

## Dungeon S 351

### Chapter 351 Green Fire's Disappearance

"Your Majesty, it seems that Green Fire is still missing. Do you mind if we speak more about this in private?" Oku, the Right Hand of Orc King Hamu, requested as he saw Colonel Ayse beside the King, with her giving him an informal shoulder massage in his private quarters.

"Do not mind her, I trust her more than enough with the matters at hand. Maybe she might be able to give an opinion on the current situation too." Orc King Hamu said and smiled at Colonel Ayse which his Right Hand rarely saw him doing so. He sighed inwardly and reported his findings to Orc King Hamu about Green Fire.

"We had investigated on the tip that you had given on Green Fire and it does appear that the place had some form of fighting take place and a large amount of Shaitan Noble's magic was detected in that place. Upon further investigation, our team found that there were other villages that were burnt down too and traces of Shaitan magic energy were present. There was no witness to question as the village were either deserted, burnt to ashes or maybe the potential witnesses ran away from the scene." Oku took a out a piece of paper from a folder and presented his findings to his King

"The investigation team can only deduce two scenarios. One, he is still chasing these...'goblins' Your Majesty had foreseen with your Avatar's powers. Two, he did not have enough ...fun and decided to rampage around the area. However, we could not understand his rationale of abandoning the current assault which we had been planning for ages. The investigation team can only hope that he will return at the nick of time." Oku ended his summary report to Orc King when it was just 12 hours away from their imminent assault against the goblins' capital.

In the meantime, Colonel Ayse was laughing so badly inside her. She knew exactly what had happened after Jin had updated her about it. Hence, she had formed a counter plan to make sure the King does not suspect Green Fire death. Ayse had asked Jin to relay the message to Flame Ripper to burn down deserted villages and leave obvious trails since he had the power of Ifrit with him. The Orc investigation team would not suspect that it was Flame Ripper who had done it since there was no update on the death of Green Fire. (The goblin assassins also took the chance to teach Ripcaller what kind of evidence would be subtle and more believable for the investigation teams. Although Daga told him that if something was too obvious, the investigation team might overthink it.)

"I suggest we delay the assault since there might also be a chance that Green Fire had allied with the goblins Your Majesty had predicted. That would be the only possibility I could come out with if we are being rational here. Maybe, he might want to overtake the throne and will do it when you are vulnerable. And because of this possibility, we need to shore up the defences or change our assault date

to prevent the mission being leaked out to the Gob Gob Kingdom." The Right Hand suggested and Colonel Ayse displayed her displeasure.

"Do you have any idea what you are talking about?" Colonel Ayse stopped the massage and folded her arms towards the kneeling Right Hand to question him.

"If it's a possible unexpected attack on my King's life, I will do what it takes to protect him." The Right Hand spoke. After which, Ayse too knelt down in front of King Hamu and spoke defensively.

"Your Majesty, I ask that you refrain from listening to him and reconsider the attack. He is speaking of conspiracy of the highest level and is being very ridiculous at that too, an Avatar of a Shaitan Noble betraying you for the goblins? What will the goblins give him in return? A bloodied throne that he had to fight not just Your Majesty alone but two other Avatars??" Ayse voiced out her objections.

"Also, what can the goblins do even if they have the information here? It will take a messenger bird more than 10 hours to reach Gob Gob Kingdom from here. Magical channels like ours? As if those goblins are as smart as our researchers here." Ayse bragged to the King that there was virtually no way they would get the message.

"Maybe they captured one of the Orc Raider Captains and forced him to use it. Your Majesty, you cannot discount any possible leaks." Oku said hastily to counter Ayse's argument.

"Alright, let's say they did and by some fortunate mishap, allowed them to learn about this magical channel, how much can the leak benefit them? You already receive official spy reports that the majority of the goblin forces had already split themselves between the West and North, leaving the capital lightly defended. That amount of time is not enough to even sortie a cavalry battalion back in time." Ayse rebutted.

"Spear Goblin General Argent has a unit of superior wyverns under his command which he can fly back in a moment's notice." Oku tried to throw back his punches but he realised it was stupid of him to even suggest that one. Even if the wyverns returned from the north, they were only a bunchful. By saying that, it was like insulting the colossal Orc army to be so useless that they could be broken by a company of wyverns. Orc King Hamu who was observing the argument gave a serious stare at Oku for implying that his orc army was weak.

"Oh, give me a break on the leak part. You are worrying too much. Besides, Green Fire is weak towards the Avatar of Shiva which he will be stupid to fight head on. From the looks of the evidence you described, it might just be more of an A.W.O.L (absent without official leave) case or Green Fire could be playing truant since Ifrit had always desired for battle because of his nature. He could be venting some magical powers which had been stored in him for a long time since Your Majesty did not allow any outlet for the Avatars." Colonel Ayse retorted and Orc King Hamu had a long pause which made Ayse become braver with her words.

"Let's just say your Right Hand is correct, which I highly doubt it, I humbly suggest we pressed on with the attack. The war supplies of the two armies, the Orc Ice Fleet and the Thunder Orc Army would not be sufficient for a return trip. If we do not follow the time table, we might have logistical problems since we are the invading Army if we were ever to withdraw. That was the reason why you assigned Orc Raiders to plunder the supplies right? So why waste the lives and efforts of your subjects that had prepared so much. Also, my researchers had reported to me that the Red Moon tonight is going to produce the highest amount of energy ever recorded. It will be a shame not to utilise that energy." Colonel Ayse was talking and she could see that Orc King Hamu was being influenced by her words more.

"I have to thank the foxes for the ointment which I used to massage the Orc King. He seemed to be compelled to answer positively to me more than usual." Colonel Ayse thought before she took another breath and said her plans out.

"Hence, I propose something else. Instead of releasing your army in phases, attack all at once. Send in the Orcs like a blob of massive destruction into their city. I can also release the prototype Orc Walkers...erm those Tin Cans which Your Majesty loved when you saw them." Colonel Ayse said and was interrupted by King Hamu.

"Yes, those Tin Cans were magnificent looking. If you do bring them in, our firepower will greatly increase." King Hamu nodded his head in agreement.

"But Your Majesty, if you do that and we do not gauge the defences of the goblin army, we might suffer a defeat similar to the one that Colonel had in the North before she shamelessly came back empty-handed and ask for forgiveness." The Right Hand Oku disputed with some bitterness in his voice.

"I did not finish my proposal." Colonel Ayse stared murderously at the Right Hand but being a trained Orc warrior, he was not afraid at all. "That is why, I suggest you send in the Avatars of Syl dra and Shiva to the capital instead of teleporting them to the North and West which your Right Hand had suggested in the past few days."

"You are insane! What kind of plan are you suggesting? That will reduce the firepower in the North and West. Your Majesty, we should take precaution not to lose that many orcs even though it is just a distraction tactic." The Right Hand retorted.

"My King, your objective is to kill King Sol and with the disappearance of Green Fire, I am suggesting that not just the Avatars, but Your Majesty as well, enter the fray with your Orc forces for the Capital Attack. That way, you have an overwhelming strength to crush them in one swoop. Whatever trickery they might have will be useless when you absorb the powers of the Full Red Moon. Besides, your Right Hand is not having any faith in the Ice Fleet and Thunder Army." Ayse smiled with an ever slight evil grin towards Oku. She could see in the expression of King Hamu and she knew she was going to win this.

"I would like to ask the Right Hand, are there any reports of the Thunder Army, who had been suffering significant losses, asking for more reinforcements? Have they retreated any more than just tactical ones?" Colonel Ayse said with spite towards the Right Hand and he was dumbfounded for a moment which made her press on with her agenda.

"With my upgraded inventions that had been dispatched for their use, I believe the two military forces are more than capable to provide more than just a distraction. I highly recommend this particular plan my King." Ayse had her head down as she requested.

"Ayse, stand up. It seems that your proposal was similar to what I had in mind when I heard of the disappearance of Green Fire. To hear that my top researcher had the same thoughts made me reassured that overwhelming strength is the way to go. To show that fake king the might of our Orc Race. That we are their masters." Orc King Hamu said in a solemn voice and turned his attention to his Right Hand, Oku.

"Oku, you had concerns but these puny concerns only make you look weak." King Hamu flicked his hand and a blast of dark energy made his Right Hand fly across the room. "Amend the assault operations according to her proposal. Inform the Avatars, commanders and the chain of command that we are proceeding when the sun sets. Tell them explicitly I expect no failures." King Hamu stood up and made his way to his personal armoury room. However, the ointment Ayse used did affect his mood and Orc King Hamu decided to relax with the company of a few virgin female orcs fresh from the neighbouring villages first before proceeding towards the armoury room.

"Ooof! If only you can go in now and strike their king." Qiu Yue was viewing from the console with Jin as she dried her hair with a towel. Because of the long strenuous hours reforming the goblin ministries, she

did not really have the time to go back to her home. Hence, she decided to take a bath in Jin's terrace house which the System had designed.

There were extra rooms in place and Jin had already created one with Qiu Yue in mind previously. Her parents did not call since they thought she was in an overseas business trip, (though technically she was indeed in another foreign country.) but her boss called her multiple times to ask for an explanation but the number he was calling from was not a local one. (She picked up once to say she quit the moment she heard it's her boss' voice and never again did she answer any calls from her phone.)

Only then she realised...the boss had secretly booked a flight to their contractors' region...so he could have the opportunity to 'bump' into her. Qiu Yue finally able to see the link why her boss was so persistent in making her go for this particular trip compared to the others. She previously asked Jin if the System could trace the call and Jin was equally surprised the effort her Boss put in to stalk her.

"It's okay, you are safe here. I will make sure...he will have his just desserts." Jin reassured her and Qiu Yue said she wanted to be there to see the process. Jin could only laugh bitterly for now, although he really did ask the System to track him and made sure he did not come close to her in the future. Kraft, on the other hand, recommended something more effective. "We can have him assassinated you know. The country he is currently in made it a very easy excuse to have an unfortunate accident happen."

"System agrees with Original Bellator Kraft. System would provide the resources for free for this mission. Protecting User's potential Sub System User is of utmost priority " The System stated which made Jin surprised and wonder why but right now his focus was on Operation Pompeii.

"Well, the king is VERY vulnerable right now." Qiu Yue finally blocked the number when it was the umpteenth time phone call she was receiving from her boss and looked at the console. The King was occupied with indulging himself in women and such a scene made her more than furious as it also reminded her about her boss too. Although, she understood that the Orc King was lecherous and they did not adhere to the same moral values as humans but torturing the Orc women after he had his fill? Not acceptable in her books, not a single bit.

"Sigh...you know it's not the brightest idea and you fully know well why." Jin closed his eyes for a while since he too could not take the imagery being showed by the System. (Ayse purposely placed secret cameras in his quarters and all around the castle to learn more about the castle.)

Besides, Qiu Yue was the one who refrained Jin and his monsters from assassinating the King. With Colonel Ayse now a spy for Jin, he technically had access to the Orc's main castle but the System refused

to portal the goblin assassins unless they decided to be Jin's property. Jin asked whether it would make a difference if he paid for the resources to use the portal services but the System still refused adamantly on that. That did not stop Jin having ideas of sending his own monsters to attack the King. Yet Qiu Yue stopped him because the possible implications of having their King slayed would only fuel the Orc's cause even further and it might prolong the war instead of stopping it.

On the other hand, if Operation Pompeii goes somewhat according to plan, the casualty lost in the long run was more acceptable for both orcs and goblins alike. They hoped to force the king down to surrender and if possible, brainwash the King with Kraft's ability rather than killing him outright.

"But boy, that was really a close call. If not for Ayse's offensive argument..." Jin had a sigh of relief as he looked at the time. It was early Tuesday morning and people definitely had to go to work. Yet, if the cultivators were able to assist in the Western and Northern defences, it would greatly improve the chances of the goblin's survival while Jin, his bellators and some top monsters would be on standby against the Orc King Hamu and his elite subjects.

"If that's the case, I shall make it more enticing for the customers then." Jin opened up the Pandamonium page via the Dungeon Maker console and wrote the following.

"Emergency Raid Event! X5 points!! Shop opens now till the event is completed! That is right, the shop opens now! First ticket entrance of the day is free for every cultivator! Take this opportunity to get as many points as possible and earn those great rewards!" An announcement was being sent out early in the morning and every monster had started to prepare themselves for the Operation Pompeii and to aid the defence of the goblins.

## Chapter 352 Veteran Police

"Dad...how come you are up so early? The sun is not even up.." The sleepy Jing Ru asked. After she was awoken by the constant minor noises from the living room, she found her stepfather Ren Wei adjusting his air rifle weapons.

"Oh, Jing Ru... I am sorry that I woke you up. Well, it's a bit embarrassing to say this but I am going to the Dungeon Supplier store from last time for some fun. A few of my old police force friends from Tiangong District station informed me that they were wanting to participate in this raid event thing you had been talking about." Ren Wei hesitated for a while before saying the reason behind it.

"Haha. I have been told the police captain has granted the entire police station some alternate budget to improve their cultivation. Since there are no other requirements apart from the money being used for cultivation purposes, they invited me to go along with them." Ren Wei honestly told Jing Ru though that did not help with her confusion.

"Still it's 3 am in the night. Can't this wait until the morning? Why are you preparing so early?" Jing Ru yawned a little as she looked at the clock. Ren Wei embarrassingly picked up his phone and showed her the latest announcement that Jin had placed early in the morning. He told her how he thought it was a hoax notification, something to hype up the ongoing raid event. However, one of his police pals who was on night duty in the area got curious and tried to enter the store only to find it really was open. Their initial thought was that maybe, the infamous Boss Jin had forgotten to lock the front door of the shop, so they decided to try and enter the instance. To their surprise, it was really open and immediately after that, he announced it on the Pandamonium Chat with photo proof.

"So erm, yea. Again, I am sorry to wake you up. You can go back to sleep now. I'll just finish my weapon adjustment at Jin's place. The weapon store there is fantastic. Even providing free workstations to let cultivators like us adjust our weapons. I am glad you took me with you that time." Ren Wei said and Jing Ru shook her head.

"Nope. There is no way I will go back to sleep after that announcement. You are sooo not going without me. Give me a minute...erm let's make it five minutes to freshen up. My gear is already in place, I will just change and we can go together." Jing Ru answered back as she quickly headed to the bathroom. In the meantime, Ren Wei smiled to himself while he continued adjusting his weapons a little more while waiting for her.

"That little girl...Dear, she is growing up all fine and dandy. Rest easy. You do not have to worry about us at all." Ren Wei whispered to himself as he checked the number of magazine clips he was carrying. Jing Ru who had already participated in the Goblin Raid Event had raved to Ren Wei about how realistic the whole experience was. She needed to be careful emptying her air gun clips to avoid hitting friendlies while at the same time ensuring her own survival against the orc onslaught.

It was nerve wracking for her as it was really outside her comfort zone being forced to fight at close proximities against the orcs. Jing Ru even told Ren Wei how his Gun-Fu( a mixture of kung fu martial arts and the use of guns) came pretty handy during the fight in the Northern Region. For a while now she had been including more and more short range weapons like pistols, sub machine guns in her practice rounds and even managed to increase the speed for her reloading while carrying a battle vest and small backpack.

Although her storage ring was capable of accommodating all the required items, there was still a need to mentally search the items before she could retrieve them. Wearing a battle vest, on the other hand, gave her immediate access to her magazine clips or just a short reach to the next holster so that she could react fast enough. Ren Wei did help her customise her vest since he had the first hand experience on what was the direst thing to carry around. It had been initially awkward for her, but she was getting the hang of it with training.

"Alright, I am done." Jing Ru was ready before the five minutes were up. She came out dressed in combat cargo pants and a simple black tight shirt allowing smooth movement. Ren Wei was taken aback for a moment after seeing her since her features resembled her mother more and more but quickly told her to check her battle vest and backpack one last time as he threw the weapons into his own storage ring.

"I wonder what's the rush for Boss Jin. This is the first time he's hosted such a time limited kind of event. Why do you think he's offering such high rewards at such a weird timing? On a weekday Tuesday." Jing Ru was voicing her thoughts as she placed her items at the back of the car alongside her father's long sling bag.

"Maybe, he's checking out how many people are insane enough to play his dungeons in the middle of the night? I honestly do not know." Ren Wei started up his car and began to drive towards Tiangong district.

