seemed to be progressing very smoothly. The other Jins via the High

Intensity Mode in the past few days had managed to obtain the materials for makeshift buildings that were used as props for Hollywood movies and such. For the more important buildings which were the ones most likely to be rushed through by the Orcs, those were purchased as customised prefabrications.

The fifteen goblin days seems little but were precious providing Jin ample time despite the time dilation. Peppers had even found the time to cast magic to remodel those makeshift buildings to imitate the ones from the the goblin town. The more perfect the fake buildings were, they could be disguised it off as the real one, right?

While the System had provided the Other Jins and Peppers with the exact city design layout via the satellite images, Kraft had made his way to the desolate island to check its conditions and most importantly whether the volcano was truly inactive as described by Colonel Ayse. His favorite weapon, No Mercy, worked as a sort of power booster allowing his foxes to turn large enough to be mistaken for Kaiju Monsters. They proceeded to take take turns to 'fly' him there as fast as possible to scout and make his own observations about the island. (Technically, the foxes ran, leapt and jumped but to those goblins, it looked like they were flying monsters. Some goblin mothers used them as an excuse for their kids to behave otherwise the giant foxes would come get them in their sleep.)

"Not that bad I guess... as long as we cover the top of the inactive volcano with a piece of land or some floating island, we really could pull the disguise off with very high walls. They should never know...well actually they might find out if some of them could fly. Damn I guess some of them CAN fly...maybe I could borrow that dungeon core responsible for powering up the shield barrier from Moloch and Sluggy Wolte. Perhaps we could even turn it into a sort of giant mosquito trap. As soon as they fly away far enough... ZAP." Kraft thought to himself before asking the System how much would it cause to make such a thing happen.

"Exorbitantly expensive. However recreating the energy for short, one time use is feasible and sufficiently cheap. As long as Original Bellator Kraft keeps up the appearance of a permanent barrier it should be possible to fool them." The System noted and Kraft being a big softie for crazy plans had asked the System to make him four of those "toys". "That will be equivalent to one year worth of soul fragments, but since Original Bellator Kraft had not been collecting his soul fragments for decades. System shall write it off as miscellaneous expenses."

"Good System." Kraft smiled as he clapped to open a portal and returned back to the Dungeon Maker.

At the same time, the exact city design layout coupled with the old city plans from the Goblin Home Ministry were also used elsewhere. Initially, the Other Jins had ambitious plans to include the complicated yet poorly designed sewers in the fake city. Later they decided to abandon them because of the lack of time. Instead they talked the System to purposely create a part of it to throw off the orcs who wanted to use the Sewers as a direct route to the Ministry Office. (That was also one of the possible targets that Colonel Ayse had suggested to hit to the King previously.)

The System also marked out where the ninja penguins had found the lost tech artefacts as well as the possible places where the orcs could have planned to place them, hence giving an idea of the Orc's train of thought. Peppers used this to possibly deduce the locations they were targeting. Once they analysed the possible routes, Peppers suggested the kind of traps to be placed there. (Although Kraft also chimed in with his own crafty suggestions...well because he's a counter intelligence agent!)

Separately, The Orc-Goblin War was still proceeding with the goblins putting up a fierce defence in the North. They even sent out assault parties accompanied by cultivators against the Thunder Orc Army who had not expected that much damage to be inflicted from the goblins.

Within the coming days, there was indeed a diversion coming from the West where the Ice Orc Fleet travelled via their sh.i.p.s just as Colonel Ayse's intel had warned them about. The Ice Orcs thought they easily could pull up to the shore and quickly take control over the Western Region with their almighty sea fleet that was equipped with sturdy iron sh.i.p.s they replicated from the Lost Tech Island.

The Ice Orc Fleet would be more daring in the diversion attack. It was especially so as they were accompanied by the Wind Orc Army's airship carriers. This time around, the Wind Orc Army were equipped with larger guns and sturdier materials. Both armies being confident of their army, they sailed and flew to the Western region of the goblin territory for the diversion attack.

If a normal human or goblin in the waters saw such a scene, they would feel like a terrifying nightmarish menace was coming to take over the lands of Gob Gob Kingdom.

Fortunately, the Goblins had some tricks under their sleeves now, courtesy of Jin. According to the Orc plans, the Orc raiders were supposed to pillage, raid and cause discord to the remote goblin villages while collecting resources. They would then proceed to store those supplies for either the Thunder Orc Army or the Orc Ice Fleet to utilise.

However, with Jin's interference, most of the Orc Raiders were killed and the resources were retrieved back. The villagers were safely evacuated and their militia was reorganised with the supervision of Qiu Yue and the workings of Defence Ministry. She worked them like slaves and not just the Defence Ministry but the rest of the other Ministries too. However, for the survival of their kingdom, they would endure this hardship. (Not to mention the bet they lost to her.)

Even though the war was still ongoing, the pedals of economy was moving fast and steadfast despite the lack of manpower after the conscription. Trades with other towns and races were still ongoing and the markets were reorganised to support the war effort. There were even cases where the goblin kids helped out with the labour if necessary due to lack of manpower. (They were not enforced but strongly encouraged.)

Diplomatic wise, the goblins had managed to convince the humans that if the last remaining goblin kingdom were to fall, there was a very high likelihood that the Humans might be next. King Sol and his diplomatic agents (alongside with Qiu Yue!) had initially asked for a simple alliance. They did not ask for much as they understood asking the humans to cooperate with them in the War against the Orcs was impossible. They never shared a big connection and it would be impossible to overcome the historical differences in a small amount of time. All they ask was just simple aid supplies or at worse discuss to keep the trading alive if possible.

Qiu Yue knew humans were beings driven by selfish emotions no matter which era or world they were in. They would ally with the winning side if they knew what was best for them. Therefore, she purposely asked some goblins trained with the M1 Garand Rifles to follow the diplomatic convoy. She even purposely drove the battered M4 Sherman tank after it was repaired and refurbished by Jin into the territories of the Human Kingdom to show the goblin's supposed might. Following the idea of Hou Fei, they even made three additional "tanks" from the System which looked the same but had no functions

aside from being able to drive forward. The plan was for the main tank to fire off its canons and the others to be a display of strength. Later weapons could either be added or it could be sold back to the System.

A show of strength was exactly what they needed from the goblins. It would warn the Humans not to do anything stupid like trying to assassinate the King during the diplomatic convoy part...which some hired mercenaries really did rather openly in the streets of the Human Capital. The goblin riflemen shot them down mercilessly before they could come anywhere near the King nor inflict any serious damage. This superior show of force flipped the idea of the goblins being weak upside down and even made the humans start to fear their neighbours. Yet, Qiu Yue felt this was a sufficient portrayal of power to show that the goblins could come in peace but mess with them? They would not show mercy too.

The Human King eventually received the message of what happened from his advisors. (Needlessly to say, his various spies who monitored the war from afar.) He promised to send aid in order to curry favour with King Sol who was now beaming with vitality contrary to his past self. In short, Qiu Yue had managed to secure better trade ties and even aid supplies for the Goblin Kingdom, earning her brownie points from the System.

Additionally, with the early warning system in place because of the constant satellite footage, the goblins were able to sortie in time against the Orc Ice Fleet. Spear General Argent took charge of the western defences with a costal army of his own while Sword General Gladios held the fort in the Valley Town Gob Gob Bu. Dagger General Igni was still in a secret high risk mission to connect the leylines with his son, Ripcaller and a team of highly ranked goblin assassins. This way even if Operation Pompeii should fail, the assassination team would turn into their backup plan. It was a no brainer for Jin to sent his Assassin Savant to assist the group that was a huge boon to their offensive operations.

Unsurprisingly, the original Western coastal defence by the goblins was weak. However the goblins who were now trained to use artillery and flak guns by Hou Fei were stationed right where the Ice Orc Fleet and the Wind Orc Army would arrive. Shu, the Sakura Tree Treant finally made his appearance since he had been unable to fit in a C130 nor to follow cultivators along them through missions. (Imagine a large tree trying to squeeze itself out of the C130 plane and begin free falling with the cultivators...The customers would probably be scared of the tree crushing them into pieces before they could even land properly.)

For the Western Coastal defences, Shu along with Ke Mi, the Zither Mistress had created makeshift wooden walls as temporary defences. How did they do it? Simple, grabbing a few of Shu's branches or alternatively some wooded logs provided by the goblins from the surrounding forest. Shu first planted them down near the beach and used its magic to grow them. Ke Mi, on the other hand, who had been cultivating the living armour plants day in and day out learnt the tunes on how to accelerate the growth of the plants.

Compared to the living armour plants which were very picky in terms of food consumption or even the type of music being played to stimulate their growth, the enlargement of these branches and tree logs were like child's play to Ke Mi. With just a short musical tune, the plants and trees reacted to the chi in the music Ke Mi played and the magic provided by Shu, growing up to form a strong defensive layer of wall along the coast.

Taking lessons from the World War Two's infamous Normandy landing, Jin had purposely asked Sandy to increase the land mass along the beach so that the sh.i.p.s would not come close to the beach at all, forcing them to land far from the beachhead at least an additional 500 metres away from the actual shoreline. More M4 Browning machine guns were made available and deploying prefabricated bunkers, they basically shored up their defences in the western coastal region. The goblins practiced day in and night on how to minimise the time to reload, how to shoot effectively and assisted in placing explosives in the beachhead. When the Ice Orc Fleet comes, the Western Coastal Defence would be more ready to receive them.

However, according to Colonel Ayse, the diversion would only begin on the day of the Red Full Moon. In a coordinated effort from the three armies, the Ice Orc Fleet would attack the West, the entire Thunder Orc Army would push forward through the North to their best capability while the Fire Orc Army would enter the cities via the Lost Artefact portals. In the meantime, The Wind Orc Air Force would serve as the backup since they were currently under the direct command of Orc King Hamu himself. The Fire Orc Army would burn a portion of the city down to let the Wind Orc Air Force to enter with their giant Mothership.

Jin let out a sigh of relief. If not for his employees, the work of his monsters, bellators as well as customers, this war could never be won by the goblin's alone. "Heh, if I were you I would not celebrate just yet. You know I hate to be the voice of reason, but don't you think you overestimate yourself a bit? You may have the System, but do you think your Grade 7 powers would allow you to defeat the Orc King Hamu single handedly?" Kraft asked with a bit of ...concern.

"Well, I have you and Zeru. I do not have to be that scared about that." Jin giggled and Kraft sighed, reminding him not to forget his training.

It was at that moment, there was a teleportation into the shop instance and Jin somehow felt the pressure in the shop instance increasing in an instance.

Grandma Yuan had arrived.

The staggering aura was very familiar since he felt it before. It was hard to forget this familiar pressure, though with a cultivation of Grade 7 under his belt, he was able to withstand it a lot better compared when he was just a Grade 3. "Hmph. I see that you must have been training rather rigorously since the first time we met. Last time I did not notice it, but your progress is really something" Grandma Yuan walked in. Only after a few of her steps did Jin notice, that she was not alone but that there was a lady attendant assisting right beside her.

"Grandma Yuan." Jin acknowledged her presence and wanted to assist her but she declined as she walked towards the bar counter. The lady attendant helped her up the barstool and Grandma Yuan turned towards the lady attendant.

"Get the things in." Grandma Yuan ordered her lady attendant and she immediately acknowledged. Yun politely asked if she wanted to drink anything but it seemed that Grandma Yuan was annoyed when Yun was the one questioning her. She gave out a large sigh before she answered that she wished for some tea.

"Grandma Yuan, if you do not mind, I will be the one to brew it for you. Any specifics?" Lynn was also around as Jin had informed her about their special guest's arrival. After all, Lynn got out of jail because of her help too.

"Hmm. Hoji Tea." Grandma Yuan replied which surprised Lynn that she asked for a Japanese specific type of tea instead of a Chinese one. However as a professional, she did not spend too much time overthinking it and accommodated the request.

In the meantime, the lady attendant returned with other attendants behind her. They were all carrying large metal boxes sealed with charms and all. All were carefully brought forward and placed on the counter while Grandma Yuan did not say a single word until Lynn came back with what she had requested.

"Hmm. The roast of the tea leaves is so so. The tea's temperature is sufficiently hot." Grandma Yuan took a whiff before giving her opinion. Then she sipped a little and put it back on the table. "Not too bad. The chi in the tea composition could be better managed. You are flustered because of my presence aren't you?" Grandma Yuan asked Lynn while she took a handkerchief out to wipe her mouth.

Lynn embarrassingly nodded her head and Grandma Yuan beckoned her to come nearer. She picked up Lynn's hand and caressed it a little. "Hmm...I see, you relied too much on your dorsal area because of the way you fight. You need to learn to channel the chi from your palm to your fingers more delicately like this." Grandma Yuan circulated her chi along her fingertips and Lynn could understand what she meant.

"This way, not only can you perform more delicate tasks in your cooking, preparing tea but also in your fighting." Grandma Yuan smiled at Lynn which was a first and Lynn hastily thanked her for her guidance.

In the meantime, the assortment of stacked metal boxes had stopped and they occupied the entire central area of the shop instance. Grandma Yuan then dismissed the attendants and asked her lady attendant to only come back when she called for her. The lady attendant which came in first, seemingly the leader of them acknowledged it with a bow and left the area. With only Jin, Yun and Lynn left in the picture, Grandma Yuan finally faced Jin and started talking to him. However the first thing to come out of her mouth, shocked them all.

"So...Jin. How has the System been treating you?" Grandma Yuan asked bluntly while staring very seriously at Jin. The Grandma knew all along.

Chapter 347 Grandma Yuan's Revelation

Jin was at a loss not knowing how to respond to Grandma Yuan's question. After what felt like an eternity to Jin her expression slowly changed into a smirk while she waited. At the same time Jin tried to figure out how she had learned about his most important secret. Did he mess up at some point? Was it Yun who told her? Or was she a past user herself?

"The User has been progressing fairly well despite an initial rocky progress. Current classified activities may even lead to a new breakthrough if User gets lucky." Suddenly it was the System who broke the silence through the speakers of the shop instance. For a moment the expression on Grandma Yuan seemed to change. Sighing once again she felt comforted after the System replied to her since Jin seemed to be too stunned to even utter a single word.

"So exactly what Grade is he at?" Grandma Yuan asked and the System replied accordingly.

"Hmm...Seven. A little better than what I had expected, but still lower than the ideal scenario." Grandma Yuan commented while she continued to drink her Hoji tea.

"System wishes to point out the fact that User has managed to achieve Spiritual Union early on during the Zoo visit." The System added and Grandma Yuan laughed at that. She still remembered how she coaxed Jin into that near impossible fight back then.

"I see. I see. That's good to hear. That explains how he managed to reach Grade 7 in such a short time. It will prove as a good excuse for whoever tries to find out more about him. Achieving Spiritual Union early does wonders to one's cultivation. However too many shortcuts and it will be a bad thing if his foundation turns weak because of this." Grandma Yuan continued to talk to the System.

"Lady Yuan. Do not worry. I have personally ensured he does not neglect his training even while he attends to his shop." Zeru had appeared in front of Grandma Yuan and chimed in.

"Kei- hmm...Zeru." Grandma Yuan stopped herself before she finished. Zeru bowed at the calling of his name and appreciated that Grandma Yuan managed to control herself by not saying out his true name although the others were too restless to take notice of it. Grandma Yuan seemed to know a lot more than she was letting on.

"It's been a while." Grandma Yuan tone was more kind and gentler than before. Zeru could only smile back while maintaining his quarter bow before he stepped back via a portal and let the living humans resume their conversation.

"Did Grandpa Ming tell you about the erm....?" Jin finally seemed to have collected himself enough to function and tried to politely ask Grandma Yuan with a conscious effort but all he received was a serious gaze back.

"I doubt Ming would have brought it up to since Yun was gone, but I was the one who instructed Yun in her cultivation arts. I had been unaware of the System or really anything surrounding the Panda Clan. Only after I gained his trust did Ming reveal his secret to me. I feel it was the same for that little chef girl you have with you right now." Grandma Yuan narrated to Jin as she put her tea cup down. Again she was not really acknowledging his presence and instead she stared at Yun with an expression of disgust.

The System proceeded to inform Jin that Grandma Yuan was once a Sub System User similar to Lynn. Jin assumed that could be why her memories were not entirely taken away when the System turned back time on Ming.

Yun, on the other hand, did not back down and kept her head high in front of Grandma Yuan. She had no recollections at all to verify the reality of the story. However, she roughly guessed that Grandma Yuan's story was very possibly true. And if she was to assume that the old Guardan was her teacher it would certainly explain her cultivation...which was based on the Griffins too. That was partially the reason why Yun had refused to use her cultivation to prevent Jin from having any misunderstanding.