"Heh, Dad. You have no idea how insane some of the people really are for his dungeons. For example another regular of his, a Rabbit Style cultivator who I met, Luo Bo. She seemed hellbent to obtain a particular prize, what was it... ehh some large panda plushie. Apparently, it was limited in stock and it was sold out moments before Luo Bo returned with sufficient points in her account." Jing Ru said as she put on her seat belt.

I can still picture her rushing in with her full cultivation on display to the counter only to be rejected. She even made a huge fuss to Yun, demanding more of those panda plushies to be sold. Yun refused Luo Bo and she cried publicly in front of her claiming it's unfair of Jin to make such limited quantities." Jing Ru described the scene she witnessed after she got out of the recovery instance on the day she completed that Northern Fort Defence mission of hers.

"So did Boss Jin intervene or something? I mean that sounds like she was creating a great ruckus..." Ren Wei was later interrupted when he saw the opportunity to turn right before the green light arrow blinked.

"Yea, he did. Boss Jin said he would add more of those plushies in and of different sizes too. Though not because of her crying but because what happened next. After she saw that Yun would not budge she demanded a duel against the person who managed to buy one of the first panda plushies. Remember Xiong Da?" Jing Ru asked and Ren Wei had a slight inkling who that was. He remembered Jing Ru showing him a picture of him and he was supposed to be some top notch lawyer of some sort.

"Xiong Da refused even though I think he had the ability to win the match. I guess he did not want to push his luck in losing his gigantic plushie too." Jing Ru explained and Ren Wei furrowed his eyebrows.

"Xiong Da bought that plushie? Did he plan to gift it to his wife or something?" Ren Wei asked while he went to the highway.

"I too guessed it's for his girlfriend, but from their interaction, maybe she will become his wife soon hahah! However, he seemed to enter some form of ecstasy whenever he held onto that plushie. Wanting to know the reason why we asked to give it a try, only for him to vehemently refuse it. He even stated he would never allow anyone else to touch it again. He claimed it was for the 'greater good' to avoid turning someone else into a maniac. It seems he was convinced if we touch it, we would become another Luo Bo coming after him, begging him to release the plushie." Jing Ru laughed.

"Well, if we have the chance, we could take a look at that rumoured plushie in the redemption store." Ren Wei suggested but Jing Ru laughed.

"If Jin has indeed ordered some more, I'd love to." Jing Ru said as she yawned a little.

"Get some rest first. I will wake you up again later. By the way, I just realised but don't you have to attend your classes today?" Ren Wei had been so focused on the journey that he had totally forgotten about her university.

"Nah, I have no classes on Tuesday, so I am okay. I will take a snooze first then." Jing Ru closed her eyes and lowered the seat.

-----

"Oh hey, Ah Ren. You finally arrived." Abdul Lian Fa, a Malay with Chinese descent hailed to him as he saw Ren Wei with a pretty girl alongside him. He was slightly plump in size due to age, but his enlarged shoulders and biceps gave away his past as a former muscle builder.

"Abdul! It's been a long time, how's the station been treating you? By the way, this is my daughter. She said she wanted to join the battle with me. I hope you don't mind." Ren Wei hugged Abdul before introducing Jing Ru to him.

"Ah...so this is that rumoured beautiful daughter of yours... Nice to finally meet you. Ah Ren was always talking so highly of you." Abdul smiled as he extended his hand and Jing Ru returned the handshake. "Not that bad I guess, nothing changed even after you transferred out. Gupta is coming too. He was just getting the 'training cash' from the station and is on his way right now." Abdul answered the former question as they just finished their evening shift for the day. As policeman, being awake at irregular hours was normal for them. Thankfully having a cultivation helped out in that regard.

"Seriously? I still find it hard to believe when you say THAT Captain Mao would be giving you guys a budget to train so luxuriously. I mean I love it here, but there is no arguing that Dungeons and Panda is an expensive place." Ren Wei commented and Abdul laughed and became a little gloom.

"Gupta and I... We ...hmm." Abdul seemed flustered as if he did not wish to say it out in front of Jing Ru and decided to switch to private transmission. Jing Ru understood the silence and claimed that she would be entering the Weapon Store to check out a few things first. Ren Wei apologised and thanked her for being considerate. However, Abdul still chose to tell him via close range transmission.

"The Ruby Rat Triad Boss, he came to the police station roughly a few weeks back. His presence alone nearly killed us all. There were not many that could withstand such pressure from his aura presence. A bunch even blacked out cold." Abdul explained the past situation that happened in the Tiangong District Police Station.

"The Boss wanted to pay some hush money for Captain Mao since he had connections with the Royal Zodiac Rat themselves. The money was just a sort of token of appreciation. Usually, we know that useless captain would simply accept the money and keep this under the rug. However, on that day something seemed to click within him, and for some reason he decided to change." Abdul then opened his phone and showed Ren Wei the picture of the gangster Ong.

"Not only did he keep this imprisoned high level gangster under Wo De Tian for the maximum amount of time, forcing the Ruby Rat Triad Boss to wait, he also decided to give out the hush money for training. I guess he felt some justice needed to be done...No idea what comes over him, but I hope he doesn't change his mind soon. Still a shock for a lot of us when we saw the change of heart in Captain Mao." Abdul told him as he folded his arms and later pointed to the signage.

"Inspectors Lee An and Xue Ping, that detectives couple, remember?" Abdul asked casually and Ren Wei nodded his head.

"They were the ones who suggested this place here for training. No matter what, be it just regular gym training, they claimed it was best to come here and they would whip us into shape. According to them, the Dungeon Instances here are supposed to increase cultivation... To be honest, this is my first time coming here. So no idea how much I can believe their claims. However, seeing that they were the only ones who were to withstand the aura pressure with no significant injuries even though their cultivation grade was lower than mine, I began to believe them." Abdul disclosed to Ren Wei.

"That is why if not for that coincidental shop opening in the night after the work shift and you agreeing to it, I probably would have headed back home and rest," Abdul remarked and Ren Wei understood him.

"I guess having a new child must be hard on you. Thanks for calling me out. It is great to meet up with you guys again." Ren Wei sympathised and Abdul gave a slightly jealous face.

"Well, yeah. I did not have a young adult as my daughter when my wife gave birth." Abdul remarked sarcastically. Ren Wei laughed awkwardly and that was when they saw a motorbike blinking its headlights at them. Riding on it was Gupta. A tall rather handsome Indian that came to China to work as a policeman, on his way to be a detective. (Mainly because he had a scholarship awarded by the Police Academy.) The most prominent feature of his handsome looks was that his skin was fair to the point that he was even fairer than Abdul and could easily pass off as a tanned Chinese.

These three friends had graduated from the same batch when they were in the Police Academy, similar to how Se Lang and Deng Long had met. Sadly after working a long enough to get a higher position, their place of work separated. Both Abdul and Gupta were veteran police and in a way, held the supervising positions in Tiangong District Police Station but had different job scopes.

Abdul went towards more of the education and operations job track while Gupta went for the standard promotion track to become an investigator. Even though they all held the same rank, Ren Wei had a better initial prospect than both of them because of his exceptional skills as a police sniper. But who knows what would happen in the future?

"Yo Ren Wei, been a long time." Gupta hugged Ren Wei and they entered the store looking for Ren Wei's stepdaughter. When Jing Ru saw her stepfather, she quickly beckoned him to come over. Ren Wei quickly introduced Gupta to his daughter and they exchanged greetings. After which, Jing Ru returned to the topic she wanted to discuss.

"As I was preparing my weapons, the Three Headed Bear shouted at me and threw me the same particular model of rifle that I was using. It seems Boss Jin will announce it later but he is allowing us to use live ammunition for our weapons! However, it's only possible to be used in his instances and nothing more." Jing Ru was happy that her previous suggestion to Boss Jin about the use of live ammunition had been accepted and already incorporated since she argued other dungeon suppliers had such a feature.

All three were shocked and wondered if this was a smart move by Boss Jin. "I do not think you should worry. The restrictions seemed to be very strict, stricter than other dungeon suppliers. I briefly saw the live ammunition article in the revised FAQ section of the Pandamonium App. For example..." Jing Ru took the real design of the Winterwolf rifle that she was using and loaded a magazine full of live ammunition. Even as she visibly tried hard, she was unable to turn the safety off.

But as soon as they entered the mini firing range which the Weapon Store provided to test guns out, the safety could be easily turned on and off allowing her to shoot. "I don't know how he did it, but it feels like there is an artificial intelligence installed to the rifle. The FAQ stated that the rifle would not allow me to shoot another cultivator. They even provided a video of a person spraying his bullets but when it came close to a friendly, the rifle stopped firing in time before it could do any harm to the person." Jing Ru explained and the three policemen were very surprised.

"Boss Jin does not allow those rifles to leave the shop instance too. If you ever hold on to the replicates of rifles, you will be automatically teleported back to this area after the end of dungeon instance play. Trying to exit the weapon store without returning the weapons back to us, or try to smuggle any parts away will result in a heavy penalty. Repeated offences may turn into being banished from the store and reported to the police. After returning those rifles free of your support modules or attachment then you are cleared to go back." The Three Headed Bear standing tall looked at the group and said his piece. (Even the policemen were slightly frightened by its low booming voice.)

"If you are worried about the live ammunition...I can only say Boss Jin limits it to certain people who are allowed to use it." The cute Red Panda attendant took over the explanation.

"After you register into the servers, we are privy to certain information like your nature of work. We then verify it in the back end and check with the official data record by the government servers as per the allowed regulations of being a Dungeon Supplier store." The Red Panda explained.

Since we got the clearance for this not too long ago, our registration got more complicated. Though, we did all the necessary checks for all current clients. At the plus side, this makes it easy for newcomers with security related jobs are allowed to exchange for live ammunition rounds immediately."

"Ah, no wonder Abdul and Gupta had trouble registering in the first place for the Pandamonium App. The machine at the storefront was asking so many questions that they started to feel their privacy was getting violated." Ren Wei sighed as he remembered he did not have to struggle that much previously.

"All questions asked were in accordance to the Dungeon Supplier regulations, you can check it out in the official government regulated website for more information if you wish. Also, because you are police, more checks were needed to verify and give you clearance." The Red Panda replied.

"Then what about Jing Ru? Why does she have clearance to use live ammunition?" Abdul asked since he wanted to know if there were any exceptions.

"As for Pandawan Jing Ru, her record is squeaky clean and Boss Jin vouched for her to use those live ammunition. Should she get into any trouble in the future with live ammunition outside of this store, the government officials will have all rights to pin Boss Jin as a possible accomplice." The Red Panda answered and Jing Ru learned that Jin was doing so much for her.

"Then erm...perhaps I should return this rifle back." Jing Ru suddenly felt her gun was too heavy with such responsibilities tied to it.

"Your choice. We do suggest using live ammunition for the purpose of cultivation training though. Most gun cultivators have their cultivation restricted because they either lack a proper gun to train or the experience with it. As you are in a Dungeon Supplier store and Boss Jin foresees great potential in you, he decided to entrust you this responsibility. If you feel you are not ready, we are not forcing you, and

your clearance will also stay even if you decide not to make use of it." The Red Panda explained thoroughly which Ren Wei and his pals unfortunately knew that was true.

Many people took up on gun related cultivation because it felt cool, but the strict regulations made it hard for them to progress in their cultivation. Hence, that many people also dropped gun related cultivation and opted for other cultivation styles or they left it at a low level.

"I see, then I shall not disappoint him." Jing Ru said as she looked at the Winterwolf rifle she was carrying. The policemen took out their weapons and they were surprised the Three Headed Bear was able to perform a direct exchange of the guns they had. Even Ren Wei's customised air rifle was available to exchange for the real model, though Ren Wei purposely made it as authentic as possible for the air rifle. All of them took some time to gear up and the newcomers even took the chance to preview the weapons this place was selling.

"By any chance do you have a Dragunov sniper rifle?" Abdul whispered to the Red Panda. In her characteristic cute way, she informed Abdul that those were available. Gupta took a look and thought it was a good idea too. They then asked what was the mode of payment and realised they could only buy them with Panda medals.

"For the duration of the Raid Event, we are rewarding raid points for accomplished missions and combat achievements. While we do sell special prizes which can only be exchanged for those points, we also offer the possibility of exchanging them for medals too if you wish." The Red Panda informed Abdul and Gupta and they both nodded in agreement. They had decided to get an upcoming birthday present for Ren Wei.

Little did they know Jing Ru was having the very same idea too.

## Chapter 353 Cross

"You must be fucking kidding me! The King wants us to accompany him into the capital just because Green Fire is missing? What the hell? What about my troops?!" Purple Thunder banged on the marble table. Purplish thunder sparks flew around as the table broke into pieces, dirtying the floor.

"That is not my decision. I am just relaying the orders from the King." Oku showed a troubled face as he leaned on the wall of the meeting room, rubbing his temple. He had already predicted that the Avatars of Syl dra and Shiva would not be happy about the change of plans.

"The King's decision is absolute." Yellow Ice said reluctantly as he rescued his drink before Purple Thunder destroyed the table right beside them.

"Screw you. Your fleet has yet to suffer a real setback in this whole campaign. Do not come crying to me when the goblins beat the crap of your army." Purple Thunder retorted back angrily. "I refuse to obey the orders of the King. Oku, you have a way to contact the Orc mages in the Thunder Army, right? Make them prepare a portal for me. I am going to assist my army no matter what."

"But, that would be going directly against the King's or-" Oku was suddenly interrupted by Purple Thunder grabbing onto Oku's shirt and bringing it up towards Purple Thunder's face. His fists were emitting a short miniature burst of lightning and Oku could feel his body to go a little numb despite his large stature.

"No! Fucking!! Buts!!! My army is suffering from significant losses because I am not there to guide them. And WHY?!?! Because I am forced to stay in this stupid castle! Just to make it seem as if we have the advantage through the element of surprise? Don't piss me off. Since when have we Orcs become as expendable as goblins? Fuck him and his royal orders!!!" Purple Thunder threw Oku to the wall and it cracked a little though his act did little to faze the Right Hand of the King. Purple Thunder's breaths were heavy and he was pacing around the room angrily until he remembered something.

"You owe me one... or have you already forgotten, Oku? I am responsible for you becoming his Right Hand. What do you think would happen if his Majesty finds out more about that 'incident'." Purple Thunder threatened Oku by pointing his finger at his face. After a couple of seconds of staring into each other's eyes, the Right Hand sighed.

"Do as you wish. However, we are even after this." Oku held onto Purple Thunder's arm and politely pushed them away.

"You better keep that damn mouth shut. Yellow Ice. Oku, just report to that useless king that I had already left the scene before the orders reached me. That should buy you some...I don't know forgiveness points from the King? That is if he still has his heart." Purple Thunder took his double edged two handed axe that was leaning on the wall and followed Oku to contact the Orc mages. But not before he slammed the door of the meeting room.

"You think I want my men to die meaningless? The King is insane and all of us in the loop can see it. In hindsight, he should have stopped after the 'failed' Kingslayer Ambush. So what if we did not get them all? Just occupying the other regions would have already boosted our economy at least two fold in the long run." Yellow Ice thought to himself. Unlike the other Avatars, Yellow Ice was a learned man. He knew how to fight and he knew what was stupid and what was right.

Not to mention, he was the previous spymaster for the King before he was cut down by Hamu. To think that he had upheaved the former Mad King to have a crazier one sitting on the throne. Judging from the current situation, Yellow Ice really felt that the war they were currently fighting was a very stupid one which they could not back out in time.

Even if they were to win it by following the new orders, it would be by sacrificing a majority of their main armies. The ratio of orcs to goblin death was already so skewed against them that Yellow Ice believed the orcs should have stopped after the attack at the Northern Valley Town of Gob Gob Bu had been pushed back even if they still think they had a chance after the Kingslayer Ambush.

"If only those humanoids were not present...I've never seen nor read about them before. And those humanoids we captured had no knowledge of a race that wears weird animals as half masks. Even assuming they're tribal by nature, the surviving orcs reported that they were ruthless, strong and powerful." Yellow Ice finished his drink and placed it by the broken remains of the marble table.

"How can it be possible for them to have hidden so long if they are so mighty? Some of the orc survivors even reported that those humanoids fought evenly in a one on one duel against our seasoned Orc Officer who has years of battle experience under their belt. Something doesn't feel right about this whole war." Yellow Ice continued his thoughts as he walked out of the room and stared at the garden from the balcony.

"It feels as if the humanoids purposely sided with the weak goblins against the Orcs. Meanwhile, reports also show that the humans continue to abstain from interfering with the battle..." Yellow Ice remembered the reports of the human spies who decided to work for the orcs. Those greedy creatures did not care for their race as long as their pockets would fill up.

"Technology wise, the goblins should be inferior...but ever since the Kingslayer Ambush, the spies reported a significant increase of lost tech artefacts being used. There is no way they could have hidden these things and they were not even the same tech that we found on that island." Yellow Ice saw a few orcs saluting at him from afar when they caught a glimpse of him. He nodded back in acknowledgement.

"Wooden sticks that shot out fire which worked similar to large cannons, metal carriages that required no mounts to drag them, slick cannons that were more effective than the largest cannons that we were using. They seem even more advanced than what we painstakingly build..." Yellow Ice sighed.

"Wait...the Kingslayer Ambush. Didn't Red Hurricane blame a half masked humanoid who assisted the goblins, for his failures? Yes, I remember now and he said that man appeared at the same time with the three generals' goblins! " Yellow Ice felt he might have the missing link for this particular war.

"The goblin sons who were supposedly kidnapped by the humans was with that masked humanoid... So it should be safe to assume that the sons somehow are the reason for that alliance now..." Yellow Ice suddenly had an epiphany and hurried to his office from the meeting quarters he was in.

He quickly ruffled through the archive reports he had kept and realised he was right. "Cross. Come out. I know you are here right now." Yellow Ice echoed in his empty room and suddenly a goblin shadow emerged from the corner.

"Yes, Sir Yellow Ice." The one eyed goblin knelt in front of him as Yellow Ice continued to go through the report.

"You were at the scene when it happened, am I correct? You reported failing in assassinating the three goblin generals' sons yourself." Yellow Ice remembered how the Orcs had purposely brainwashed and trained a group of goblins to be their spies and made them carried out a specific assassination.

The assassination of Piercestriker, Slashreaver and Ripcaller.

It was meant to take place a day later when the sons of the Three Generals attended the training war games exercise for the very first time. It was supposed to look like an accident.

But the orc affiliated goblins purposely made friends with the duty guards so they could exchange guard duties if required. The guards were lax with their security protocol and the treacherous goblins managed to substitute them. They felt that if they could push the timetable up, the faster they could escape from the exercise and not be suspected by other goblins.

The 'guard' goblins pretended to know the training exercise area well and told the sons there was a giant cliff with a deep lake as they were asking if there was anything more exciting to do than the exercise they were undergoing. The goblin generals' sons realised they could do some cliff diving and the trio happily bribed the guards to take them there which they readily agreed.

Everything was in place, The orcs were also happy that opportunity presented themselves early and quickened the assassination timetable. The accident was ready to take place as they went off course during a break towards the direction of the cliff sides.

Cross's teammates personally distracted the other guards on duty which Cross thought it was proceeding better than expected...until a human entered the woods out of nowhere and killed the goblin general's sons. And just as quick as he appeared he was gone the next moment. Unfortunately the same was true for the corpses of the goblins.

Cross was at a dilemma. There were no bodies to show and he could not report empty handed to the Orcs who were waiting at the cliffside for the corpses. Neither could he return to the goblins and explain why they left the safe zone. Even if they were to believe him that a human killed the goblins, he would have most likely been found out as a spy. A short while later his compatriots came to the scene seeing Cross stunned.

He tried to explain it to his teammates and they ultimately decided to try to reason with the orcs. The Orcs, however, were unable to enter the scene to verify anything as the goblin mages could discover their tracks. To avoid exposing everybody, the Orcs decided to provide Cross with an alibi... by killing Cross's teammates and merely leaving Cross alive. (After all, to the orcs, they were expendable)

Afterwards, the orcs cleared their tracks as much as possible and asked an Orc mage to teleport the dead bodies to the place where Cross encountered the human. Meanwhile, they brought Cross back alive to deliver the message to their King. Unfortunately only Yellow Ice being a seasoned spymaster felt he was telling the truth despite all the accusation and evidence being pinned on him.

As the King was about to order his execution, Yellow Ice interfered stating he had methods to make Cross tell the truth. The enraged King Hamu was sane enough to listen to the Avatar. Yellow Ice suggested casting an old spell from the Orc Royals to learn about the truth of the matter. He reminded King Hamu that there was such a spell, but the King did not remember the specifics too well.

Instead of looking it up and going through it the correct way, the impatient Orc King simply gorged out an eyeball from Cross and initiated the All Seeing magic spell. Although the imagery was blurred,

possibly due to the incorrect steps taken to cast the spell, there was no doubt that in the shown memories of Cross that there was a human silhouette killing the goblin sons.

Hence, Cross was spared.

The Goblin managed to survive the ordeal and thanked Yellow Ice for believing in him. Yellow Ice then decided to take him in as his guard as a spur of the moment decision. Till then, Cross quietly served Yellow Ice thankful for saving his life...in some way or another.

"What if I were to tell you...a humanoid was seen with the reappearance of the three sons that you thought were dead, being stronger than before. What would your conjunction be?" Yellow Ice asked Cross.

"I'd not have any idea at all how that would be possible. Humans would definitely not side with the goblins... And I clearly saw the goblin sons died in front of my eyes." Cross replied with his head down.

"But its true right? You heard reports of the goblin sons resurfaced again. Perhaps, they were not exactly dead when they were taken. Perhaps, the goblins knew about the assassination all along and decided to make a fool out of the assassins by allying with humanoids?" Yellow Ice said and Cross was dumbfounded for a moment.

"That, I jest. But what if I were to tell you, I wish to become the next Orc King. Would you be interested in serving me as my Right Hand?" Yellow Ice asked with a smirk in his face. Cross hesitated for a while, but he guessed Yellow Ice knew about his unsurprising hatred against the King after what he did.

"If you want me to kill the King, I will gladly do so. At the very least, I can know that I died trying." Cross answered and Yellow Ice laughed.

"Oh my. Such violent tendencies! I might have to report you, Cross for being so disloyal to the throne. Or perhaps I should deal the blow myself!" Yellow Ice walked towards his office doors to close it and cast an acoustic barrier on his office. Cross had his hand at the crossbow grip and trigger in case Yellow Ice was not joking at all.

"Joking aside there is one thing in your statement that you have to amend, Cross. WE will kill the King together. After everything, it should not be too hard to convince the Orcs, that the son has followed in the footsteps of his deranged father." Yellow Ice smiled as he remembered the face of the Mad King since he served the previous king before. Even if Hamu did not show the same outward signs as his predecessor, his actions were questionable enough. And everyone should understand how someone like that needed to be put down like a sick dog if the Orc Kingdom wished to survive long term.

And If Yellow Ice were to profit at the end, who was he to say no to that?

-----

"Holy shit!" Abdul nearly scared himself to bits when he was teleported into a plane with the others. Gupta and Ren Wei were equally terrified but their expression was more controlled than Abdul's.

"Morning there, little Giraffe. Accompanying your father this time?" Captain Bai saw Jing Ru who was secretly sniggering at the older folks and passed her four rings. She knew what the rings were supposed to do and gave a summary to the policemen.

"Since we will need to work as a team, mind telling me about your cultivation styles and your weapons?" Jing Ru asked and Abdul was the first to answer.

"Rakish Rhino." Abdul said as he brought out a six barrel rotary Gatling machine gun also widely known as the minigun. It was being accompanied by a metallic backpack from his storage ring which made Jing Ru's jaw drop. "Ahahaha! This is not really my main weapon, but this is what I always used when we went out for dungeon supplier runs back when we were younger. They made me the tank of the group if you get what I mean."

Jing Ru then noticed Abdul's natural large build. Even without his hobby as a bodybuilder, the towering stature made him a natural choice for a tank. Of course, it also helped carry that massive firepower around.

"Exculpatory Elephant. But my weapon is not as crazy as Abdul's." Gupta took out his weapon and it was a Mossberg 900 series Shotgun with a few customised modules attached to it. Notably, a customised fast reloading mechanism and a long round tube magazine extension underneath the shotgun barrel. There was a shotgun shell holder at the buttstock too. He even placed a customised bayonet at the tip of

the shotgun extension tube which he had further enhanced with strength inscriptions to withstand impact so that his magazine extension will not break.

"I was honestly amazed that the store was able to replicate my little toy with the customised modules attached so fast, even after I told them it would be difficult to remove. It did not even take them a whole minute after they took the whole gun for inspection. I had already prepared myself to switch for my old modules on the air shotgun which would be a hassle." Gupta exclaimed as he looked at the live ammunition model.

"Only to suddenly get the gun thrown at me. The exact same replica with live ammunition. Even the inscriptions were all there. This shop's reputation for providing top notch quality care for the customers really is justified." Gupta boasted with glee.

"Boss Jin does care for his customers and caters to our needs. For example, this shirt, pants and even boots were from his shop, and they were all inscribed with at least a Grade 3 defence inscription." Jing Ru bragged as she twirled around like a little girl for Gupta to see.

"Looks like you are very familiar with his shop. I am just happy that I was able to buy the live ammunition with cash and not medals. With no bullets to shoot, I'd have been forced to use my weapon as a giant club, hahaha!" Abdul joked as the System had allowed the newcomers to buy the live ammunition with real life cash.

The accommodation for the weapons exchange was something Another Jin had suggested and was gladly accepted by the System. Mainly because the ideas behind some of those customised designs were great to copy.

"You may be surprised but Jing Ru is actually a veteran in his dungeon store. My little girl scored a few First Clear runs before. So if she ever gives you an order, you better listen!" Ren Wei bragged with a chuckle and his two brothers saluted to Jing Ru. "Mdm, Yes, Mdm!"

Jing Ru giggled a bit then realised Gupta's belt was filled with shotgun shells and even a side waist plate that carried customised stick loaders which she had seen being used in air rifle competitions before for fast reloadings. Gupta noticed her look and asked if she knew about any of this.

"Ah...a fellow air rifle enthusiast, and here I thought Ren Wei trained you on guns because it was easier for him to do so." Gupta commented which made Ren Wei throw a loaded magazine clip at his head.

"Nahhh! Dad's not that mean. He allowed me to choose what I want. Besides, he's a very good teacher even if his attendance at home maybe lacking." Jing Ru teased her father a bit as she picked up the loaded magazine and threw it back at Ren Wei. All he could do was catch it and not blame her. Gupta secretly whispered a 'Nice job!' to her while Ren Wei was not looking.

"Okay, fellow cultivators. Enough talk for now. The party is beginning. This is your current mission and it will continue to take up every ticket you own until the event is over. If you wish to stop anytime before your current ticket expires, just hit the exit button in your Pandamonium app." Captain Bai said briefly and everyone understood before he showed them the Gob Gob Kingdom map.

"Usually, we would send newcomers to the Northern Region but seeing that you are accompanied by a Pandawan it would be a less than ideal choice for Jing Ru. So in your case, we've decided to send you lot to the Western Region where she is sorely needed. It is also because we deemed that your cultivation grade is high enough, so we are entrusting you guys to be able to fend of yourself." Captain Bai explained as he zoomed in the area.

"We do not have too much intel about the orcs but what little we learned makes us believe that they will be attacking anytime now. Maybe by the time this plane fly over the battlefield, it would have already started. If not, I'd advise you to take your time to survey the surroundings and take the best spot to secure the defence of the area. " Captain Bai advised.

"Oh my god, looks like an old school coastal defence kind of scenario. Feels like Normandy." Gupta took a look at the console screen and commented.

"You are not wrong, Boss Jin and the goblins had created a similar scenario and took Normandy as inspiration. The goal was to allow you guys to tide over the attacks. Of course, with fewer problems than the Germans were facing. Our back is quite secured according to Intel but do not be surprised if Orcs come from behind too. Anything can happen." Captain Bai smirked as he warned them.

"Also just for this scenario, we have added some more option after some feedback. If you need extra ammunition or resources, dial up the emergency call button via the Pandamonium App. You can phone call or video call, your choice. The red Pandas NPCs will be answering you. As I notice some of you do not have medals, the raid points that you earn along the way can be used to purchase additional

resources. If you lack the required points, it will be on real cash credit until the end of the raid. " Captain Bai said but he suddenly came nearer to the group and his voice became more gentle.

"However, because this is a relative fair business, we have capped the credit to 700 Yuan (Approx 100 USD). You can put in more cash if you want but a voice authorisation with a double confirmation is required. Once you agree you'll be allowed to buy more resources or even guns if needed." Captain Bai gave a wide smile before he stepped back and changed into his angry look again.

"That's rather friendly," Gupta noted. He purposely took out 3000 Yuan (Approx 450 USD) from the alternate police budget for this particular raid and felt that it might not even be enough. "Oh well, that Triad Boss did 'sponsor' us with suitcases loads of money...should not be a problem." He remembered the detective couple emphasised that there was no need to be stingy when it came to training at Dungeons and Pandas. As long as they remembered to get a receipt which was weird to Gupta since it's always the other way around. However, the freedom to make purchases without having to fill out tons of forms was a welcome change.

"Heh, maybe they are trying to catch some corrupt cops." Abdul casually remarked when Gupta explained to him previously when he showed him the cash.

"In any case, we are arriving soon. I am sorry, Pandawan Jing Ru. If you're wondering, the monsters who usually act as guardians won't be able to participate in the battle. But no worries, some are already on standby in the Western Region. They will act as the cultivators' proxies if needed." Captain Bai remarked which only Jing Ru understood.

"Alright! Saddle up! The landing pod's over there!" Captain Bai ordered as he pushed the red big button at the side of the plane and the cargo backdoor began to open. The Veteran Police Squad had secured their seatbelts and was ready to leave the plane.

#### Chapter 354 The Western Diversion - Part 1

As another landing pod arrived at the beach of the Western Coastal town of Gob Gob Si, the police squad with their half masks noticed the area was bustling with activities from the goblin and cultivators. Ren Wei could not help but smile at Jing Ru's cutesy half giraffe mask while Jing Ru complimented how adorable his muskrat mask was.

"Gah, so mushy...but I am curious to see how I look like too. Can you take a photo of my mask?" Gupta asked Abdul, who was wearing a mask with the rhino horn poking out at his nose area. Surprisingly it did not deter his vision nor did he himself felt the weight of the mask wearing him down.

"Hahahha, you looked terrible with the elephant mask on. Like a follower of some hidden cult of Ganesha." Abdul took the photo of Gupta's half mask, though it appeared more like a full mask with the elephant's ears at the side, short tusks near his cheek area and his nose in a vertical upright 'S' hose shape.

"Blah! At least I hope it will scare the orcs a little." Gupta replied as he saw the photo in which he posed with his shotgun.

"You just better make sure not to scare our goblin allies with your look. It would be a shame if they accidentally stab the elephant." Abdul teased his colleague while he adjusted his metal box bag. The sound of his ammunition shells hitting each other provided him with a sense of security.

Jing Ru was slightly shocked herself. Unlike the previous time when she only fought with a few dozen goblins together in the Northern Valley Town of Gob Gob Bu, what she saw now in Gob Gob Si was their number having increased that encompassed hundreds if not, possibly thousands.

She felt that Jin really seemed to have gone all out in his missions for the Goblin Raid. The town had been evacuated and it was obvious that the entire place had been cleanly stripped of civilians as it became the designated war zone for the goblins. Barricades were placed at strategic areas and emergency supplies such as arrows and medical aid were being stocked at certain checkpoints.

What seemed to be the members of the goblin backline logistics were running around carrying boxes to Shu and Ke Mi's newly created fort walls. Be it ammunition, arrows, barrels of oils or food rations, not a single goblin was lazing around. The squad even noticed some of the goblins were carrying modernised weapons like the M1 Garand while others were clinging on to crossbows, bows etc.

Rows and columns of goblin fighters armed with swords, spears and shields were organised right behind the fort walls but instead of being readily active, they were sparring with each other. Not rigorously but warming their bodies up for the fight to come. At the same time, some commanders were discussing strategies with each other alongside with the prominent Spear General Argent and internalising the

various backup plans. Yet what Ren Wei noticed was that there were tens of cultivators standing at the edge of the ledge who seemed to be intently listening to them as well.

Ren Wei being a sniper had already spotted numerous vantage points being occupied by various marksmen, both cultivators and goblins. To his surprise, he believed some of the cultivators were from the Tiangong Police Station as they nodded at him or at Abdul and Gupta as a sign of acknowledgment.