"To see this abomination standing right in front of me. I really cannot take it." Grandma Yuan swore and the System could only give a logical explanation. Using Yun's image at the start allowed the System to save resources in case things did not work out. Economically speaking, the broken soul was cheap to

"fix" and it had been one of the last request of Ming to "resurrect" her. Objectively, it appeared to be the most ideal solution rather than placing an entirely new soul or utilising a veteran Panda Clan member's soul which cost a lot to be a tutor for Jin. Someone who had familial ties to Jin was ultimately the best candidate to introduce him to the System (Though we know Yun was not exactly the best teacher.)

"To hell with you, System!!!" Grandma Yuan did not mince her words which kind of scared Jin and Lynn. Her rage briefly displayed her cultivation though it was too short for Jin to count the number of Griffins, before she just as quickly calmed down again. Then she finally shifted her eyes on to Jin, who immediately got goosebumps, before Grandma Yuan started to explained the full tragedy of the real Yun to Jin.

"You deserve to know it. You are after all, her child. And I doubt that cheapskate System would share this with you, otherwise you would not have been so surprised to see me act this way." Grandma Yuan took a big sip and her face revealed a deep sorrow recollecting her thoughts about the incident back then. It felt like she reopened a large wound she had tried her best to close a long time ago.

Grandma Yuan started at the time of the incident. The day had already started very weirdly for the now old woman. A photo of herself training with Yun and Ming in the background had fallen from the shelf and there was a large crack around Yun and Ming. Not being one who usually believed in superstitions she had nevertheless warned Ming to be careful on that day.

Then nothing happened... until she was notified by Ming about that particular incident. She had rushed over but when she arrived at the site where the Banned Emperor assassins killed Yun and her husband, she uncontrollably vomited despite being a veteran who had killed and seen people die to the point of getting used to it. However, the shock of seeing someone very close to her die had hit her far more serious than she expected.

The scene was not just bloody with Yun's body ripped into pieces. The walls of the alley were vandalised with their internal organs. They were mutilated so badly that the only way they were able to identify her so fast were the unique swords Grandma Yuan bestowed to her and her husband. Yet, it did not seem like it was an instant assassination.

There were signs of an intense fight and when the scene was reconstructed by police investigators and herself, there were shreds of evidence of ritual magic having been used to ensure that they would stay trapped and forced to fight to the death. Whether it was the victim's doing to prevent the assassin's escape or vice versa, the outcome was ultimately not favourable to Yun and her husband.

Grandma Yuan was unsure because the Griffin Style had a trap technique Yun could have utilised, but Yuan also knew that it was too dangerous to use it at her current Grade. Then again, there were also signs of other magical sources that were utilised to trap them too.

Whoever was behind this had to have planned this for a very long time and had made ample preparations. Being the Guardian for Tiangong District, Grandma Yuan simply could not let this injustice go by and she had spend a large amount of time afterwards chasing this incident. Only in recent years did she finally decide to stop since the trail went too cold. She emphasised the word assassins since the media did say the police managed to apprehend a culprit. That was after the time reversal, but she explained more about the events leading to the time reversal.

"Ming, however, did not think the same. He was convinced that the Banned Emperor assassins were employed by the Royal Zodiacs themselves." Grandma Yuan said in a depressed tone. "He knew about the history of the Panda Clan and the Royal Zodiacs involvement. Whoever was behind this had either really convinced them or simply planted a lot of evidence pointing in that direction. There was a particular trace of a special technique in the crime scene that was unique only to the Royal Zodiac Bulls. Ming managed to acquire that info from a trusted informer from the Royal Snake Zodiac. What made things worse was that this information was made to disappear as to not indiscriminate the Royal Zodiacs. After finding that out, Ming snapped and that was why he was also brash enough to announce his intention to tear down the Royal Zodiacs." Grandma Yuan explained. For the first time the powerful woman's fingers were trembling around the cup, who seemed to be near the point of shattering.

"Yet, I kept trying to reason with him. I kept emphasising to him that it was impossible since the Banned Emperor assassins would never work with the Royal Zodiacs or that the assassins should be unaware of the existence of the dying Royal Zodiac Panda Clan. However, he could not listen or he simply did not wish to. The loss of his precious daughter made him irrational. In the end, I do not know if he was aware of it or if he simply needed someone to vent his frustrations..." Grandma Yuan said before pausing for a moment.

"For the rest of the story, you can let that crafty fox fill you in." She slowly turned her head to the side and looked at Kraft who was sitting in one of the couches in the auditorium waving at her.

"Your senses did not dull after such a long time. Have you missed me, Birdy?" Kraft grinned one sided as he stood up from the couch and slowly walked towards Grandma Yuan with his hands in his pockets.

"I was pretty sure that you had accompanied Ming in the Afterlife, you ancient Monster." Grandma Yuan turned the barstool and stomped her walking stick on the ground. A large golden Griffin silhouette appeared from the bottom of her stick screeching at Kraft and subsequently charging towards him at full speed.

Kraft took out his No Mercy and used it. Itori the white fox enlarged herself and challenged the Griffin. The two beasts fought furiously for a few seconds with claws slashing at each other, beaks and fangs biting one another before they distanced themselves and later disappearing as chi particles at the behest of their owners.

"Impressive, your edge is as sharp as ever. A shame how cruel time can be." Kraft clapped lightly.

"Hmph. Not all of us can cheat the wheel of time like you. You are just as unpleasant as I remember the last time I saw you." Grandma Yuan noted before she let out a slight grin to Kraft as an acknowledgement.

Jin did not realise the incident back then was that dire. Kraft had preferred Ming to tell Jin but he decided to follow suit since Grandma Yuan already initiated it. "What she said is true. Yuan did try to stop Ming and warned him that he should do things rationally. Rushing in with little evidence in hand would not help bring Yun back to life at all. In fact, it would be suicidal. However, Ming... was unlike you. He did not have a shop to ponder over nor any other remaining attachments, all he had been doing up until that point was..." Kraft stopped for a while as he sat beside Grandma Yuan and glared at Jin seriously.

"Train. Practice. Strengthen his cultivation like all past cultivators who stopped at nothing to reach the best of his abilities. The System at that time did not stop him and continued to feed him with more power via missions. All for the sake of potentially reviving the Glory of the Panda Clan one day. Imagine this. When you have been enduring all this training day in day out without having any outlet to vent, do you know what happens? There will be this itch." Kraft said.

"At first the itch will only be barely there. Kinda like a craving for something. It can appear and be gone the next moment. However, without ever satisfying the craving it will only get stronger every day. At some point the itch will irritate not just your skin, but the fibres of your muscles and later the itch will gradually move towards your heart. But Ming was a very logical man. He was able to control that urge to succumb to that itch....until the death of his daughter." Kraft pointed out.

"I am not the one who should give you all these details but yea. He lost pretty badly against the combined strength of the Royal Zodiacs. Afterwards they did not bother and left him to bleed to death... except for one. The last one whispered in Ming's ear that all that was left to do was to crush his Dantian core. That was when the previous System realised Ming could be right. Only the Banned Emperor disciples were able to perform such an action. "

"At that instant, the System purposely reverted time but doing something like that cost it dearly. It was forced to use a plethora of valuable resources. The time change was not only aimed at reverting the undoing of Ming, but also should have changed the perception of everyone involved with him. Your grandpa cried out why the System was unwilling to revert to the point at which Yun was not killed yet. The System at the time answered if it did that all its resources would be gone and the System would most likely cease to exist. Self preservation continues to be its utmost importance. It was regrettable. Another loss of a potential panda clan member that could exact revenge. However there was already a potential successor. Yun had already given birth to you, Jin and the System did not deem it necessary to endanger itself any further. Instead, the resources could be better used to foster you." Kraft added and the rest could only listen and not respond for a while. Yun just kept her silence when Kraft gave them the full story. All of this.

"I guess...to the System...a huge number of Panda clan members had already sacrificed themselves before. What is one more to its cause." Jin spelled out the ugly truth and Grandma Yuan could only sigh out once more. At that point, she really looked more like a weak old lady instead of a powerful Guardian.

"So System, why did you change your mind of exacting revenge and allow me to do things at my own pace?" Jin asked loudly.

"User should be aware of the collective entities in the System. After the newest informations regarding the Banned Emperor it decided to reevaluate its strategy. The System did not lose sight of its objective to exact revenge against the Banned Emperor or the Jade Emperor's Royal Zodiac subjects. The System's collective entities had decided that User had a major potential to grow the Panda Clan to its former glory by fulfilling User's dream. Money is Power. Hence, the System felt that gathering power was necessary to prevent such an incident like with Ming again." The System stated.

"Also, even if User does not wish to pursue the objectives of exacting revenge, the System does not mind. After calculating the probability, the subjects of Banned Emperor coming for User is high enough to warrant deeming their defeat as a second main objective." The System said and Kraft laughed.

"Hahahahahaha! In other words you are saying Jin is simply a magnet for trouble?" Kraft continued to laugh loudly which indirectly offended Jin a bit.

"Using past events as the sample size, the probability of User getting into trouble are forecast as high to very high. Possibility peaking in the 95th percentile." The System replied and the rest of the group could not help and agreed. Even Grandma Yuan chuckled at that fact while Lynn nodded her head unhesitatingly too.

"Fineeeeeee!" Jin pouted for a while before Grandma Yuan got back to business. From her storage ring, she took out a piece of paper and dialled her phone to call for the lady attendant that was previously helping her.

"Bring him in." Grandma Yuan ordered and almost in an instant, a familiar figure appeared in front of them. It was none other than Xiong Da in a very formal suit with tie and high class leather shoes.

"Good Evening, Grandma Yuan." Xiong Da greeted Grandma Yuan as he placed his suitcase in front of Jin. "I assume the rest here are the witnesses to this?" Xiong Da asked formally as he saw Yun and Lynn in the crowd too. (Kraft had already disappeared when he appeared)

"Yes, proceed." Grandma Yuan said and Xiong Da then faced Jin.

"I am the Lawyer enforcing the will of your late grandfather, Xie Ming. It was previously a case of my colleague but he decided to retire early. So it was really a mere coincidence when I saw your name in one of his cases." Xiong Da smiled at Jin as he took a few more pieces of paper out.

"Under the will, he requested that more of his inheritance properties would be given out to you as soon as you prove yourself worthy. What he did not state to you in your version of his last will was that the person judging you in terms of your worthiness was actually the one right in front of you. Grandma Yuan." Xiong Da pointed out.

"I approve of him. He is somewhat worthy. Cut to the chase, you can transfer the content to him now." Grandma Yuan hurried him up in a stern voice. Xiong Da did not dare to mess with her. However, he said that it was his responsibility to let both parties understand the papers they were signing. Thankfully, Xiong Da was brief enough that he did not test Grandma Yuan's patience. They then proceeded to sign a few documents regarding the release of inheritance property.

"If you are done, please leave us. Thank you for your assistance." Grandma Yuan said abruptly when it was obvious that the papers were done.

"I will pass you the payment later, Xiong Da." Jin said and Xiong Da gave the 'okay sign' before he hastily made his way out of the instance.

"Now, in order to not waste any of your or my time. The boxes are there for you to explore. As a safety measure only cultivators of the Griffin Style can open those boxes. I believe they will prove valuable to your shop...and I am sure that is also what Ming would believe." Grandma Yuan slowly got down from

the barstool and took a look of the shop instance for herself. Then she walked back to the bar counter and placed a name card down.

"Prepare a Zoo instance if you get my drift. Those NPCs will not be able to teach your customers much. Call this number for my head attendant to assist you in this but remember only I know about the System." Grandma Yuan said but before she truly left the place, she stopped a final time and looked at Lynn.

"Girl, I look forward to coming back and enjoying your next cup." Grandma Yuan remarked as she teleported out of the shop instance.

Chapter 348 Unboxing

When Grandma Yuan finally left the shop instance, Jin took a breather and composed himself before looking at the large stacks of metal boxes. Yun was already walking towards the boxes, not particularly caring what Grandma Yuan said previously about her. Her only concern now was Jin's growth and that was all it matters.

Yun did not feel the urge to explore her past after finding out the truth from Grandma Yuan though she did feel a little troubled. Regardless, Yun did not feel so conflicted that she felt that something must be done to rectify the problem. Perhaps when the System recreated her, it made her be that way so that she would not be burden by the past, else she could not explain otherwise. Or was she always that heartless when she was alive?

In any case, she scanned the boxes and realised that there were progressive grades attached to the sealing charms on the metal boxes of various sizes. She also noticed that the seal was purposely made for her particular version of Griffin style; not any Griffin style cultivator would be able to open the box. Upon closer examination, Yun roughly figured Grandma Yuan motive of putting the seals. She made it so that the unboxing procedure could only be done when Jin reached a certain Grade. That was when Yun would also be pegged to that grade to unveil the contents of the box too.

Hence, with Jin's increase in grade, Grandma Yuan believed that would allow Yun to reveal the contents of the sealed metal boxes proportionate to his growth since she knew how the System worked. However, Grandma Yuan did not take account that Yun's affliction was more towards the System than her being Jin's 'servant'. So, Grandma Yuan's intention to give the entire batch of metal boxes to Jin could be circumvented by Yun if she wanted to open everything.

After pondering whether to either open all the boxes using the System's powers or release the boxes to Jin whenever she felt the time was right, she finally decided to just follow Grandma Yuan's way of doing things. Yun mumbled a few words before placing her hand at the Grade 1 metal box and the sealing charm burnt into a crisp in an instant. Jin helped himself to opening the chest and found that the large metal box was brimming with...books.

Cultivation Manuals of various animals were in that box and all of which seem to be unique to their own. Jin estimated there would be at least a hundred of these manuals in there. "To be exact, there are currently 1028 manuals in the metal box. All of which are the common types of cultivation which most modern cultivators used. There were no duplicate copies in the box at all." The System stated.

When Yun opened the subsequent boxes, the contents were similar. It was all books, books and more books so she decided to stop at the metal box with the Grade 6 sealing charm since the box's size does not seem to look like it would contain books.

The System noted that the cultivation manuals that the first five metal boxes contained, covered almost 80% of the cultivators seen in the shop. Despite the variations in certain styles, the System had already begun analysing those manuals and putting them in its database.

"Don't you have your set of own cultivation manuals in your database? I mean you did kind of gave Qiu Yue and Lynn their own special manuals." Jin asked wondering if all these manuals were really necessary or was it just Ming's old collection.

"The cultivation manuals that the System stored in its database were from the period of the Jade Emperor era. The Panda Clan had a monopoly in the education sector and it managed to control the sales of cultivation manuals really well. The System would like to note that due to the rebellion against the Banned Emperor, the Panda Clan estimated to have obtained at least 90% of the cultivation manual in that particular era with the efforts of the previous houses before they became the subjects of the Jade Emperor." The System reported.

"With this set of collection in hand, the System is able to update its database, correlate it to the old cultivation manual and deduce the possible divergences of various old cultivation manual that lead to the creation of the modern cultivation manual. In addition, the collection of data from the cultivators in the dungeon instances had presented the shortfalls as well as the advantages of the particular style they were using. The System will take its time to compile all of the data and use it to create better manuals. In short, the System believes that it could finally open up the teaching instance User had desired Peppers to do so. User may do it in conjunction with the zoo instance that former Sub System User Yuan had suggested." The System stated and Jin could feel that it was very satisfied with the collection of the cultivation manuals despite the fact that it despised the person who painstakingly collected them.

"I had totally forgotten about that part of asking Peppers to do it." Jin casually opened one of the manuals to take a look. Some of the older manuals had hundreds of pages while others were tattered and torn but Jin realised many of the newer looking ones were thinner and more concise. He wondered if Ming had gone through all these manual to create the Nineteen Lazy Astral Pandas cultivation manual.

"He did. Well, not all entirely all of them but a number of them, yes." Kraft appeared and took one manual from the Grade 3 box. He then showed Jin a particular page of the Henotic Hedgehog Cultivation Style. Jin picked it up to have a closer look...then he realised the technique on that page was similar to his Panda Rolling technique but the steps were much simpler.

"He was still a cultivator after the System abandoned him. When Ming was not working, he would take the time to create the particular cultivation manual you had been using." Kraft tossed the book back into the metal box which made a portal open right in front of him.

Peppers suddenly came out of the portal like a person who had not seen food in his life for a very long time. "I SMELL BOOKS!" Peppers shouted as she ran to the Grade 5 metal box of books and stared at them for a while. "Oh wow. I did not expect your inheritance to be like this at all! I thought it would just be some old armour and lots of money. But look at this! These crates are filled with so much sweat and blood of the cultivation masters!!! Their life's work all summarised into pages of papers! Master, I will

not be courteous!!" She cast a magic spell that levitated the five metal boxes and with a snap, they all disappear.