In the meantime, some of the spacious vantage points were occupied by artillery or flak gun emplacements. There were even machine guns emplacement being placed at blind spots. From Ren Wei's experience, the commander who coordinated this definitely knew his stuff really well. Only an experienced commander or fellow trained sniper would have made arrangements for those spots. In his own opinion, he doubted that Boss Jin could have been able to create such a scene alone. He would need a person advising him, most likely someone experienced in the military or someone possessing a vast knowledge regarding military operations to create such a detailed dungeon instance. Once this was over, he would love to thank whoever helped Boss Jin to create some form of realism in the dungeon instance which was severely lacking in many other dungeon suppliers and if possible get to know the person better.

As they were all the humanoids employed by Master Jin, the goblin military leaders were not bothered by their intrusion and allowed them to listen in and walk around the area as long as they did not interrupt the operations. Most of the cultivators were just busybodies and they left the goblins alone once their curiosity was sated.

Similar to those cultivators, Ren Wei and the others did not know where to go at first so they explored the town and subsequently the fort walls. Gupta being a sucker for weapons saw that the walls were lined up with Pak 38 anti tank cannons. What surprised him even more was that the ammunition right beside it, were mixed for various types of scenarios. There were incendiary, high explosive, armour penetrating and anti infantry fragmentation shells. (All clearly labeled in both goblin which he assumed and Chinese language). He could not wait to find out if those were the real deal and hopefully be able to also fire at least once. (Just to have the feel and thrill of it!)

Suddenly, a little blue magpie appeared and landed on Jing Ru's shoulders. "Greetings, I am Magpie No. 039, I will be the one communicating with you all. My responsibilities include updating you on where to go, and suggest locations which might need help according to the military leaders." Magpie No. 039 introduced itself. It chirped while instructing the squad about its objectives.

"I will also be handling your personal private transmissions within the team as well as any possible SOS from other cultivators and vice versa. Your private transmissions will be encrypted by me and send via

thought to every one of you. It will be very hectic when the battle starts and it will be in your best interest to ensure my survival since I am your source of communication between everyone. In case I am taken out, you are advised to either continue your objective and wait an amount of time until I get resummoned or join with another squad in case you wish to proceed on." The Magpie No. 039 chirped once more while expanding its wings a bit, adjusting itself to be comfortable on Jing Ru's shoulder.

She did not feel any pain from its claws mainly because the magpie perched itself on the strap of her backpack. Suddenly, the sirens went off as the lighthouse tower at the northern side of Gob Gob Si began to sign light beams towards the town. The police who were trained in morse code roughly got the message and they checked their weapons and their armoured vest one final time.

"Any place that needs our immediate attention or should we simply enjoy the show first?" Gupta asked Magpie No. 039 as he understood that it would be stupid for cultivators to rush into the shore. That would be suicide...unless he dared to play and dance around on a tightrope with the reaper of death.

"According to how you phrased your question...Nope. Currently no places require your aid. You can watch the 'show' first. The primary line of defence will be handled by the goblins. If the Orcs manage to get past the attacks and reach the shore, which they will, then it will be your debut. Long range cultivators can do what they like. Remember to always have sufficient ammunition and order more if you need them." Magpie No.39 answered which prompted Ren Wei to beckon Jing Ru to follow him.

"We will keep in contact." Ren Wei said to Abdul and Gupta as the father and daughter ran towards a decent vantage point which he saw was not yet occupied. Meanwhile, Gupta and Abdul jumped on top of one of the taller buildings since they saw other cultivators doing it. The roof was not yet taken and provided both of them with a clear view of what was going to happen.

"Chips?" Abdul asked as he was searching his storage ring.

"Nice. You got those with sea salt black pepper flavour?" Gupta asked and Abdul nodded his head. He took them out and passed it to Gupta while he searched for his his own preferred flavour. BBQ sauce. They opened their bags of chips and began to watch the whole scene unfold.

-----

The Ice Orc Fleet Admiral had received notice that their supreme commander, the Avatar of Shiva, Yellow Ice, would not be joining them. As the highest ranking officer, it was decided that he would need to take matters into his own hands. "It's about time for the battle! Sail forth!!!" The Admiral gave the command and a loud blaring sound echoed throughout the quiet colossal fleet, which it had been acting as a mobile blockade against other sources of possible aid to the goblins.

With one sound, the fleet immediately powered up their engines and the orcs were barking orders to no end. Their wait for that signal was finally over. Their ships powered by a magic lost tech engine began to move forward despite the weather threatening to drop a ravaging storm at them. The Admiral hoped to land before the rain started since it might hamper the movement of their troops. It seemed that Mother Nature were not keen on making their invasion easy for them.

If it were up to him, he would have attacked much sooner with the evening sun shining at them since they were at the western region. But because their primary objective was to serve as a diversion attack, they were forced to delay and to strike later in the evening so as to coincide with the rise of the Full Red Moon. Which was why the weather and the environment had become a disadvantage to the orcs. Yet, the King's orders were absolute as their commander would say if he was here, so they were left with no other option but to make do with what they had.

-----

The anti tank cannons were all prepped with high explosive shells first which could travel the furthest range. Once the Ice Orc Fleet would enter the range of about 10 km, they were ready to start the counterattack. They were not necessarily aiming to kill them but rather to suppress fire and decrease the orcs' morale with consistent shooting. In the meantime, the real hitters were the artillery guns which their goblin spotters were already prepping and verifying the exact coordinates for the Arty guns to fire before the ships could move another inch forward.

All of them were trained by Hou Fei in an intensive classroom setting created by Jin. They were left with him in a room which had a long time dilation. Nevertheless, their lack of time made it a horrible time to force them to study as if their life depended on it. Apparently, more and more goblins wanted to quit by killing themselves towards the end. Yet Hou Fei's background as Royal Snake Zodiac Cultivator allowed him to have ways to 'provide' them with 'sufficient' amount of sanity to stay in that gruesome classroom of his.

"Fire whenever ready." Their magpies chirped simultaneously at the Goblin spotters and they gave the signal to fire which caused a barrage of sounds coming from the peaceful western coast. The airships piloted by the Wind Orc Air Force saw the mini flashlights coming from the western region and warned

the Ice Orc Fleet about it. However, it was a little too late when the shells hit a few of their warships and some already caught on fire because of the initiative attack.

A few of the smaller ships broke immediately from the fires. The goblin spotters wanted to hit those first since their mobility was the highest in the seas and selecting them for the first volley seemed to be the most appropriate target. The bigger ships were of course the larger threat but they could be dealt at a later time with the subsequent volleys.

The orcs on the smaller assault ships had to abandon ship before the fire consumed them. It's either that or they would be stuck in the ship and be killed by the burning debris. If not that, the other possibility was to be stuck in overflooded blocked cabins and that was no better.

What they did not expect were the things that lurked in the sea... The Deep Ones were impatiently waiting to get some action ever since the Ice Orc Fleet arrived in the Western Waters. They finally had the chance to kill stuff especially when they were not even allowed to assist as guardians for the cultivators because they were next in line to be featured in Jin's store. However, because of the rather sudden appearance of the raid event, they were overshadowed yet again. And unfortunately for Derpy and his gang, Jin decided to focus all of his efforts to this raid event instead.

Yet, Jin had deployed them when he learned about the Ice Orc Fleet. After getting notified the Deep Ones were elated that they finally would be able to get some blood in their hands as they were itching for a fight for a long time. However, Jin did not give them the orders to assault the warships directly. Else, they might taken everything for themselves and the goblins prepared for naught. (Most importantly, the cultivators would not have their fair share of battle. And that would be bad for business.)

So, Jin only allowed them to kill orcs who abandoned ship or those who dropped into the sea. Whether the orcs put up a struggle or not was another matter. To make up for all those restrictions Jin did allow them to attack the orcs once they decided to retreat. Only Mr Derpy was forbidden to do anything except to support his entourage. Of course, he was initially furious at this order. Fortunately, Jin later convinced him that waiting until the end would guarantee that he could imprint his image as the mighty Shadow Dagen in the hearts of the cultivators. The image of himself rising from the Depth and annihilating those massive warships who were retreating did wonders to pacify Mr Derpy. Watching his army have fun, he secretly prayed for the Fleet to quickly retreat since his jaws were starting to feel itchy.

Some Deep Ones were even toying with their prey before the orcs were teared into pieces. They stood no chance against their predators who were extremely versatile in the waters. They were not called

Terrors of the Deep for fun. The rest killed them in one shot before dragging them deeper into the sea and eating them up. Yet, they were careful about not destroying most of the armour or weapons.

Despite their appearance, they were conscientious scavengers. Whatever metal or leather pieces the orcs were equipped with, they would strip the orc clean before eating them up and nicely stack those pieces to offer them as tribute to Jin once again.

It did not take long for the fellow Orc sailors to realise something was amiss when not a single orc managed to surface from the water. Some even shone bright light magic into the sea and only later found out that there were sea monsters eating up their companions. Something so vicious and rampant never happened before which they quickly reported to their higher ups. The leaders could only deduce their usage of lost tech might have attracted these monsters of the deep sea.

This situation alone presented the Ice Orc Admiral a certain dilemma and he needed to make a decision fast since the goblin artillery bombardment was not going to stop for them to think. On one hand, he should be giving the orders to aid the orcs in need, on the other hand, he felt it was a waste of resources trying to aid them. By now it was almost certain that they were dead but abandoning them without at least attempting to help would be equally cruel and demoralising for the sailors.

It was not a decision he could make off hand. After struggling with his conscience, he decided to follow logic and issued orders to press forth with full engines ahead while telling his orcs to prepare the long range cannons for a counter attack. The orc leaders had no choice but to follow the command of their admiral. In order to fire at them, the warships had to turn their gun ports to fire. This in turn, made the artillery spotters grin as the immobile flanked target meant less chance to miss.

The massive warships finally turned and fired their cannons whenever as soon as they felt they were in the correct angle and range which caused those behind the fort walls to brace themselves for the attack before they retaliated back with the anti tank cannon fire.

In the meantime, the medium ships acting as troop transports started transferring the main bulk of the orcs troops from the massive warships to their end. By using the other side of their warships as cover to transfer troops, it would ensure the troops transfer be protected while the warships fired their cannons on the other side. After which, the medium ships charged together through the seas hoping to reach before they got hit by the goblin's cannon fire.

---

"Woah, I can even feel the shockwaves from here." Abdul praised the realism of this experience as he held onto the ledge when he felt the cannon shots hitting the fort wall.

"No kidding, and it looks like the battle's just barely began and I already feel my adrenaline pumping." Gupta agreed as he finished his chips. Both of them were highly anticipating for the orcs to enter the shore so that they could get into action.

#### Chapter 355 The Western Diversion - Part 2

As the medium transport ships tried their best to charge to the shoreline, their captains suddenly realised they hit shore rather early. They had previously estimated that they would land at most a hundred metres away, yet the distance now spanned multiple hundreds of meters. There was no way the ship could proceed any further no matter how much the ship tried to push its engine. Turning back now was also no longer viable so the captains immediately opened the platforms, forcing the first wave of Ice Orcs to charge with their shields up.

That was when the carnage really started. The goblins slowly placed their guns closer to the edge of the fort walls, out of the bunkers and aimed at the various blobs of orcs. With a click, their safety switches were turned off. With a nock, their arrows were ready to take flight. And with just a word from Spear General Argent, the projectiles soared through the beach head and brought down the orcs so easily that it felt like a joke.

As the Ice Orc Admiral saw the medium transport ships being stuck, he was outright stunned. The Ice Orc Admiral took a telescope from his navigator to take a closer look at the shoreline. Indeed it was reclaimed further into the sea. "How is that possible?! It should still be high tide now! Why are the ships stuck so far away from the shoreline?? I do not remember the Western Coast having any high shores at all. What use is all our intel and our spies if they cannot even report how the goblin must have placed obstacles in the vicinity?!"

"Curses!!! First unknown monsters in the sea, then fort walls that seem impervious to our standard cannon attacks. Their siege defence weapons hitting so accurately on our boats and now an extension of the shorelines. Since when are those goblins so sly and resourceful!" The Ice Orc Admiral crushed the telescope in his hand with anger and went forward while taking a scroll out of his trench coat.

"I did not expect to use this so early in the battle. I hope Yellow Ice will not fault me for this but if I hesitate, any further our companions will die meaninglessly." The Ice Orc Admiral unrolled the expensive looking scroll and chanted loudly, causing wide magical circles to appear underneath three of the massive warships of the Ice Orc Fleet.

"Shiva, I beseech you, Bring these warships that are fully devoted to you back to the ground. Transport them as you see fit! Allow us to offer you those goblin lives as sacrifices! Tidal Ice Waves of Shiva! " The Ice Orc Admiral's booming voice echoed and the wide magical circles glowed an ethereal blue.

Suddenly, from the surface of the water, the first warship was slowly beginning to rise. Higher and higher, riding a giant tidal wave of ice and into the skies. The other two were quickly following suit. Yet instead of the wave moving straight towards the fort walls, two of the tidal waves curved sideways, one on each side allowing the orcs on those two warships to fire their cannons from their gun ports from the sky as the tidal wave steadily left a trail of frozen ice from the sea.

The remaining warship pushed through the center, making it the priority target for all the goblin's cannon fire. The tidal wave did help to block the attacks but soon after, it was destroyed by the immense fire. The tidal ice wave broke and dropped the warship into the midst of the shoreline. Yet, this magical spell allowed the warship to be significantly nearer to the beach head, probably at least 50 metres away from the fort walls. It provided not just cover for the orcs from the transport ship, but a fighting chance against the goblin's seemingly impenetrable fortress defence.

The goblins did not expect this and most were already forced to take cover while the goblins manning the flak guns finally had some work to do since the Wind Orc Air Force had yet to make their moves. However since their ammunition was designed to take down the Orc's aircraft it proved to be not as ideal against the massive warships on a flying tidal ice wave.

At the same time the Orcs in those warships cheered at the sudden reversal. Morale had been at an all time low after all those setbacks they suffered. The commotion allowed the orcs dashing through the shoreline to have some breather since the bombardment had to stop in order for the goblins to brace themselves from the enemy's cannon fire.

But this did not faze Ren Wei... and surprisingly Jing Ru too. The two daughter and father unceasingly aimed their shots from their occupied vantage point and fired at the incoming orcs. In the grand scheme of things those they took down would not change the tide of battle, but every shot counted. Something which was emphasised by the raid points they accumulated so long as they did not miss.

"Ah, that last shot went through the shoulder, pace yourself. Do not rush the firing. Take an extra second to make sure one hit is all you need." Ren Wei decided to be the spotter cum sniper for Jing Ru who was not accustomed to using a sniper rifle which fired real live ammunition. If Jing Ru was not able to cleanly kill a target, he would fire the second shot to ensure his death. The feeling of the gun's recoil, the reloading and the smell of gunpowder was a fresh new experience to her. Ren Wei was happy for the opportunity to not only spend time with her but teach her more about his line of work.

In the meantime, the tidal ice waves finally crashed at the two ends of the Coastal Town of Gob Gob Si while the ships were still intact and had their gun ports facing the town. The Orcs had no mercy in releasing all of their cannons discriminately at the town.

Meanwhile the goblins were doing their best to push their anti tank cannons and a few of the artillery guns so that they could reposition themselves to destroy the imminent threat. Ice Orc warriors took the opportunity to charge down towards the town itself.

Argent was not prepared for the orcs possessing such a terrifying spell in their disposal and commanded regiments of spear goblins and sword goblins to fight against the threat within the town.

However, the cultivators were already one step ahead of him, responding to the fight when they saw the direction the tidal waves were heading. Unlike the goblins who regarded this as a real war, the cultivators all thought that this was an instance and the spell was simply a flashy entrance for the Orcs designed to allow them to invade the beach, so that they could finally fight them off.

Gupta and Abdul were no exception as they ran towards the eastern side of the town to aid the cultivators and goblin warriors. However, because of the numerous vantage points being occupied, marksmen and machine gun teams were already deterring the Ice Orcs as the two pushed through to the centre of a town square.

As Abdul entered one of the mini town squares where he saw the Ice Orcs were beginning to split themselves up to cover various places, he stopped to ready his weapon. "I will focus center!!" Abdul shouted as he was already half pressing his minigun, allowing the barrels to rotate. The moment he had his footing, he released a hail of bullets towards the incoming Ice Orcs who had yet to split up.

Meanwhile, Gupta followed close to those who had entered the city, crushing into some of them by using a basic Exculpatory Elephant charging dash technique. As those Ice Orc warriors flew to the sky due to the knockback of the charging dash, Gupta took out his shotgun and fired at them in rapid

succession. The pellets easily went through their metal armour and pieces of their faces were being blown off by the shotgun shots.