"Don't go overboard reading that you will not be able to complete the preparations of Operation Pompeii in time!!" Jin shouted at her but before Peppers could even reply, she disappeared into thin air. "System...please do remind her..." Jin said as he knew there was not much time left to the Red Moon Night.

"Do you wish to look into the contents of the last two boxes or you want me to do it another day?" Yun asked since she saw him preoccupied but Jin nodded his head. Judging from the rectangular size of the metal box, he did not expect the contents to be any much different. Perhaps, it was some ancient scroll that contained the knowledge or some picture painting that would teleport them into another dimension but when Jin looked at it closely, he was surprised.

Two unique looking swords with their pommels carved with a griffin head. The crossguard was ornated with wings and the grip was layered with silver for one and gold for the other. The langet of the sword had claws grabbing on the fuller part of the blade. The scabbard's locket and chape matched with the colours of the hilt with a simple black finishing. There was a note at the side and Jin can recognise that it was Ming's handwriting.

"Grandma Yuan might not like it but pass it to your supposed mother. It belonged to her and will forever be hers." Ming wrote. Yun picked it up and remove the silver griffin sword out of its scabbard. Somehow, the sword glowed when Yun raised it up to have a closer look.

"The sword seems to remember me...even when I have no recollection about it." Yun said as she put it back into the scabbard and took the other out of the metal box. As she peered at the golden sword, water involuntarily accumulated into a droplet and suddenly escape out of her tear ducts. Yun did not understand why even when she had no memories of the golden sword, her tears kept flowing out as if it was pent up for a very long time. There was an indiscernible bond that was exposed from the depths of her heart when she held on to the golden sword.

Jin saw the scene and kept quiet for a while. He figured that was the sword his father used based on what Grandma Yuan said and Jin could also feel that his heart been tugged by the sword too.

"Why...why...why I cannot remember anything about you and yet you made me feel this way!" Yun cried out loud as if she could see an apparition of the loved one she lost. At that moment, her true cultivation style appeared and silver griffins silhouettes hovered over her as if to try and comfort her.

Kraft was the only one who dared to walk towards her and place a hand on her shoulders and the griffins silhouettes disappeared immediately. "Keep that sword close to your heart. It proved that you were truly alive once before the System recreated the new you. No matter what, look forward to the growth of your 'son' and hope that when we ever get close to those Banned Emperor bastards, use that sword to cut them down." Kraft comforted her in his own way before he walked away.

"Do not worry. I will cut them down if I have to lose this life again." Yun kept that thought to herself as she wiped her tears away and took out a belt that appeared to have a placeholder for her swords. Yun then excused herself for a moment and asked Jin to open the last box himself since she already released the seal.

Jin nodded his head and did not say much, leaving her to her own devices. Lynn who was at the side lines came towards Jin and asked if he was okay. "I did lose my mom before so I might have an inkling how you might feel. If you need anything, do not hesitate to come to me." Lynn said before she left for the kitchen service instance, leaving Jin alone with the last unsealed box among the many sealed ones.

The box looked similar to the first five but the lid of the box was heavier than the others. Jin managed to open it but instead of books or weapons, there was actually nothing inside other than a metal crest in it. A Panda head shaped crest. Jin believed it was something special so he slowly picked it up. Yet, there was no sign of it being activated, and no matter how Jin looked at it, the crest felt and resembled a simple normal accessory to him.

Jin tried to insert some chi inside but nothing happened too so he decided to ask the System about it which the System had no affirmative response to it. The System had no idea what the metal crest was supposed to do too and Jin guessed perhaps only time will tell. However, as he put the Panda head crest into his storage watch, the Panda's dull looking eyes somehow blinked once before it was teleported into the storage area. (which Jin did not notice at all.)

Jin then called out his zombies to carry the rest of the sealed boxes into the basement of his terrace house since there was sufficient space to put it. After which, he entered the Dungeon Maker and prepared to oversee the rest of the preparations for Operation Pompeii and the situation in the North and Western region of Gob Gob Kingdom.

However, before Jin could do anything major, there was a beep in the control console and it was apparently a call from Ripcaller who was with the team of assassins with Dagger General Igni. He said that they had finally found a desolate village where past goblins had stayed before. They were going to set the leyline configuration in that village so it would operate as the initial waypoint to the Orc's kingdom for other monsters, goblins or even cultivators to come in if needed. Ripcaller also asked Jin if he wanted to watch the leyline configuration so he might use it for his own purposes.

On the contrary, Jin declined but offered them to enter a room created by the Dungeon Maker when they were done creating the leyline portal settings. He had prepared the System to create technique cubes, those small metal looking Rubik cubes which Zeru once gave Jin to acquire knowledge almost instantly. Jin wished to do the same to the goblins with regards to certain modern assassination methods for the goblins.

That way, the assassination team would have better chance of performing the mission. Jin initially wanted to do the same for those goblin marksmen or those operating the heavy war guns but he felt that if he let Hou Fei teach, maybe he could save on those resources and perhaps Hou Fei can teach them a personal trick or two. (Which he was so successful in imparting those skills or perhaps the goblins learn things fast.)

Ripcaller acknowledged his master's instructions and ended the call while Dagger General Igni prepared the ingredients for the ritual in the basement of the broken tavern building. "Son, I need you to keep guard with the other goblin assassins. When I start this ritual, there are certain things to take note."

"Monsters that usually kept to themselves might appear so you have to guard me against them. I must not be interrupted or else the leyline connection would not only break but cause an earthquake in this region too. However, if I am not wrong, there should not be any significantly dangerous monsters here

that would pose a threat to this team. My men reported none living in the current vicinity from a quick sweep. Perhaps the Orc scouts or cavalry might appear but I believe the men and you can handle them."

"Who cares about an earthquake in the Orc region? If Father's life is in mortal danger, I will not hesitate to break you out of this trance." Ripcaller replied but Igni shook his head.

"It's not just an earthquake. The leyline provides magic to every being mother nature had created. What I am trying to do is to open a path within the leyline so we can move along the leyline like blood flowing from the heart to another organ. If I mess up, this leyline opening will cause magic to flow out like a broken water pipe and it will have a disastrous effect on the surroundings. When we have the time, I might teach you how to do it, for now just keep guard." General Igni said and he dismissed him as he prepared himself for the ritual.

Ripcaller sometimes would like his father to take less risk especially with rituals like this. They could have asked a Tavern Master to accompany them since they could do the same ritual as him but Ripcaller's father felt that the smaller the team, the faster one could move. It already took them more than two weeks to reach the Orc mainland but managed to be left undetected by patrolling orcs.

Ripcaller learnt a lot from his father in terms of tracking, survival training and sneaking but he too showed his capabilities whenever possible. His father, Igni, was not a man that dished out praises easily but Ripcaller did manage to perceive certain actions throughout the expedition which showed that he was proud of Ripcaller.

Previously, General Igni used to not let Ripcaller perform a lot of tasks, asserting that he was incompetent or too young for it. But seeing how Ripcaller fought against the orcs and fighting against Red Hurricane, the Avatar of Garuda, made him realise that Ripcaller was no longer a kid. That was also why Igni had permitted him to come for this major assassination mission and that gesture alone had proved that Igni trusted his son more than usual. Or perhaps, he just wanted to spend a bit more time with his long lost son.

Ripcaller closed the somewhat broken door of the Tavern's basement and climbed up the stairs to the first floor with the assassin goblins resting for a moment. He passed down his father's orders to his current comrades and they nodded their heads except for Assassin Savant leaning on the entrance door of the broken down tavern.

"Savant, did you get the message?" Ripcaller not knowing his true name, called him Savant instead since he was the only one there at the moment.

Suddenly, the Assassin Savant who usually the most composed of all of them, lowered his centre of gravity and had his hand at his waist, ready to wield his weapon out to strike. The other assassin goblins who saw that immediately picked their gear up and went to cover almost immediately. They trust the guts of the Assassin Savant who had helped them to detect quite a number of possible incursions. Without Savant, they might have clashed with orcs and lose a few goblins unnecessarily.

However, instead of something or someone charging into the broken tavern there was a clap. "My King said he sensed rats entering our country and sent me out to this deserted place. Why don't you just come out and play with me. Chop chop, let's hurry. I have something more important to do than to be a

pest exterminator." A fog of black smoke began to spread throughout the deserted village in a controlled manner and with a snap of finger, the smoke was ignited into a burst of green flames.