From his storage ring on his right hand, he took out three shotgun dragon breath shells with his left hand and did a quick defensive reload by using the buttstock of the shotgun to dislocate a jaw of an incoming Ice Orc. He managed to load a single dragon breath shell in after he fired the remaining normal shot in his gun chamber, instantly killing the orc with the dislocated jaw.

Gupta turned as he used his shotgun to parry an incoming sword attack and pushed the shotgun barrel towards the orc's stomach before pressing the trigger down. "BANG!" It caused a tremendous blast of fire to be emitted out of the shotgun with sparks of fire piercing the orc's body and burning the orcs behind him too.

"Oops, I guess I inserted too much chi into the dragon breath shell when I reloaded it... Thank god the inscriptions on the shotgun can handle the impact." Gupta grinned widely while covering his face with his hand in case the fire blast recoiled and hit him but he was glad to see it worked too well.

Meanwhile the remaining Ice Orcs tried to take cover when the quick barrage of fire from Abdul mowed down the escaping Ice Orcs. Even the Ice Orc Mages magical barrier could not withstand a second of it. Breaking almost in an instant. His firing rate was so impressive that few got the opportunity to use the building as cover. The only way for the Ice Orcs to survive had been to quickly leap themselves towards the ground so that they would not be in the line of fire. Abdul stopped his minigun and charged forward, using his brightly red glowing barrel as a club.

The Ice Orc warriors assumed that the humanoid emptied his projectiles so they stood up and ran towards him. Not to mention, those who ran away from the divergent path began to return when they heard the loud sounds from the mini square city and upon seeing the destruction the humanoids created, they bolted towards him to finish him off quickly.

Abdul laughed heartily as he smashed his minigun into the stomach of an orc like a rhino using his horns to pierce his target. Then he pressed on the trigger and bullets punctured the Orc's abdomen. Abdul did the same for his incoming targets. Smashing his minigun, using his backpack as a shield or a blunt weapon to knock the orcs down before pressing the trigger, releasing a small burst of bullets.

"Now this is a real workout!" Abdul was so happy about the realism that he did not even notice when he received a few cuts from the orcs because of his size. Compared to Gupta who was slightly more agile and whose Gun-fu felt way more polished, Abdul's rough fight was more feral in nature. Yet, both

managed to do their job until the goblins arrived to reinforce them. That was when both started to restrain their shots a little more to prevent friendly fire. (Even though the System was supposed to prevent such cases but after having to look out for their allies all their career it was hard to break such a habit, especially for policemen.)

In the meantime, with the anti tank cannons at the side being occupied by the two warships, it allowed the Ice Orcs coming from the Beach head had slightly more breathing space. Still they did not know of a certain monster in the vicinity who was maintaining the fort walls.

Shu, The Sakura Tree Treant.

It had rooted itself at the centre of the fort walls with Ke Mi the Zither Mistress by his side. Unsurprisingly the Great White Snake was nearby, hanging around the Treant. The Ice Orcs warships from the sea tried to burn down the 'improvised' wooden fort walls but no matter how much they attacked them, they would neither budge nor would they burn.

That was because the ancient Treant was constantly mending it while the Zither Mistress ensured a constant magic barrier was being maintained. For the same reason the fire was not burning the fort walls down at all.

Before the Ice Orc managed to come close to the fort walls, Shu would have already sensed their presence and attempted to stab them with his tree roots. With the fort walls being an extension of him, the orcs were killed within an instant and the magical tree roots would proceed to drag them to the wall... not just as nutrients but also meat shield to cover the holes of the fort wall.

It was a brutal sight for the Ice Orcs to see their dying comrades being merged with the living fort wall but they tried their best to overwhelm it as much as they could. True enough, Shu did not have the mental capacity to kill hundreds of orcs trying to climb the wall. Luckily there was no need for him to do so alone.

As part of the living fort wall, Shu was able to make crevices large enough for the Great White Snake to pass through before closing the crevice again. This allowed the snake to slide within the fort walls and swallow the orcs. Sometimes it would grab a bunch with its tail and bring it into the city for the spear goblins to do their job. Other times, it would use its tail and smack the orcs away and into the range of the marksmen.

Ke Mi continued to play her Zither the whole time. Only when certain Ice Orcs managed to cross over the Living Fort walls and appeared right in front of her, would she pluck a string, causing an off tune to occur. That would also be the last tone for the poor orcs, as she was creating a deadly sonic shockwave that sliced those orc in half. Other times, when too many Orcs came over, she'd just a swipe off many of her Zither strings to produce a gust of strong wind knocking the Ice Orcs away before she resumed her job.

Separately, the Wind Orc Air Force finally made their move. To counter them, Wyrstriker came into play. What could a single goblin with a wyvern do? Not much right? That was certainly the mentality of the Orc Captains in the colossal airships that once threatened the skies of the capital of Gob Gob Kingdom. Wyrstriker did not forget about them and he prepared accordingly. Together with Jin they had a surprise in store.

Jin had specially crafted a storage ring for Wyrstriker since it was one of the few monsters that had the ability to command the chi within them and was thus able to use it. The storage ring contained hundreds of rocket propelled grenades. RPGs. Wyrstriker had purposely handed out three sticks to each of the Wyvern Riders who were still at least a mile away from him as he had decided to initiate the attack and allow the Dashing Wyverns under Spear General's Argent command to follow up.

Since he was to only one able to resurrect, he had taken the initiative to start the battle against the airship carriers. Iwen, Wyrstriker's Wyvern was laughing hysterically as he noticed the arrows, mages and even laser cannons facing towards him. "Do you really wish to court death that desperately?" Iwen asked as he flew steadily towards the first airship carrier.

"Death has visited me countless times. To me, she is already an old friend." Wyrstriker replied as he took out the first RPG.

"Bear with me. It's going to be my first time meeting her." Iwen eyes narrowed as Wyrstriker poured some chi into the wyvern, boosting its speed significantly and commencing their suicidal attack together. Arrows flew, lasers from lost tech cannons were being shot and wind blades were flung at Wyrstriker and sadly Iwen was not agile enough to avoid those aiming at vital places before Wyrstriker shot the rocket propelled grenade towards the carrier. A lost tech laser cannon burnt both the rider and wyvern alongside with the RPG he was holding. The Dashing Wyverns felt it was bound to happened and sigh...until they saw the emergence of Wyrstriker from high above.

The surprise came when Iwen opened his eyes and notice he was being thrown into the battefield again and he quickly readjusted himself to the orientation of the airship carrier. "Death did not feel as bad as I thought...still, it hurts though. Is this the power of Master Jin?" Iwen said as he felt his strength renewed

and Wyrstiker smirked quietly. He had to thank the System for resurrecting them more or less in place to avoid suspicion.

The explosions were small from the RPGs but when Wyrstriker realised he could use it to potentially disable the engines they danced within the stormy skies against the projectiles aiming for them. Within minutes, the first airship engines were disabled through their intensive air acrobatic techniques, causing it to turn unstable by the continuous attack from Wyrstriker alone. Only then did the Dashing Wyverns come into the picture and proceed to bring the airship carrier down from the skies.

That was when Wyrstriker noticed there were some creatures flying towards them at rather fast speed too, seemingly coming from another airship. "Shit! Orc Gargoyles!" Wyrstriker read about them in books but they did not see one until now.

"Cool yourself down! They are enemies that we fought at a constant basis!" Iwen calmed his rider as he transmitted memories of the Dashing Wyverns fighting against these monsters. Wyrstriker recollected himself and shot a RPG at the Orc Gargoyles which they evaded rather easily. (Although Wyrstiker was aiming at the airship carrier behind them instead.) He then took out his spear and lunged himself forward ready for a dogfight.

## Chapter 356 The Northern Diversion

The horns blared so loudly that it could be heard throughout the valleys. Slashreaver was looking nervously back to the Valley Town of Gob Gob Bu. It was hard to imagine that this beautiful sight would turn into a battlefield in no time at all. The Thunder Orcs would start their attack soon.

Even though it's supposed to be a mere "Diversion" as reported by Jin, it was clear that no side could afford to pull their punches. The broken gate had been replaced by a permanent fort wall with the combined effort of Shu and Sandy before the Treant left for the Coastal Town of Gob Gob Si. The Sand Witch remained to aid with the defences of the town. This time around they had prepared more than just her sand sentinel to oversee the walls.

Goblin Mages, Engineers, Another Jin and Niu Lang, the Cowherd had come together and the result of this very first collaboration between the members of different races resulted in 'Sand Golems'.

Another Jin had purchased large hamster ball looking spheres through the System's market channel as the core of the pilot unit. Being an experienced Mecha pilot, Niu Lang had suggested some specifics to be placed in by the goblin engineers. For example, the type of seats, the pedals to drive the golem, the pulleys to control the movements, buttons and flip switches alongside with headlights and ventilations.

The Goblin Mages under Sandy's lead had managed to procure large piles of sand and rock from the valley's old mines and fuse it around the large 'Hamster Ball'. The rocks from the valleys were mixed with a sort of dense mineral, unique to this particular valley which acted as a sort of natural armour and was shaped into the core skeleton for the Sand Golem. The sand and soil were processed over and over with the subsequent help of Goblin mages to ensure that it would be as hard as possible. Finally Another Jin used a secret ingredient for these Sand Golems.

Reanimation magical charms, which were aptly named the 'Frankenstein Activators'. (A byproduct of Half Ghoul Lord Derek's inventions)

Niu Lang with his ample experience as the pilot of Mechataur had been the perfect candidate to test out the first prototypes of the Sand Golem. He was rather happy with the result, especially after the activators aided with the smoothness movement of the golems, though the speed was still an issue.

Also, when the visiting werejackals saw the project in the northern region while aiding the cultivators in the past few goblin days, they queried about their project too. Grey became especially interested in it since he had already assisted in the research of the reanimation charms and had developed an interest in creating new things. Gathering a bunch of Jacks, they asked Another Jin to allow them to assist and used some earth strengthening magic unique to the werejackals as the final touch.

Surprisingly one more person got involved in their creation. Colonel Ayse proved herself to not only be a wonderful hidden spy agent for Jin but also a hidden treasure trove full of experience. The young Orc Lady secretly took the time to review the Sand Golems and criticised numerous points before she made suggestions how to improve them in the future. (Since the latest war operation was too near to make any major changes.)

Nevertheless she did praise their effort. After all, it was rather ingenious how Another Jin and the rest of the gang managed to create a mechanised walker within such a short amount of time without access to the Lost Tech blueprints.

Eventually, the Sand Golems became operational with very little mechanical materials and more of the natural ones, making it easy to replace on the battlefield. Goblin mages would be the ones to do the

heavy lifting such as providing the mana for the Sand Golem to move. So long the large hamster ball core was still intact they could keep on fighting. Ayse deduced that their expendability and prolonged durability could become the winning point that might let them triumph over the 'Tin Cans' she had designed for the Orc Army.

A few carefully selected Goblins (mostly based on their size to fit into the hamster ball) were the ones privileged to test them out a few days before the start of the Northern Diversion.

Upon seeing the finished products of the mass produced Sand Golems, Niu Lang could not take it anymore and decided to rename the Sand Golems into 'Sandroku Golems' to make them sound cooler. (The name change became an overwhelming success. Most of the goblins loved it. They even took some leftover paint they managed to salvage from the town area and painted decals on their Sandroku Golems to customise them further.) Even, Gladios got a teeny weeny bit jealous of those golem pilots. Unfortunately because of his size, he was unable to ride one of them. Slashreaver did joke that all his father needed to do was to make a request to Jin and he might create one on the condition he'd join him.

With the addition of ten Sandroku Golems, the goblins were able to extend their defence line to the outskirts of the valley town where they could utilise the side cliffs to flank the Thunder Orc Army before they reached the Fort Walls of the valley town. Each Sandroku Golem was carrying a makeshift artillery gun which the engineers managed to wire to their backs. It turned them into portable artillery which could respond to any threat as soon as possible.

The only drawback was the limited ammo that they were carrying. Hence, the Sword General Gladios would be the deciding factor when or where to use it and inform them through their accompanying magpies. Not to mention, those Sandroku Golems held rock solid shields and comparatively large melee weapons. They waited patiently at side of the cliffs where the several anti tank cannons had also been placed with the help of Sandy.

When Jin opened the 'instance' to the public, most of the newer cultivators were teleported to the northern valley and unlike Spear General Argent, Sword General Gladios was ordered by Jin to command the cultivators directly. He apologised that these few comrades of his did not see much of the battle compared to the ones that had been selected to assist the Coastal Town of Gob Gob Si.

Gladios roughly understood the underlying reason behind Jin's decision. The Coastal Town was guarded heavily and had more goblins manning the area, the distance the goblin army had to cover was large. Assigning Argent with fresh recruits would only worsen the Spear General's headache in coordinating

the defence. On the other hand in this Valley Fort, the enemies could only come from one particular direction, it was a do or die situation. Either they'd survive as one, or fail as one.

Hence, Gladios gladly took the newer comrades under his wing and commanded them strictly. It was a surprise not one had any qualms about following Gladios who was thought to be a high ranking NPC. Unknown to him, not too long ago the cultivators had learnt that it was a bad idea to go against the NPCs. One of the cultivator who was a Grade 4 and a regular at King's Monster wanted to skip all the introduction and simply want to start killing some Orcs. After he was refused, he decided to challenge Captain Bai to a duel, which the later accepted immediately.

The moment the duel started, the cultivator tried to attack Captain Bai yet the Panda evaded each strike easily. No extra movement and always with just enough distance to avoid the slash. The cultivator then tried using his strongest technique... but failed miserably when Bai just walked to him and smashed his paw on the cultivator's face. Only splatters of blood were left and the headless body was teleported out of the instance. After he had awoken, Jin refunded the money with a stern look and warned him not to come back anymore if he did not wish to follow the rules of the dungeon instances.

The other cultivators who witnessed that incident, spread it like wildfire in forums and it instantly became part of the "Things to know before entering Jin's Dungeons and Pandas" guide on the internet. Hence, the cultivators followed Gladios strict to the letter whenever he gave out any order via the magpies.

"Go, enjoy yourselves. The frontline troops are arriving soon." Gladios send the cultivators off when he heard the blaring horns of the Thunder Orc Army. At the same time, he had begun to give orders to the goblins staying at the cliff to commence their attacks the moment they saw the Thunder Orc Army. If Jin's intel proved to be correct, it should turn into an easy battle with all their counter measures in place.

Gladios stood on the fort walls as he saw the humanoids mowing the orcs down. Yet the Orcs seemed more determined than the ones he had seen in recent days. As if they were not just putting their lives down for the attack but there was a certain kind of craze which only fanatics had. Then Gladios noticed something else.

Each and everyone of their weapons emitted sparks of thunder.

He remembered that the Thunder Orc Mages were supposed to be severely decimated by the failed initial invasion. By all means the frontline orcs should not have such strong thunder imbued powers in their weapons. If not for the humanoids acting as the vanguards, his own goblins would have been killed

in battle almost instantly. Yet, the humanoid were also visibly struggling against the ferocious attacks the Orcs were putting in.

"If we assume that they have not hidden any more Orc Mages, which should be impossible without anyone noticing...Then that could only mean one thing... Sandroku 004 do you have any visual on any powerful orcs in the vicinity?!" Gladios grabbed on the magpie and shouted his orders into the poor little bird.

However, there was no reply.

"Sandroku 005! Respond! 006! Any of the golems respond NOW!!!" The only answer he got was more silence which Gladios had started to fear for the worse. Unless there was someone somehow had the capability to jam their signal (which according to Jin was impossible) it would mean someone must have defeated the enhanced golems. And whoever or whatever that was doing it had not been taken account into any part of their plans.

But before Gladios could spend more time pondering about it, suddenly a large purple lightning bolt ran across the valley and struck the fort walls. Sandy who was on the fort wall tried to block the attack but she only managed to deflect its might partially because of the sudden strike. The purple lightning bolt not only caused Sandy to lose her left arm, it destroyed a portion of the fort walls too.

"Purple Thunder!" Gladios shouted to warn the rest of the army about the arrival of the Avatar of Syltra as he tried to help Sandy up. The Sand Witch refused as she tried to collect sand, dust and dirt from the debris of the destroyed wall to cover the wound she had suffered. In the next instant, another lightning bolt flashed towards the fort wall. Gladios had expected another attack and used the large two handed sword from his back to block.

The sword glowed with immense light, creating a magical light barrier which protected Gladios, Sandy and a few of the goblins manning the fort wall from the imminent attack. Purple Thunder did not hesitate to run towards Gladios ignoring the humanoid which the Orcs were pushing them back. But even before Purple Thunder reach the fort walls, Slashreaver intercepted him in the valleys.