Everything was burning except for the tavern and the empty grounds outside it. Green Fire, the Avatar of Ifrit did that to flush those pesky goblins out of their hiding hole.

Chapter 349 Green Fire

The assassin goblins knew that this was a trap. If the Avatar of Ifrit, Green Fire wanted to finish them in one shot, he would have blasted the tavern to kingdom come. Yet, he did not. It could probably meant two things. One, Green Fire wished to bring in prisoners so that he could interrogate them. Two, he really just wanted to flaunt his powers so much that he could 'toy' with the goblins.

Break them? Burn them? Why not both at the same time? He was after all granted all this power and he did not have any chance to use them until now due to the restraining order by Orc King Hamu himself. Now that his King allowed him to vent some stress, why should he not?

Of course, Ripcaller also believed it was the latter especially since he saw how Green Fire set everything in flames. He deduced that there was a high chance the orc of fire came here alone with no backup. No sane orc would burn the surroundings with his comrades or fellow soldiers beside him...unless they were as crazy as him.

"Your orders?" one of the assassins asked Ripcaller as he was appointed as the interim leader by General Igni before he performed the ritual. The General could have chosen his veterans to lead the team but the goblin assassins had a tradition of letting the young ones to lead so they could feel the pressure of leadership. (Or perhaps, feel the pain of sending one to their possible death.) But if things really went south, the most veteran in the group that would take things over. Seeing how things were going, the most veteran assassin in the group, Daga, was on the verge of taking over the command of the team if Ripcaller was not able to do something quick.

Thankfully, Ripcaller was able to composed himself fast since he had always been the one to lead the goblins Piercestriker and Slashreaver in dungeon instances. He made a command to the goblins to hold their position in the tavern because he did not want to meaninglessly sent the goblin assassins to their unwanted death against an enemy which they knew was too great a risk for them right now.

If Ripcaller wished to set an example, he should be the first to fight against Green Fire since escaping was not an option and protecting General Igni was the priority. As unfortunate as it might be, Dagger General Igni did not come out from the basement when the ruckus happened. That meant that the ritual should have already started in the basement with all the commotion that was happening on the first floor and Ripcaller would be unable to rely on his father to fight against this fearsome Orc pyromanic.

"Should I inform Master Jin about this?" Ripcaller thought to himself since the reveal of Jin or other monsters coming into the picture might alert and raise the suspicion of the Avatar of Ifrit. He might do the same as Red Hurricane and escape whenever possible. If he did managed to escape and report the news to his King, there might be consequences he could not fathom. Would it delay the operation that they were preparing or would it quicken the attack by the Orc armies.

Maybe the King might even call off the operation they were doing although Colonel Ayse somehow had return to the Kingdom to observe his movements based on her new master's decision and ensured King

Hamu did not do anything drastic which would jeopardise Jin's plan that was set in motion. No doubt, She had to do some explaining upon losing the super laser cannon artefact. However, the King did not pass on any heavy handed punishment like the way he did against Red Hurricane.

Hamu knew that he needed her to oversee the ongoing scientific research plus her past contributions of all the inventions she created made it unworthy to punish her. A short one day jail term was given as a warning and that was all. Besides, she was not a soldier in the first place but a researcher. Her rank was a formality so the orcs have to do her bidding when she needed the manpower.

Ripcaller became indecisive especially when he saw Green Fire appeared to be sick of waiting for an answer and wanted to take the initiative. If the goblins were not moving, the orc might as well burn the tavern down right now and forced them out of there if there were any left. But before Ripcaller could make another command, Assassin Savant shot a shuriken he kept in his belt pouch to test the response of Green Fire. Yet, even before the shuriken could even come close to the Orc, the shuriken seem to slowed down upon striking onto something and melted, approximately three to five metres away from Green Fire.

"He has some sort of offensive shield barrier." Assassin Savant whispered to Ripcaller who was at the opposing side of the front door hiding. The surprise projectile did not faze Green Fire and he scratched his head out of boredom.

"Ahhh, looks like the goblins are not stupid enough to just charge towards me. I thought I could melt a few rats first to even out you know...the playing field. Though it seems that you guys are either cautious enough or too scared to fight with me directly. Well, if you do not dare to face me, I will make you face me." Green Fire taunted sarcastically as he walked closer towards the Tavern and everything around him started to roast from the high temperature his magical aura was emanating to frighten the goblins even more and the surroundings were subsequently burnt into black ashes.

Even the footsteps he left behind, they produced a trail of black ashen ground and a foul burnt smell. "He is really fooling around while having the intent to kill us. We should take the opportunity to distract him from the main team." Ripcaller said to Assassin Savant which they decided to be the decoys for the assassin goblins hiding. The goblin assassins stayed put with their blades ready because they knew full well that one should not show its entire hand until they achieved a significant advantage in a fight. At the same time, they looked through their arsenal and the tavern to see if there was anything they could increase their odds of survival.

As Green Fire approached the porch of the broken tavern, he suddenly saw two cloaked figures jumping out of the broken windows from each side of the door and continued to flung metal projectiles at him. "Finally some action! And is that guy the one who Red Hurriance said he had difficulty with?" Green Fire mistaken the Assassin Savant for Jin and threw a forceful stream of fire at the Savant.

It made the Savant retreated even further from the tavern's porch as he performed a few complicated hand movements as if to summon something.

"Ninpou, Suiton no Jutsu." The Savant whispered and even though his mouth was covered with a fabric veil, a jet stream of magical water gusher out from his mouth to counter the onslaught of flames. Green Fire suddenly felt elated that these pesky goblins were able to ally with someone of talent. He might be able to vent his frustrations with more force since killing them at one go was not fun at all. Hence, Green

Fire quickly focused his energies towards the Assassin Savant and raised his arms to hurl a large ball of greenish fire to the Assassin Savant that managed to counter his previous fire attack.

"Try extinguishing this. I will like to see that." Green Fire laughed hysterically when he released the large fireball. (Though if Kraft would hear his laughter, he probably criticised the act. Maybe a score of -1/10.)

"Doton no Jutsu." The Assassin Savant whispered while performing various hand signs with one hand. Instead of the Assassin Savant fighting against the ball of fire or blocking it entirely, the ground suddenly grabbed him and pulled him deep into the safety of Mother Gaia's embrace. Savant did it in the nick of time when the gigantic fireball was coming close so that it had the impression he got hit by the fireball after countering the stream of fire.

As the ground exploded from impact of fireball, Ripcaller knew that the Savant had his tricks of his own so he took the opportunity to enter the blind side of Green Fire to strike from above. He purposely used the powers of the Gearbox boots to produce a counter heat shield and hoped that his body would not be burnt in the process of entering the fire barrier.

The sky dive strike was something he copied from Master Jin and Qiu Yue when they did the Rider Kick in the random arena. It was rather spectacular and filled with so much pow wow that he hoped to do the same against Green Fire too. (It was unfortunate that he did not understand he should only do that at the last part of the fight, and not use it as an opener for a fight.)

The strike was supposed to be quick but the impact against the fire barrier made a loud sound which startled the Avatar of Ifrit. Though Green Fire had his focus at the humanoid looking assassin figure, he knew that was a goblin who would attack but he just did not expect the goblin to challenge the fire barrier head on.

When Ripcaller made contact with the invisible fire barrier, he could sense the immense heat from his boots but the counter energy the boots produced allowed Ripcaller to pierce through the fire barrier and enter Green Fire's proximity without being inflicted too much damage on himself. Ripcaller then realised once he got through the supposed fire barrier, his skin was not burning at all and he immediately became more aggressive with his attacks.

Ripcaller initially thought he probably would have a window of opportunity that lasted for a second or two before he had to leave. But with the new discovery that Ripcaller was not going to be burnt to death staying within the barrier, he aimed to kill Green Fire.

"Hahahah! I like crazy goblins! They are even more fun to kill! Let me tell you a secret since you were able to pass through it. Oh wait. Nope! I am not stupid to tell you my tricks!" Green Fire turned his attention to Ripcaller thinking the fireball attack should hinder if not kill the humanoid.

"If that's the case, let me deduce. It's more like a fiery cage rather than layers of magic protecting you," Ripcaller replied as he attempted to stab Green Fire with his daggers.