"I am your opponent!" Slashreaver roared as he released a slash of chi towards the Avatar of Syltra. Purple Thunder smirked and evaded that almost immediately while countering Slashreaver with a 'slow' ball of lightning. (To Purple Thunder, certain lightning spells were considered slow in his eyes.) The ball of lightning electrocuted Slashreaver but it gave Gladios enough time to enter the scene.

Despite carrying a greatsword, Gladios' actions were swift and precise enough to make Purple Thunder think twice about not evading properly. The orc himself took out his own greatsword. It was a sight to behold as the dark purplish sparks seemed to challenge the white shine of the goblin's sword. Against the Greatsword of Light, it was nothing but a distraction for Purple Thunder to waste time for him to prep his spells. But as long as Purple Thunder managed to bring Gladios down, the goblin army would become less of a threat. The two started to exchange blows though they seemed to be somewhat equal. The slightest mistake could prove fatal for either side.

"Don't you dare forget about me!" Slashreaver entered the fray exactly when Purple Thunder had finally managed to force Gladios into revealing an opening. He felt annoyed that this brat dared to disturb him and so he decided to change the trajectory of his attack towards Slashreaver. A simple palm strike enchanted with his electrical powers flashed towards Slashreaver's face. The goblin was unable to evade nor block in time.

"ARRRRRGHH!!!" The intensity of the electricity burned half of Slashreaver's face away in a moment and it made Gladios stagger a little when he saw his son in such a dire condition. Purple Thunder himself became surprised as he had expected a counter attack. Wanting to make use of the situation he retracted his hand and prepared another lightning palm strike.

"Father!!!" Slashreaver did his best to overcome the immense pain he was experiencing momentarily through sheer willpower and gave it his all to stab Purple Thunder with all his power. As Purple Thunder had already written off the goblin and he did not expect that attack and was unable to evade in time. The Avatar of Syldra cursed as he redirected the attacking palm strike to block or at least mitigate the sword stab.

The sword was evaporating due the heat produced from the lightning palm strike but not before Slashreaver injured one of Purple Thunder's main casting hands. However, the backlash from the lightning palm strike burnt not just the sword but Slashreaver's hands too, melting them right in front of him. This time, Gladios did not hesitate and made use of the opportunity his son had provided to slash his greatsword at the preoccupied Purple Thunder.

Trying to turn around, the Orc managed to mitigate the attack partially by using his greatsword yet the fury of Gladios broke Purple Thunder's greatsword cleanly into two as he sunk his weapon into Purple Thunder's body. The Avatar of Syldra coughed blood. He was unable to scream as blood had already entered his lungs from the cut. He looked up to the Sword General and his mouth turned into a sick smile.

If Purple Thunder couldn't kill the Sword General with his bare hands, then he would suicide with whatever powers he had contained in himself.

"Get away!!!" Sandy managed to cry out. In her still sorry state, she used her magic to pull Gladios and Slashreaver away from the scene with sand. In that same time the Avatar was pumping himself up to explode, the pilots of two heavily damaged Sandroku Golem jumped down from the cliffs. The Golems were no longer able to fight but it was enough to move. They landed and leaped towards Purple Thunder, piling on top of him.

"Sandy Big Sis! Do what you need to do!!!" One of the goblin pilots who was bleeding profusely inside the Sandroku golem 007 shouted to her while pinning Purple Thunder down with the Greatsword of Light still stuck in him. Sandroku Golem 002 picked up 007's towering shield and slammed down two of their shields on the living orc bomb that was primed to set off anytime. Sandy knew immediately what they were doing and quickly used whatever magic she could summon to surround Sandroku 002 , 007 and Purple Thunder within layers of sand, rock and soil.

"System! More magic! NOW!!!" Sandy shouted and the System immediately complied as she could see a glimmer of light being emitted out of the 'prison' of sand she had haphazardly created. Peppers was immediately summoned and a cylindrical barrier was placed around the sand prison which Sandy created before it broke down. The living bomb then exploded and both orcs and cultivators saw streaks of lightning running along the cylindrical magic barrier and up to the sky.

"WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU STARING AT! CONTINUE TO ATTACK! DON'T LET THEIR SACRIFICE BE IN VAIN!!!" Gladios roared and both the goblins and cultivators gave shouted in unison as they pressed on with their attack against the shocked Orcs.

#### Chapter 357 Extra - Niu Lang And Robots

Niu Lang dropped his towel as he was trying to fix a part of the broken Mechataur. After some time doing his best, he slowly accepted that he was not going to finish reviving him anytime soon. Ever since the battle against the Robotic Spider had taken a toll on Mechataur's parts, his giant metal friend had remained dormant. Surprisingly before the towel fell to the ground it had been caught.

"Master Jin, how long have you been here? What can I do for you?" Niu Lang closed a panel on Mechataur's shoulder and came down slowly via a ladder. Jin passed the towel back to the sweaty Niu Lang and gave him a takeaway cup full of the Black Ivory Coffee alongside a stack of brochures.

Jin wished to offer his help by recreating spare parts or even buy parts off the System's black market as a thank you for Niu Lang's efforts and their sacrifice in the Dungeon World fighting against the robotic spider and the Titan Knight. He knew that if not for Niu Lang the Cowherd, he would possibly have had a much harder time defeating the Titan Knight.

However, Niu Lang refused Jin's offer outright. "If I cannot rebuild Mechataur with my own efforts, I have no right to call Mechataur my own mech." Niu Lang said as he shook his head at Jin.

"But isn't rebuilding it yourself with the parts I am going to buy for you the exact same thing?" Jin scratched his head as he thought it was obvious enough if Niu Lang wished to rebuild Mechataur as soon as possible.

"I don't really know how to explain this but buying manufactured parts and inserting it into him feels like I'd kind of betray his soul. It's like, after you learned my cow had an accident and was no longer able to provide milk, you had decided to give me a few gallons of milk, and perhaps a new calf in the hopes that my cow would recover better with it." Niu Lang tried to get his point across yet all it did was confuse Jin even more.

"But Mechataur is a robot. He can be replaced with a few new parts. Plus the new parts can even improve his performance. You probably just need to replace parts of the core engine and such." Jin replied but quickly realised his arguments were not going to assist in the conversation in any way. Hence, Jin decided to twist his words a little in hopes that Niu Lang could accept his generosity.

"Alright. How about this? You just accompany to shop for parts? I will pay. Heck, if you feel guilty about it, you can take a loan from me first." Jin suggested and Niu Lang hesitated for a while before agreeing.

"But before you bring me to buy the parts, may I request something?" Niu Lang asked and went inside before he showed him a crumpled pamphlet which Zhi Nu found lying with a few magazines left by customers in the shop. Ever since reading that pamphlet, he took great care of it and was kept safe in his tools cabinet. Jin took a look at it and tried his best not laugh out (ultimately he failed). Niu Lang had no idea what Jin was laughing about.

"Is this too difficult a request? I just wished to purchase it to have some ideas how these specific robots were working. To get a better idea how to help Mechataur recover. If it's not possible maybe we could take a peak at their designs. I assume since they having them on sale we could buy one or more of these robots as a backup. Perhaps we could also dismantle the robot and ...use some of the parts for Mechataur too!" Niu Lang shared his ideas with a lot of enthusiasm.

"Did you not say that would be like buying gallons of milk and a new calf for your injured cow?" Jin returned his quote to Niu Lang and this time he got rebutted with an 'amazing' reason.

"If Mechataur would be able to possess parts of these almighty robots that I am seeing in this pamphlet, I am certain he would not mind it at all. You did say Mechataur is a robot and his parts do have wear and tear. A living cow does not, they will just die from a severe injury. But that does not mean they do not have the chance to impart their delicious meat and bountiful amounts of milk for us to savour and inspire us to raise a better cow." Niu Lang remarked.

To this reasoning Jin could only figuratively tip a hat in his favour.

"I concede. Get changed, I will bring you to see those amazing robots." Jin said and Niu Lang eyes were starry wide. He quickly went to the Armoury Store to change while Jin waited for him at the spacious basement of his house where he kept Mechataur.

"System, is Mechataur hibernating? Dead? Or is he unable to function because of the lack of certain parts?" Jin touched Mechataur's giant feet and asked the System.

"Is User asking the System a philosophical question or does he wish a report of Mechataur's status?" The System asked bluntly and Jin sighed before clarifying it was the latter.

"Mechataur's heat sinks are not functioning as per his initial design. His core engine was partially fried but could be still useable with a replacement of certain parts. Cowherd Niu Lang had been diligently trying his best to fix Mechataur ever since the fight till now. As a result, its capability to function had increased roughly 6%. However, without new parts, Mechataur's operating capability would only reach a cap of 35% in the most optimal circumstances." System stated and Jin sighed once more.

"Chinese. Please." Jin asked which the System retorted that it was already replying in Chinese which made Jin feel like knocking his head on Mechataur's feet. Since when has his System seemingly started to enjoy bickering with him.

"In plain simple layman language. Please." Jin stated with a dead tone and the System complied.

"It is possible for Mechataur to come online without new parts. In such a case he would be limited to walking and could communicate back to Niu Lang. However it would lack any capabilities of fighting. " The System analyzed.

At that moment, a portal appeared and Jin banged his head on Mechataur's feet upon seeing the dress up for Niu Lang. "Master, did I wear something wrong?" Niu Lang wondered as he was in a full black ninja robe with his face wrapped with black cloth too.

"May I ask why you decided to choose this particular outfit?" Jin face's was attached to Mechataur's metal feet (thankfully it was thoroughly washed by Niu Lang already) and he slurred his question towards Niu Lang.

"You provided me with the opportunity to see these majestic robots, and I had the feeling we might not buy them. So I figured we might be able to steal one of them away. Mr Kraft advised me that this would be the ideal outfit for that. Is that not correct?" Niu Lang answered innocently. Jin was beginning to get a headache as he summoned Kraft out who appeared sitting on Mechataur's feet and explained what else had he been teaching Niu Lang behind Jin's back.

"He's a pretty quick learner, isn't he?" Kraft praised Niu Lang and Jin rolled his eyes. With his face still attached to Mechataur's feet, he demanded Kraft to stop messing around and if he was so bored he should teach other people correctly. Kraft reluctantly nodded his head and brought Niu Lang to the armoury store again.

In no time, Niu Lang came back wearing a full formal suit with a fedora hat and Jin was wondering if Niu Lang was doing all these on purpose or if he was really that naïve. Sometimes he asked himself whether Zhi Nu, the immortal weaver liked him for his child like innocence.

"Kraft asked me to wear this to pretend to be an influential rich man so they would show me those robots whenever I ask them. If it's not possible with the help of this disguise, we might still be able to

steal one right under their noses." Niu Lang repeated how Kraft 'corrected' him and Jin decided to take things in his own hands.

Jin took out Niu Lang's coat, changed his shoes to something less formal and allowed him to keep his Fedora hat and suit vest on him. Jin did aid Niu Lang to fold his sleeves up and when Zhi Nu was coming down to the basement to see what was the reason for this commotion, she was surprised that Niu Lang could be that suave.

"Dear~! You look like one of those advertisement models in the magazines!" Zhi Nu came over and she inspected him from top to bottom. She seemed very pleased with this change as she never saw this particular side of Niu Lang. Jin informed her that they would be going for some shopping and would be back shortly.

Niu Lang went out with Jin to Tiangong Shopping District and realised...the place to buy the robots was nearer than expected. (Not to mention, a number of girls were eyeing and commenting loudly at that cute stylish guy walking with Jin which started to annoy him a bit too. That was why he chose a shop nearby.)

"Oh my god! That is the Angel Goddam! The one that was advertised on the pamphlet! Why is it so much smaller than I expected? Are they being made by creatures smaller than us?" Niu Lang asked with his own deduction.

"What are you gawking at there for? Come in and have a closer look." Jin smirked at Niu Lang's innocence and beckoned him to enter the shop. Niu Lang was instantly being blown away by the hundreds of robot models that were on sale. Multiple boxes stacked from the floor to the ceiling and each of them was waiting to be bought and assembled by an interested customer.

"Oh, Boss Jin? To what do I owe the pleasure?" The owner who was reading a particular mecha comic saw a customer arriving in.

"Hi there, He Rong. I brought a friend here to buy some of your models. Don't mind me loitering here for some time. I think he is quite the mecha enthusia-" Jin got interrupted by a shout which startled the toy model shop owner, He Rong too.

" I WANT ONE OF EVERYTHING!" Niu Lang exclaimed loudly which spoilt his cool looking image immediately. He Rong's jaws dropped a bit before he jokingly asked Jin if that was true because that would be doing a great service for him.

"If you really did that, I can give you a 15% discount on the whole bill." He Rong offered and Jin went forward to him.

"If I really did that, give me 35% discount on the whole bill." Jin replied with confidence. He was sure that he had the ability to buy one of everything in the shop.

"20% discount." He Rong shook his index finger and pointed out he was already doing a disservice to his most loyal customers if he gave out a 20% discount to someone who did not share their love for the craft.

"30% discount and I will always come back for newer models." Jin straighten his back and folded his arms while showing three fingers out.

"25% discount as well as a discount when I patronise your Shop. I've heard wonderful things about your Fishing Instance from Lai Fu. That is my final offer for a fellow shop owner. Anything more would be cutting into my base cost, which I cannot do." He Rong made his 'ultimatum' yet Jin was aware the other party was clearly bluffing since some of the models were plainly overpriced.

However Jin's intention had been to go for the 25% discount all along. He Rong being a business owner himself had already figured out his objective as well. Since both wanted the same he at least tried to gain a bit of a bonus by getting a discount when repaying the favor. The bargaining was more of a formality that needed to be done.

"Mast- erm Jin, you sure I can have one of everything? I don't wish to trouble you that much..." Niu Lang sounded unsure, but the excitement in his eyes clearly revealed his hope of getting them all. He Rong had hardly seen such enthusiasm in a very long time. Perhaps, his own passion had died down after he had to change his way of thinking ensuring the survival of his shop.

"Yeah, go grab them!" Jin came over to pat his head like a big little child and his shoulders before he sent a close range transmission. "But with certain conditions attached. Learn the parts of these robot

models and try to create new designs for me or at least think up suitable parts which could prove useful for in Mechataur." Niu Lang accepted almost immediately upon hearing the conditions.

"It will be deducted from your pay as you promised." Jin said out loud and suddenly Niu Lang's face turned from an elated young boy to a depressed old man. "I am just joking, go get them." Jin smiled after teasing Niu Lang who had limited to pick up the ones he liked most for now. He Rong was unaware of the relationship between them but enjoyed their interaction. He decided to loan Jin a storage ring large enough to store one of every model available.

"Thank you for your business. Please come again! And your friend is always welcome to take in my shop!"

#### Chapter 358 Operation Red Moon

The Fire Orc Army was in an uneasy state with the change of plans when the new orders out were given out by the respective orc officers. Their commander, Green Fire's absence and the rumours that he had derelict his duty made everyone wondered if he was doing the right thing to run away from this crazy plan of their King.

Some believed Green Fire was killed, but there were still reports of random abandoned villages that were incinerated were due to his handicraft. Though Fire Orc Mages did have the capability to summon such fiery ferocity, their magic only contained a slight trace of Shaitan powers in them. Thus, the investigation team had no reason to doubt any Fire Orc Mages as suspects due to the high amount and intensity of Shaitan powers being detected in those charred ruins.

This was because how the Fire Orc mages worked their magic was by syphoning residue mana from the Shaitan plane in order to cast their spells. Since they belonged to Fire Orc tribes, they were more tuned to absorbing the residue mana of Ifrit to cast their magic, which was why their magic was fire based. But unlike the Avatar of Ifrit, Green Fire's source of power was directly from Ifrit himself and hence possessed a large amount of Shaitan powers.

Then one might ask what was the difference between the powers of Fire Orc mages and Green Fire's? The destruction it caused. To put it simply, an Avatar of Ifrit casting a fireball had the same destruction capability to a team of Fire Orc mages casting Firestorm. The intensity might vary depending on the

amount of mana placed, but that was the whole gist of it. That was why the avatars of the Shaitan Nobles were placed as commanders of various armies because of their destructive power.

Therefore, being desperate to know the whereabouts of their commander before the start of the most massive operation in orc's history, the Fire Orc Mages did try to scry for Green Fire's location by asking Ifrit about the whereabouts of his Avatar. Unfortunately, Ifrit did not entertain them and only said his powers were still alive in that world.

That was because Ifrit was amused by the workings of his new descendant, Flame Ripper. The newly appointed goblin was doing what he could to confuse the Orc investigation team as instructed by Colonel Ayse via Jin. The hide and seek somehow gave the spectating Ifrit a bit of thrill seeing his new descendent playing the fool against the orcs searching for Green Fire.

This was in lieu with the work the team of goblin assassins lead by Dagger General Ignis. While Flameripper was distracting the orcs, Ignis had been activating multiple waypoint locations across the Orc mainland. He was shocked when he learnt that his son managed to achieve the powers of Ifrit but because time was essential since the death of Green Fire, Ignis promised to give a surprise to his son when everything was over.

The Dagger General also utilised Flame Ripper's magic to burn down any evidence they could have left while hiding the waypoints in plain sight. (Most of the waypoints were in the basements of taverns and the orcs did not bother to see through the entire wreckage of each village.) With more waypoints activated, the goblin assassins increasingly used them to perform assassination missions in order to weaken and mislead the orcs and their investigation team.

Not just that, they had been stealing from the supplies bases which were poorly guarded and yet resource rich for their own use — food supplies, gold, natural resources etc. After which, Flame Ripper utilised the waypoints to return to the capital and gifted everything to the Capital. Ignis attributed the lack of security in these supply bases due to the full focus on their current operation which made stealing so much simpler.

Similar to Wyrstriker, Jin wanted to give Flame Ripper a storage ring but because he was the descendant and chosen avatar, Ifrit had given him abilities to transfer items to the Shaitan plane where he could keep an unlimited amount of items, which was more advantageous than a storage ring could handle. However, whether that power could be used in Jin's world or other worlds, Flame Ripper had no idea.

With the increased waypoints being activated once again in those old abandoned villages, it was now possible to bring in an army to fight against the King in his own backyard if they wanted to. All they need now was just the right time to strike back against the Orcs.

-----

Orc King Hamu had finally arrived at the most extensive base which so happened to be located farthest to the Orc Capital where the bulk of the Fire Orc Army was currently stationed. Along with him was Yellow Ice, his Right Hand man, Oku and Colonel Ayse in a more distinct officer uniform than her usual researcher coat. Colonel Ayse immediately started her work by commanding the humanoid slave researchers to start up the lost tech artefact portals which numbered to the dozens.

The plan was to storm the capital by force while the Northern and Western Diversion diverted the bulk of the goblin army's attention. After a few comments from the researchers, Colonel Ayse concluded that most of the lost tech artefacts were still functioning and proudly stated that they were able to proceed to phase two of the Red Moon Operation.

But when the humanoid slaves were booting up the lost tech artefact portals, Ayse purposely asked them to attach a new piece of equipment on the main generator that was powering the lost tech portal devices. Right Hand Oku found it weird and asked what was that equipment for.

"It's to increase the output of the portals, making it easier for multiple Fire Orcs warriors to rush in as quickly as possible, taking full advantage of the element of surprise. It's an invention I spent countless nights creating." Colonel Ayse said with grace as King Hamu walked towards them. Oku found it a little fishy especially since most of the equipment had gone through a quality check to ensure everything operated smoothly.

"By adding something at the very last minute will only increase the risk of our Fire Orc troops, will it not? Isn't this something you should not do at such a critical stage of the Red Moon Operation?" Oku demanded an answer which Colonel Ayse had something at the tip of her tongue to counter him, but King Hamu stopped her. Contrary to Oku's expectation, King Hamu instead praised her for a job well done.

"But Your Majesty!" Oku wanted to reason, and he was ignored by the King once more. Seeing the entire commotion, the humanoid slaves immediately acknowledged Colonel Ayse's new command and began to attach the latest piece of contraption on the power generator.

The generator whizzed for a while before moving faster than normal and suddenly the entry portals that appeared certainly became two times bigger. It meant more troops could enter the other side once the coordinates had been found by the lost tech linking device. As of now, the entry portals were still red in colour indicating that the lost artefacts that were placed had not been synced up yet.

With the aid of a linking device that the humanoid slave researchers were busy dabbling with, it would capture the signal of the lost tech exit portal artefacts and provide the coordinates for the entry portals. It would then synchronise with the exit portals and the entry portals turn blue, indicating that the Fire Orc Army could finally charge into the Goblin's capital. Hence while everyone was waiting for the portals, King Hamu began giving a speech as he stood on a podium that was specially prepared for him for this occasion.

"Gentlemen, you might have heard of rumours or unofficial reports of your commander, the Avatar of Ifrit being missing for days. Rest assured. Appropriate investigations would be carried out before we pass any judgement. In replacement of your commander, I will be taking over his role and of Red Hurricane's too," King Hamu said with a voice being amplified by magic. When he officially announced him taking over, there were disgruntled whispers in the crowd before the respective orc leaders on the ground demanded silence from their troops.

"Yes, I will be the interim commander for both the Fire Orc Army and remaining of the Wind Orc Army which would be arriving shortly." The King spoke as he unleashed his Shaitan powers in front of the Fire Orcs to see. The only language orcs ever knew was Power. That was why when a giant silhouette of Diabolos appeared right above King Hamu's shoulders with his six wings all spread out, the Fire Orc Army went entirely mute.

Not just that, a slight faint silhouette of Garuda also appeared underneath the wings of Diabolos too and everyone who was at the base realised that their King was blessed with the powers of two Shaitan Nobles. A feat no Orc had ever done before nor heard before.

Yet they did not know that was the ability of Diabolos, the Shaitan Messenger. As long King Hamu had absorbed the powers of other Shaitan Nobles once, Diabolos would be able to replicate an extent of the absorbed powers. "Hmmp! Ayse's suggestion was right after all. By absorbing Red Hurricane Shaitan's powers, I imposed a stronger aura than ever before." King Hamu nearly had a grin escaping his expressionless face as he continued to talk to the masses.

"I understand some might be unsatisfied with the current arrangement but because of the commencement of our most complex operation in our entire Orc history, the Red Moon Operation, there can be no room for mistakes. We must improvise if we need to. Else, weeks or even months of training and preparation would be for nought." King Hamu said.

"This operation would determine not just the fate of our kingdom, but to show those inferior beings a lesson they would never forget. A mark of history that would be ingrained deeply into their books and race forever!" Hamu said in such a deathly tone that every orc felt something was choking their necks and it was not going away anytime soon. Even Ayse who was behind the scenes had that particular sensation and realised that it was the doing of Diabolos under the influence of the ascension of the Red Moon.

Yellow Ice was able to withstand the 'suffocation' because he had the protection of Shiva with him. This particular move which King Hamu did, reinforced Yellow Ice's motivations to kill the king even if it felt like a lost cause. Nevertheless, Yellow Ice was a cynic as he kept thinking when would be the most optimal to attack him. Perhaps when Sol, the Goblin King managed to weakened Hamu?

"Hahaha, but that's the best case scenario. There is no way fate would be that kind to a betrayer..." Yellow Ice thought to himself as he checked on Cross which he had hid within his shadows, a unique magical skill Yellow Ice taught Cross considering he was the previously the Royal Spymaster.

The portals finally turned blue, just right before the full peak of the Red Moon. The Orc King smiled as he had waited for this moment for a very long time. All these desires for power went way back when Hamu remembered how he overheard that his insane father was going to sacrifice him in order to retrieve a fragment of Diabolos. It prompted Hamu to kill his own father to achieve a similar result but instead of a fragment of Diabolos, he received the acknowledgement of Diabolos. At that moment, he realised he was going to achieve greatness. With the aid of Colonel Ayse, he managed to find the lost tech island because of the prophecy given by Diabolos and that was when the gears of war started all over again.

"Charge." The King gave just one single order which made the entire Fire Orc fire army to move instantly. The suffocation the orcs suffered was not only a show of power but a command leash to make sure no one would have the idea of abandoning this twisted cause of his. Ayse had an inkling what it was as she had the sensation to move too, but she was able to resist the command of King Hamu. She later figured that its powers were incomparable to the 'leash' the System had placed her in.

King Hamu, on the other hand, was quite surprised that Yellow Ice, Ayse and Oku were still sane despite the command leash spell he had placed on all the orcs and humanoid slaves. "Yellow Ice, I had nothing

to say to you but for the other two? " King Hamu said with a tinge of sarcasm which Oku replied he was able to resist because of his absolute duty was to protect the King.

"I am probably too occupied with other things to be commanded especially when my slaves are all gone now." Ayse casually gave an excuse and pretended to take a look at the machines that were operating before she had her back turned towards King Hamu and smiled.

The attachment she previously asked the humanoid slave researchers to place on the power generators was not any simple device. It was something created by the System after it had analysed the lost tech artefacts thoroughly.

The System had disguised the unique attachment into a portal enhancer while hiding the actual functions of the device. Its primary purpose was to decrypt the real coordinates of the lost portals artefacts and mask them. Even though it was attached to the power generator, the attachment was able to transmit its signal and adjust the linking device accordingly. Since they were slaves, the humanoids operating the linking device and power generator were fearful for their lives and would do what it takes to prevent any mishaps from happening.

Hence, they took great pains to sift through the many lost tech artefacts given to the orc raiders. When the linking device displayed a different coordinate that was not close to the actual coordinates of the capital, the slave researchers would ignore those lost tech portal artefacts. But what if all the lost artefacts were to show foreign coordinates? They would then have to report to their higher ups including Ayse in consideration for Plan B which was a mass transportation spell.

Initially, if such an incident were to occur and it would, mainly because the lost tech artefacts were already transported to the Volcano Island for Operation Pompeii by Jin and his monsters, Ayse wanted to resolve it by herself and did not want any help. However, Jin felt that it would still be too dangerous since it might lead to further suspicions. If there were factors that were within their abilities to control, they would do their best to achieve so that their operation would have a lesser possibility of any hiccups.

Hence, with the System's attachment, all the lost artefacts 'properly' indicated the coordinates were close to the Goblin capital in the linking device. There was no reason for the humanoid slaves to suspect any foul play since they were probably the only ones aside from Ayse who could decipher them.

However, with the Diabolo's command leash, those humanoid slaves had already blindly proceeded into the battlefield without the ability to properly verify the coordinates. This was a lucky break for Ayse

while she continued to pretend to observe the readings on the linking device to ensure everything was working as per 'usual'.

Seeing how Ayse was handling the portal device with ease, King Hamu sighed a breath of relief. He did not expect the command leash's spell to be widespread and affected the humanoid slaves too. His only possible explanation was the power he obtained from the ascension of the Red Moon.

Even by just standing at the podium, he could already feel power seeping into him as the Red Moon glowed brightly. Hence, he decided to have a seat at the makeshift throne that was prepared on the podium for him while he casually enjoyed examining his orcs obediently marching forward into the portals. "We shall capture the Goblin Capital and make King Sol bleed." King Hamu thought to himself but then Diabolos softly whispered him a reminder.

"Do not forget that King Sol is mine to partake." Diabolos said in a deep voice which King Hamu sneered a little before remembering the bargain he did with Diabolos. He could only agree with a nod since he was still at the mercy of Diabolos. But deep under, he was also hatching a plan to overturn the Diabolos in him and obtain the power of light for himself.

"This world would eventually be mine to conquer." King Hamu disillusioned himself once more while he bided his time to enter the Goblin Capital.

## Chapter 359 Operation Pompeii

Under the influence of the command leash, the Fire Orcs stormed through the portals and into the capital city of the Gob Gob Kingdom. While they expected little resistance due to the constant curfew the city was under, the streets were completely empty. Not even a guard was around to entertain them.

The Fire Orcs leaders were initially at a loss but they maintained their composure and proceeded to split up to hit their real targets. The Ministry Offices and the Gob Gob Castle. While slightly unreliable, the groups were dispatched depending on the placement of artefacts. Some of the portals were even placed in the sewers, abandoned houses, alleys while others were in the open squares of the capital or even roofs of certain buildings. There were some unforeseen incidents due to the placement of the artefacts but most of the Fire Orcs were able to arrive safely to the capital.

A part of the Fire Orcs was assigned cleaning up duty. They would enter the civilians' houses one by one, room to room and slaughter any goblins they saw. However, the more they searched the capital, they more uneasy the orcs began to feel. Before the war there had been some orcs who had been to the goblin's capital for either business, as part of a military guard or merely because of personal reasons, so there was no doubt that they had teleported correctly to the city. However, the places were so void of life that it did not resemble the signs of the busy capital they had experienced. Even in a time of war, it was eerily quiet and unnatural.

In the meantime, the humanoid slave researchers who had unexpectedly got mixed in and entered the portal under the influence of the command leash spell slowly realised what they had done. Confused, they looked at each other and quickly copied the Orcs by pretending to look around for goblins. For now, all they hoped was to find a place to hide from both sides and waited for everything to blow over. They believed the goblins would assume them as the invaders and retaliate against them, but the Orcs would not tolerate their cowardice, not caring for their lack of combat training.

After one of the Orc groups raided a tavern to find only music been played in the background without any goblins in sight, not even the bartender, they could only confirm that something was up. A ghost town was currently the most appropriate term to describe the entire scene. The Fire Orc Squad Leaders relayed their findings back to their higher ups, who eventually forwarded it to Colonel Ayse.

Without the humanoid researchers, she was the only one to pick up their messages and Colonel Ayse promptly took the opportunity to inform Orc King Hamu that a massive battle had ensued in the capital. The goblins were naturally taken by surprise and the orcs were progressing well. Sitting on his throne, King Hamu restlessly shook his legs due to a mixture of both boredom and anxiety. He understood that he would need to accumulate his powers to follow the operation plans but he was itching for battle the longer he sat on his throne.

According to their plans, when the Fire Orc leaders secured a portion of the capital, a unit would be responsible for setting up the same lost tech portal artefact that had teleported them to the capital. The only difference was that the portal size would be ten times larger than the regular ones so that Wind Orcs' Airships would be able to go through. They were confident that with the size of the portals that they saw initially (courtesy of Colonel Ayse's portal enhancer), the Wind Orc Air Force which had just arrived, would be able to enter quickly to reinforce and decimate whatever resistance that was left in the place.

"Proceed with Phase Three as soon as possible. Crush them with our burning might." King Hamu ordered Colonel Ayse to relay that order to the Fire Orc Leaders in the field. At that moment, Right Hand Oku wished to stop the King from being too rash. His instincts were telling him that something was not right,

but he realised it was too late. He knew that Hamu would not listen without any definitive proof, but even then his expression said it all.

"As you command, Your Majesty." Ayse bowed once and sent down the details for the Fire Orc leaders to commence with Phase Three of the Red Moon Operation. The leaders naturally were confused and demanded verification. Without their Commander Green Fire around and this strange situation they were hesitant, yet Colonel Ayse simply noted that it was the interim commander's orders so they unwillingly obeyed. The portal was set up in no time.

At the same time, some of the Fire Orcs had been ordered to find the entrance of the fort walls surrounding the capital to verify the situation. They knew that just beyond the walls, there were supposed to be some outlying towns and perhaps the goblins had gotten wind of the portals and evacuated the area. However, the warriors were unable to find a stairway or an opening that could enter the fort walls. They instead asked for assistance from the Fire Orc mages.

The Fire Orc mages cast 'Levitation' and 'High Jump' on the orc warriors in order for them to overlook the walls. Similar to the capital that they were in, the towns were still there and some of the buildings had their lights on. Yet in a glance, they could see that it was just as empty as the capital. The warriors slowly levitated down to give their report. What they did not know was that the sight was an illusion created by Kraft and they would have known the truth if they attempt to exit out of the fort walls.

Simultaneously, the Ministry Office appeared deserted after they kicked the doors into the main hall, but the Fire Orc leaders took no chance and decided to search through the building thoroughly. "If they evacuated, they must have left in a hurry. Look at everything and see if there is any evidence left about their whereabouts. Their plans or whatsoever!" One of the Fire Orc leaders ordered as he called for more troops to search the place. Again, the result was disappointing.

After a while, they found one place that did seem to be inhabited. Guarded by a heavy duty magical barrier was the Gob Gob Castle. The Fire Orc leader who reached there immediately reported it via their secured magical channel and they deduced someone managed to leak the Red Moon operations plans to the goblins who conducted a mass evacuation. A huge smile appeared on their faces, relieved that the rats seemed to have simply hidden in their giant rathole. This would make things easy for them.