"But in this cage, I am the warden. You are the prisoner! You have no chance of defeating me!" Green Fire smashed the ground with his fist, causing bits and pieces of earth to fly all about which Ripcaller had to use his daggers to deflect those projectiles and it slowed him down for the subsequent dagger stabbing, allowing Green Fire to escape the critical distance from the dagger's range. The Orc then

utilised his magic to make the rocks fly towards him as he made his body temperature to rise in order to melt and mend those rocks together.

Ripcaller then realised Green Fire was making an improvised molten rock armour from the ground. Green Fire did not hesitate to test out his new armour by breaking a part of it and threw the molten rock fragment at Ripcaller.

The goblin was able to evade in time but that was just a distraction by Green Fire as he dashed towards him with hands burning with intense green flames. He wanted to slam the goblin into the ground, shaping Ripcaller and mould him to goblin paste from his burning corpse.

Suddenly, multiple clay hands emerged out of the ground blocking Green Fire's inevitable palm strike. It gave Ripcaller some breathing space to move away just in time for the hiding Assassin Savant to release his next move.

"Hyoton no Jutsu." The ground split open revealing the Assassin Savant with his hand signs already performed. A giant drill spike of ice spun from the crevices of the broken ground when Green Fire succeeded in decimating the earthly hand models in an instant. Because of his current posture after defeating the clay hands, Green Fire was not able to evade in time and the Ice drill pushed him into the sky and making him hit his own invisible fire cage barrier that was meant to injure his opponents and not him.

A part of the cage broke from the force, similar to what Ripcaller had done and it burnt the back of Green Fire's molten rock armour while the ice drill had nearly penetrated a hole through the front of molten rock armour. It was close but close did not cut it when you want to take the chance to finish your enemy in one strike. That was the goal of all assassins and sadly Savant did not take account of the molten armour and therefore the drill was not deep enough to injure him.

Green Fire coughed for a moment but to an assassin, a moment was golden enough for Ripcaller to pressed on for an attack as he boosted towards Green Fire with his gearbox boots while making sure he was as close to the drill as possible in order not to get hit by the now visible fire cage barrier.

Green Fire instinctively used his arms to block and that saved his head from a savage cut from Ripcaller's boosted jump attack. He shouted at the loss of his arms and his eyes turned from greenish jade to burning ruby red.

"I shall let you taste what the flames of hell truly feels lik-" The sentence was cut off when a breeze of fresh air whiffed passed Green Fire. The silhouettes of five goblins instantly appeared flying in the skies. Green Fire was not cut into two but ten pieces. His head, torso, upper arms, legs were sliced and diced by the veteran goblin assassins.

They were all carrying weapons imbued by the power of Light magic, courtesy of King Sol for just this expedition. The weapons immediately broke into pieces upon use but fret not, they have spares in their bags after all.

"You did the hard part, we just cleaned it up nicely for you." Daga said as the five assassins landed down together all at the same time, as if the attack was synchronised to the very second. Ripcaller who was hanging at the tip of the ice drill spike smiled.

However, the surroundings that was burning began cease and instead smoke gathered in the sky and a vague silhouette of Ifrit appeared right in front of Ripcaller. "The fight was not interesting at all. That useless piece of garbage did not even sate my hunger for battle." Ifrit's silhouette that was mixed with smoke and green flames echoed throughout the quiet night.

"But you." The smoky silhouette moved closer to Ripcaller as he picked up his dagger in a defensive stance while the rest of the assassins was in a dilemma. Their spare imbued weapons were left in the tavern and their normal steel weapons could never win against the Shaitan Noble. Should they abandon Ripcaller in the scene alone and collect their weapons to have the chance to finish the remnants of persistent Shaitan Noble of Fire or stayed to watch things unfold. Daga eventually decided on the latter as his guts dictated even though logic defied it.

"I have a premonition that if I stick with you, my appetite might be quenched even though you are just lamentable meagre goblin." The Silhouette then spun around Ripcaller to 'check' him out.

"Quench your appetite? Please, I can even make you so bloated by offering you all the fights you desire if you follow me. That is the promise my Master had given me and he had yet to disappoint me ever since I met him. The opponents I met just get stronger each time we meet again." Ripcaller decided to take a gamble and said in a mockery tone. He realised that the Shaitan Noble was in a negotiating mood.

"Hah! Your aura though as pitiful it can be, proved that you are telling the truth as compared to those other old pansies who are hiding in the darkness. Very well. I shall make an exception just this once and bestow you a small portion of my powers. If you can deal with my trial of flames, then I will let you be my interim Avatar until I find a more suitable one!" The silhouette boomed his voice as he distanced himself a little more before he flew into Ripcaller's body.

Ripcaller screamed at the sudden surge of power coursing through his veins. His body temperature started to rise so much that it melted the tip of the ice drill and made him fall to the ground. The ground gave way too because the fire itself burned it into ash. The rest of the goblins stepped back as they have no idea how to help him.

"If he can overcome this trial himself... he might be able to..." Daga whispered solemnly. This was the first time he saw the Shaitan Noble possessing with a goblin and as excruciating it was to see Ripcaller suffered, he told the rest to get the imbued weapons of light...in case Ripcaller failed the trial of ascendancy.

Suddenly, a notification appeared on Jin's screen as he was focusing on other stuff in the Dungeon Maker. "User, Ripcaller the dagger goblin is proceeding with an unintended step up evolution without your permission. Do you wish to allow it? Or do you wish to assist with the step up evolution?"

Chapter 350 Step Up Evolution Ripcaller

"Step up evolution not a side evolution? Are you sure? And why is it happening at such random timing? Did Ripcaller got some magic powers from the leylines?" Jin stopped what he was doing and looked towards the console which now showed the stats interface of the dagger goblin Ripcaller. He noticed that his body vitals were deteriorating while attempting the evolution. Even if he is not a doctor, it was obvious enough with the blaring signs given by the System.

"Negative, the goblin is attempting to unite its spirit with the Shaitan Noble of Fire, Ifrit." The System stated the reason behind the sudden drop of his vitals. Jin was shocked due to that particular information since the last he heard from Ripcaller was that they were going to initiate the leyline ritual, not unite with a Shaitan Noble. The System said it does not have the time to explain at the moment and demanded Jin to make a decision immediately.

"Of course, assist him." Jin did not hesitate for his reply. If his goblin could obtain one of the powers of the Shaitan, it might significantly influence their operation's preparations although he also wondered how Orc King Hamu would react to that particular fact they might lose an Avatar of Shaitan. As of yet, he did not know what was happening and told the System to do whatever it takes to assist him.

"Understood. Peppers and Milk to the scene immediately. Do User wish to be there to ensure your bellators' presence would not startle the goblins assassins?" The System asked as it had the coordinates to the dagger goblin and was able to teleport Jin to that location.

"Please do so. I do not want an unnecessary fight among my bellators and the Goblin Assassins to happen when Ripcaller's life is in danger." Jin replied and in an instant, he was teleported to the scene alongside Peppers and Milk who had their very own customised half panda masks. Daga was surprised at first but he immediately recognised Jin in his half Panda mask and knelt in front of him. He knew that as a master, Jin must be anxious for his young goblin and respected that about him but he asked Jin to not do a thing.

"Venerable Jin, please do not do anything that can disturb the current situation. Ripcaller has to overcome this trial by himself or else the Shaitan Noble would not acknowledge him." Daga said with his head down and Jin knew that it could possibly be related to their tradition.

Ripcaller was in desperate pain and he could feel the fire eating him up inside out but even with his blurry vision, he saw the silhouette of his Master Jin right in front of him. "Ah, damn...I made Master worried for me." Ripcaller thought since he prided himself as a cool dependable goblin among the trio. "Then all the more I should not let him worry..." Ripcaller took a deep breath and shouted out.

"COME IFRIT IS THAT ALL YOU GOT?"

Ifrit who was already in the midst of possessing the goblin body for his own use, laughed at Ripcaller's desperate attempt to taunt him. "You might regret what you had said." While Ripcaller was unable to see it, he could feel that Ifrit was smiling behind the scenes and in an instant, the greenish flame that was engulfing him became larger, fiercer and more aggressive. The green flames also turned blue and later bright orange in colour as if to show the intensity of fire energy being pumped into Ripcaller. The rest had to fall back at least a few metres away to prevent themselves from being caught by the flames. Ripcaller trembled and fell to the ground because of the weighted flames but he gritted his teeth and tried to stand up. Yet, each time he tried to stand, the fire got heavier as if pushing to resist his will.