"Tell all our troops to gather there to assist the teams at the castle and ministry office. Get those orc mages to cast siege breaker spells. Use the Tin Cans if needed. A number of them are equipped with laser projectiles that should significantly harm the barriers." Ayse commanded in a hurried tone as a show for King Hamu to overhear.

The news did put a smile on him as he watched the colossal portal appearing in front of the Wind Orc Air Force as the situation in the capital developed. King Hamu stood up and released a silhouette of Diabolos to perform the very same ritual he had done to the Fire Orc army. Once that was done, he oversaw the Wind Orc Air Force frenziedly entered the portal.

When the Wind Orc Air Force entered the skies above the Gob Gob Capital, they noticed something unusual. Their altitude meter readings were abnormal. It was a drastic change from the readings they had before they were teleported. Most of the Orc navigators assumed it was due to the portal spell since such an occurrence happened before during their test runs. A number of their sensitive equipment went haywired from the portal jumps and even though they tried to insulate and improve them, the sensitive equipment was bound to have a few mishaps. Nevertheless, this was the time for action and not speculations.

The airship carriers immediately proceeded towards the Gob Gob Castle. From afar they saw the goblins' magic barrier flashing as a result of the onslaught of their comrades' attack. As there was no retaliation fire, the Orcs took their time to prepare the necessary siege weapons to fire all at once...until they saw a little masked humanoid girl coming out of the castle roof and standing on the edge of a parapet.

"The Air force has arrived. Shall we start our dance or should we wait for the big boss?" Peppers asked while she walked and tried to maintain her balance along the parapet.

"Yea, let's start the show. Ayse already gave some juicy commentary on how the Orcs were valiantly killed. If the Orc King enters the portal and finds out he was being lied to, he might become suspicious. Let's not disappoint his expectations." Kraft answered her question as Jin smirked while he finished gearing himself up in the Dungeon Maker. Peppers acknowledged the command and pointed her staff upwards.

It glowed momentarily before shooting out a firework out of the sky with the Full Red Moon in the background. (A rather beautiful side if one ignored what came next.) The orcs were momentarily distracted by the large firework and assumed it was a desperate signal for help.

But to Jin's monsters and companions, this was the sign for the commencement of Operation Pompeii.

Foul rotten hands forcefully popped up from the ground all around the capital and subsequently their heads and bodies. The various zombies under the command of Half Ghoul Lord Derek had laid the

perfect trap by inserting themselves right under the ground before the portals had appeared. They utilised the element of surprise fully when Peppers distracted most of the Orcs with the firework.

The rotten hands grabbed onto the orc's legs and some of the zombies did not hesitate to bite them. The zombies infected the surprised orcs with poison with their bites or discharged elemental damage by some of the more powerful zombies that were enchanted by the enhancement card, Elementary Element Roulette, manned by Jin via the Tact Tweaker.

The Orcs panicked and tried to kill the zombies, but for every zombie killed, three more arose from the ground to replace their comrade. In the same time, a loud and deafening explosion was heard from the Ministry Office. Some of the orcs could even feel the shockwave from afar, stunning them further and giving the zombies more opportunity to kill their enemies.

"Building Demolished." Hou Fei grinned when he overlooked the intensified explosion that happened at the Ministry Office. The building was not just burning, it had already fallen to pieces due to its weak infrastructure. This was because the building was only a cheap prefab model of the real Ministry Office. And since it was a prefab, Hou Fei had already sneaked in a number of C4 explosives within the fake walls, making it extremely satisfying to see his work up in flames.

"6/10. It's too controlled but the timing was great, so I shall elevate it to a 6.5 ." Peppers commented in their very own secured channel via the System as she came down from the parapet and walked towards the middle of the roof garden. Everything was ready as Peppers placed her staff at the centre of the ritual circle and began to pump transmit magical powers via the circle into the volcano, priming it to erupt.

"Heh, you better give us a spectacular one. All of us will be rating the eruption." Hou Fei retorted as he grabbed his tablet. The System already noted the buildings Hou Fei had rigged in the capital while giving him a live update of the number of orcs still left within the buildings. As soon as enough Orcs were inside the blast area, he would proceed to blow them up.

At the same time, Zeru, Milk and Lynn were already on the move against the three newly arrived airship carriers. As bellators carrying the title of a One Man Army, Zeru and Milk in her Monk outfit entered individual airship carriers to clean the ship crew up by themselves. To motivate themselves they had made a friendly bet and were also competing on how many they could clear within a minute.

"66, 67... time is almost up. 73...74," Zeru said as his wooden sword sliced down most of the Orcs with style. Many had their necks fractured, ribs broken or skull smashed too. The Wind Orcs were

unprepared for the sudden ambush right within their own cabins. His high speed manoeuvres gave him the illusion of air steps as he used the tight corridors to perform jumps, skips and even speed running via the ceiling to past through the bulky orcs he killed along with the cabins. If there were any door that was blocking his way, all he had to do was to cut it up with his technique.

"56, 59...NOT FAIR! You went in by the control hub first!" Milk complained as she threw a kick that did not just knock the heavy metal door down but also proceeded to kill an unlucky orc. Her fist blows were as lethal as Zeru's wooden sword. Sufficient enough to crack the Orc's skull or ribs. Yet unlike Zeru, Milk entered the engine room through the backdoor according to the blueprint provided by Ayse herself a few days back. Both of the warriors had studied them carefully before inserting themselves into the airship carriers. They needed the carriers to be struck down as quickly as possible since Jin did not really have any flying monsters that could rival these flying metal machines. (He did make a mental note to search for good flying monsters if possible in the Farming World when it was his turn to invade.) Jin was afraid that if the airship carriers had sufficient time to prepare after teleportation, they would have been manning multiple lethal turrets covering both air and land defence simultaneously which could potentially disrupt the flow of success for Jin and his monsters.

Therefore, Milk aimed for the engine room first as she 'God Punch'-ed the engine before she dashed to the other rooms crushing any resistance she encountered. The engine malfunctioned from Milk's attack and it was sufficient overload the other generators along with the main engine. So despite the lack of kills on her side, Milk was technically the first to bring down an airship carrier.

Unlike the two bellators, Lynn was accompanied by her ninja penguins who skillfully entered through ventilators and air ducts while she similar to Zeru, started her killing spree via the control hub. "Kill the ones who are the brains of the ship and the entire 'eco system' can be brought down in a jiffy." Lynn thought to herself as she cut down the few orc navigators and their ship crew before she faced off against the airship's captain.

The three ninja penguins that accompanied her via the control hub took the initiative to attack the Wind Orc Captain but he was no pushover. (Unfortunately for Zeru, the moment he performed one of his technique, his Wind Orc Captain was cut into pieces before he could even touch Zeru.) The Wind Orc Captain took out a lost tech laser pistol and started to shoot at Lynn who had the instinct to move away immediately.

But because the Wind Orc Captain ignored the penguins, thinking they were less of a threat, he was chained up by the three penguins immediately after shooting Lynn. The ninja penguins had their daggers attached to a chain, so they impaled him before wrapping the chains around him. Their knives were further coated with a numbing concoction which caused the Wind Orc Captain to lose his strength momentarily. That gave Lynn the opportunity to strike the killing blow at his nape. "Good job Peggies."

Lynn gave a high five to each of the penguins and proceeded to find the engine room which was designated as the meeting points for the other penguins too.

With the destruction of Wind Orc Air Force at hand, Colonel Ayse twisted the Orc Leaders' word on the frontlines to King Hamu, finally allowing him to carry out Phase 4 of the Orc's Red Moon Operation.

The Arrival of Orc King Hamu into the battlefield.

Chapter 360 Extra - An Unlikely Alliance

"My Lord, where are you going?" Cross asked Yellow Ice. The Avatar of Shiva was ordered to rest and remain on standby with just one day to the Red Moon Operation. Purple Thunder had already abandoned his post yet Orc King Hamu had decided not take any action against him. It would only compromise their mission to try and punish him now. In the best scenario, the Avatar of Syltra would help the Thunder Army finish off those pesky humanoids. And if he did... he could always be punished afterwards. If he was unable to... well then the goblins and humanoids would have at least taken care of the intended punishment.

"Our operation does not allow us to delay it. He will be judged in front of the collective will of the Shaitans who will decide whether he lives or dies for betraying the King." Oku preciously reported to the respective agencies responsible for handling the operation logistics and informed them not to send any more additional help to the Thunder Orc Army.

"Cross, stay and observe the situation in the capital. My predictions were correct as my magical charms have picked up a village that's being burnt by Green Fire. I want to have a talk with him before he escapes our sight again." Yellow Ice instructed Cross. Surprisingly the normally loyal goblin disobeyed his direct order and told Yellow Ice to follow him instead.

"If you simply rush out of the castle like this, you will be spotted and Oku will be immediately notified. I can show you a route that is barely used at this time." Cross armed himself with his trusty crossbow and lead Yellow Ice out of the capital. Once away from the prying eyes of the guards, Yellow Ice used his magic to summon a boar out of ice and used it to travel to the burning village.

However, when he reached there... The village had already been burnt down to ashes. It was devoid of life. Nevertheless, Yellow Ice decided to take a look at the surrounding and check which direction Green Fire might have escaped to. Suddenly Cross took out his crossbow and warned his Lord.

"Five. Six...at least eight nearby hiding their presence!"

"Heh, you are too naïve, Cross. There are ten. The first six were the only ones showing their presence to hide the presence of the other four. The next two pretended to slip up, so that it would appear, that we have noticed the hidden threats. This should allow the last two to remain hidden. Unless I am mistaken, it should be Dagger General Igni! Why not show yourself? I'd love to welcome our foreign guests!" Yellow Ice exclaimed loudly before addressing the presences. They could hardly be blamed for the former Spy Master managed to see through their efforts. Upon hearing that the enemy had discovered

all ten without taking any action to directly confront them, Dagger General Igni decided to take the gamble.

"It's rare for one of you Avatars to come practically alone and unarmed..." Igni commented as he came out of the bushes.

"It's even rarer for you to step into our land at all, Igni. Usually we used to meet in the human's territory." Yellow Ice replied as he came down from the Ice Boar and extended his hands to shake with Igni. It had been quite a while the two spymasters had met.

"So I presume Green Fire is dead." Yellow Ice sighed as he asked Cross to unload his crossbow as a sign of goodwill. (Only the crossbow, it did not mean he would not be able to retaliate back in other ways.)

"Indeed Green Fire has been killed, but the Avatar of Ifrit still lives on. In fact, Ifrit now has blessed us with a 'descendant'." Igni said as he called Flame Ripper to come out from beneath the charred ruins of the village. Being an Avatar himself, Yellow Ice quickly recognised the aura surrounding Flame Ripper and confirmed that he was indeed an Avatar of Ifrit. Though his aura did feel different. He was unsure if this was because it was the very first time a goblin has become an Avatar or if it had something to do why he had been called a 'Descendant'? That was for him to find out during their barter of information.

"So the goblins have finally obtained an Avatar of a Shaitan Noble and it's your child no less. Congratulations to you, Igni." Yellow Ice still remembered the faces of every important goblin. The slight proud look from the Dagger General had also not escaped the notice of Yellow Ice.

"Cross?" Flame Ripper vaguely recognised the goblin beside Yellow Ice and called out to him. Even with the changes to his outward appearances, he too was able to identify the other almost immediately.

"So you do remember me. I am ...somewhat honoured." Cross bowed a little as a sign of courtesy to the new Avatar of Ifrit.

"How could I forget you? You were one of us, fighting so desperately together before we got separated. We even set goals together to change the system. Don't you remember?" Flame Ripper replied with a bit of melancholy in his tone.

"But after all I did..." Cross thought to himself as he gripped on his crossbow.

"Oh, your allegiance with the orcs? The three of us had kinda figured out about it. Remember the one time when the drill sergeant conducted those surprise drill and made some of us take laps in the middle of the night? While you were away we found one of the letters and thought it was a love letter, so we read it, wanting to tease you with it. Even when we learned your identities, the ideals we talked together were genuine and wholly believed that you would change. If you ever needed help back then, we would gladly accommodate you." Flame Ripper said and Cross suddenly felt disconcerted.

"You remembered all those...trash- that idealistic bull crap that we spouted about goblins, orcs and humans living in harmony and working together?" Cross asked in a fit and Flame Ripper nodded his head.

"It is in the works, believe it or not. Despite what is currently happening in our world, my existence here is proof that change can happen. Trust me!" Flame Ripper unclenched his fist and a ball of red hot fire burned brightly. Yellow Ice immediately understood the significance behind this action. As an Avatar of a

Shaitan Noble their existence was special and they were venerated by others. However everyone of them was only too aware of the price they would have to pay for it. Though they were granted immense powers it also destined them to become the sweet juicy sacrifice for their patron to feast on.

The abilities the Avatars obtained were usually not even the purest form of the Shaitan's powers. Therefore his Ice was yellowish in colour instead of pure white or blue, Purple Thunder's powers were dark purple rather than whitish blue whereas Red Hurricane had a slight red energy to his wind rather than a greenish transparent colour. Similarly Green Fire's fire had been green unlike the pure red hot Flame Ripper was holding on to. There were times they might be able to unleash the pure powers, but that also indicated that the Avatars were desperate and sacrificed part of their souls in exchange to use them. Yet Flame Ripper was able to wield it so casually. This only confirmed it, that being a 'descendant' seemed to be something unique and a superior form to himself as an Avatar.

"Just look at me. Has there ever been a case in which a non-orc has become an Avatar? So if someone like me can become an Avatar of Ifrit, we can change other things too. Our ideas might have been idealistic but they were definitely not trash at all. My master can make it come true." Flame Ripper spoke with conviction and at that point, Cross felt that there was finally a glimmer of light in the darkness he had been living.

"Reunion aside, I believe your purpose here is to assassinate the King. If so you should finish it by tonight otherwise you will be leaving for the Fire Orc's base." Yellow Ice shared his piece of information while he tilted his head to relieve his stiff neck. Whether they believed him or not was for them to decide.

"That will not be necessary. We are actually the backup plan if things do not proceed smoothly and the Orc King decides to retreat back to the castle." Dagger General Igni stated bluntly as he bent his knees a bit to move them. This surprised the entire team of assassins. Revealing such vital information to the enemy? What was the General thinking? Or was he trying to use the real information as a bluff?

"I see. So, we are in business?" Yellow Ice asked as he pulled out a coin from his pouch. Cross noticed that the coin had a goblin picture with two small diamonds in the place the eyes were supposed to be.

"Very much. How are you going to do this?" Respectively Igni took out a coin from his pouch. It was similar in appearance, but instead it had an orc with two small ruby eyes on it. They both exchanged the coins and Yellow Ice began to mount his ice boar.

"Alone...well maybe with this guy with me." Yellow Ice answered and beckoned for Cross to enter his shadow once again.

"I shall forward the necessary information to you," Igni said as he too started to order the assassins to disperse.

As Yellow Ice rode back, Cross was naturally curious what this was about. "We have made a temporary alliance with the Goblins. The ones you have to kill have now become the ones you have to protect." Yellow Ice explained as he hastened the ice boar. Cross remained quiet for now as he reminisced the days of the past and wondered what made Ripcaller must have encountered to turn so brave in the present.

"So those movements were simply signals?" Flame Ripper asked as they teleported to another waypoint. Igni did not say much until they teleported to another safer place.

"Let's just say the history between Yellow Ice and I isn't so simple...we actually go way back. There will be time for you to learn about it later, after we survive the ordeal." Igni answered as he took the goblin coin out and asked Flame Ripper to light a small flame up. Meanwhile, he started to scribble some things on a piece of paper and held the coin above the flame. Igni then placed the parchment on the coin. There was a weird ghastly aura that was emanated out of the coin before one of the diamonds turned black and seemingly consumed the item above it.

"He will receive the information. Alright, let's get moving. The sun is coming up." Igni said as they proceed to hit another supplies base before dawn break.

Separately, Yellow Ice utilised Cross's entry and returned to the office with no suspicion... or so he thought. The Investigation team that day was secretly lead by Oku. The warrior had been blessed with Shaitan powers, a secret only known by him and King Hamu who made the pact with him. He noticed that there were two different Shaitan powers in the vicinity and a quick verification from Diabolos made him perceive that those belonged to Green Fire and Yellow Ice. Not receiving any report from the latter he could only assume that they conspired together against the throne.

Oku figured there were rats scouring around the King and he had expected it to be either the returned Ayse or the Avatars. "You might not appreciate it, Your Majesty, but I will do whatever is needed to protect you. No rats shall be allowed to live after tomorrow!"