"I have my own tricks too!" Ripcaller shouted as he raised his hand out, making a triangle hand sign and later interlacing his fingers together. He remembered precisely how Assassin Savant did the first Jutsu. Suiton no Jutsu, a technique that released the element of water at his disposal. "SUITON NO JUTSU!" The burning goblin utilised all the chi he could garner, opening every pore of his skin to release the chi which eventually turned into the form of a magical mist which was not extinguished by the flames of

Ifrit. Instead, the Mist enveloped around the burning goblin and created a bubble of water that caged him up with the flames.

Ripcaller was able to do this because the goblin could copy any particular skill technique they found worthy and used it for themselves. However, that would reserve one goblin grade worth of power. (Imagine the goblin silhouette being occupied to do such a technique. That was why their silhouettes were always filled with various styles when they portrayed their 'cultivation'.) Similar to how Piecstriker had copied Jia Ying, the Stag cultivator's skills, Ripcaller did the same copying the Assassin Savant's technique but its powers were depending on which grade he allocated it. At the moment he placed it at the highest tier of Grade 7.

"Why are you doing this act of futility?" Ifrit asked and Ripcaller only had one simple reason. To drown himself in his own water bubble if he ever failed the trial of fire so he could deny Ifrit what he wanted. He remembered his father telling him how the orcs became the Avatars of Shaitan.

If one failed the trial of said element, their soul would leave the body and the Shaitan Noble would consume its body while its soul would manifest as magic power. However, the nobles would only consume if the body was still alive the moment the soul leaves the body. It was the sweet spot which all Shaitan nobles desired.

Even if it failed to be consumed, the Noble would possess the body and that was when the Assassins come to play with their imbued weapons. Ripcaller was sure that the System could replicate his body and soul with the data backed up in its servers. He would rather be killed by his mates than have his body being eaten inside out by Ifrit. Especially when he heard rumours of orcs being 'resurrected' as puppets for the Noble's use if both their souls and bodies were consumed by the Nobles. If that was true, the Nobles might gain a Ripcaller clone and he knew he could be deadly in an onslaught against normal goblins.

Therefore, Ripcaller would kill himself the moment he failed the trial of fire, making him lost his soul but not his body to Ifrit.

He knew that the said purpose for this particular trial of ascendancy was a lie and all the orcs knew about that too. It was basically a ritual to sacrifice one's soul to the Shaitan Noble's consumption. Only if one's soul were sturdy enough not to be moved by the trials of the Shaitan Noble, they would be rewarded with the noble's powers to enhance and strengthen their souls even more.

Also if the chosen orcs ever die, the nobles themselves would have a more luxurious experience eating their souls using the bodies as a gateway to consume them and be stronger. Red Hurricane and Green Fire were exceptions. The Light Magic from King Sol and Dark Magic from King Hamu had prevented the Avatars' souls from being eaten, hence breaking the cycle the nobles created between themselves and the said Avatar. Yet many orcs attempted to do that as they felt the benefits outweigh their miserable lives. (And also because the desire of wielding powers held prestige in their society.) That was why Garuda and Ifrit appeared pissed when their Avatars died since they had put in quite a lot of effort nurturing their 'livestock'.

"You think I cannot burn out this tiny bubble of yours?" Ifrit said and poured more fire energy into Ripcaller's soul, hoping to break him even further. But it was a first for Ifrit to discharge in this much fire

energy into a soul. Most Orcs' soul no matter how determined they were, would have burnt out long ago from it and yet this little goblin here was still resisting and even talking back against Ifrit.

The Orcs at least have more respect for him than this little green guy here. What Ifrit did not know was that Ripcaller's soul was tempered tens, hundreds or even thousands of times by the System and the cultivator's use of dungeon instances. Ripcaller had been resurrected so many times that he did not know if his soul was broken beyond repair but one thing is for sure. He would not go down against this trial of fire without a fight.

Therefore the more fire energy that Ifrit threw in, the more he started to feel it's a lost cause and guessed he should let the goblin pass the ritual. Besides, he noticed that the water bubble was revolving quickly around Ripcaller, extinguishing the excessive fire energy that was emanated out of him. This was all possible because of the System. Even though Jin was not allowed to touch or assist Ripcaller on the scene itself, it did not mean that he was not able to utilise the System to aid him. After all, why risk the chance of letting his soul be burnt to death by the Shaitan noble? Souls were expensive, and the budget was somewhat tight!

Jin would rather spend it on something more cheap and viable like inserting more chi into Ripcaller via the System, ensuring that the dagger goblin was able to overcome the trial. The chi was in turn, used to power up his revolving water bubble, dispersing the fire energy which Ripcaller could not handle.

In the end, Ifrit realised there was indeed something more to this goblin than he had hoped to toy around with. He stopped the channelling of fire energy into Ripcaller's soul to burn him but instead now to cure him. The fire turned bluish instead of the usual bright orange, and suddenly Ripcaller felt a calming wave of peace throughout his body.

"You have proven yourself more than worthy." A portal suddenly appeared and Ripcaller was able to peer through what was inside the portal entrance. Ifrit was lazily sitting at his throne with a foot on the seat. From his hair, Ifrit picked something up and flicked it towards Ripcaller. It was an orb that was glowing dull when Ripcaller caught it with his own hands.

"This. This is something that I did not even give to those power hungry orcs. Put it close to you and you will understand. You better keep your promise. I look forward to being sated with difficult fights." Ifrit swiped his left arm lazily and the portal began to close slowly. Only then, a dagger and a bow were being flung out of the portal as if Ifrit was throwing some leftovers into the trash. Ripcaller's hands were reserved with carrying the precious looking orb that the weapons were being left on the ground. He also felt it was the right time to pick them up as it was apparent to see the weapons were burning the ground.

Ripcaller decided to use the orb first and as he placed it close to his chest, a sudden eruption of lava came out from the orb, engulfing Ripcaller like an octopus wrapping around a ball. The System then notified that Ripcaller was going through his step up evolution. The lava cooled down and there were signs of cracking seen on Ripcaller's lava coated body. More cracks appeared and it seemed like he was struggling to come out of the lava coat but as time goes by, it did not seem like he was having much trouble with it at all. The layer of lava disintegrated and Jin saw that Ripcaller skin was now brownish red in colour and to his surprise, slightly taller too. (Probably just a goblin head taller.)

Other than that, his features still looked the same but ahhh...abilities wise. Jin quickly took out his Tact Tweak and checked Ripcaller out. The System now called him Flame Ripper, but his official title was . Not to mention, his ability stats were off the charts, at least twice for most parameters, if not three times for his specialised areas like dexterity. Previously, Flame Ripper had a chi component but now, it turned to a category called Shaitan Chi. Instead of him being just an Avatar of Ifrit, a mere container to hold a fraction of Ifrit's power, Flame Ripper had fused a part of Ifrit in him. That orb was, unfortunately, Ifrit's dandruff and nonetheless still part of Ifrit. (Perhaps, he did not dare to wash his hair with water being a Noble of Fire...Teehee~!)

Flame Ripper picked up the burning weapons on the ground and it felt very comfortable to hold and felt as if he was proficient with it for a very long time.

Daga and the rest of the goblin assassins cheered as they have obtained a battle advantage with a goblin that possessed the powers of a Shaitan Noble. He could probably be the first Shaitan Noble that the goblins ever had. Jin was then curious about King Sol himself. "Hasn't King Sol been bestowed with Shaitan power abilities too? I mean he can cut and kill off powers of a Shaitan Noble." Daga heard it and laughed.

"No way King Sol is an Avatar of Shaitan Noble. King Sol was born with it. It was only during the rebellion, something happened that allowed him to awaken those powers of light in him. Surely, if it were not for him, we would not have proceeded with the rebellion." Daga explained.

"In any case, it looks like we came here for nothing. At the very least, I get to see a step up evolution in progress." Peppers yawned while Milk looked slightly agitated at the mess that was left behind. Everything all charred and left a very bad foul burnt smell.

"Let's get back. We do not have time to lose and I need to inform Ayse about this so she can think of ways to make the Orc King stay on track for the operations, else we prepared everything for nought." Jin said and the System opened a portal for him and his bellators.

"We will explain the rest to Dagger General and shall liaise with Ripcaller if he has any opinions of this outcome that we achieved," Daga said as they returned to the tavern and guarded for the rest of the day until Igni completed his ritual.