

Dungeon S 401

Chapter 401 Topping the Priority Lis

After the informal dealings in the Restaurant Train Instance, Ayse reported back to Jin in the Dungeon Maker, informing him about the improvement ideas from Sea Mesh's team of engineers, especially their Chief, Bo Ze. They were thoroughly impressed with the novel concept and asked permission to come over in the following days to analyse and study the prototypes further.

"He was quite an easy person to charm. I hadn't expected these cosmetic inscriptions to have such hidden perks, though it will take a bit more time to get used to them, especially this form." Ayse said as she tried it out on Jin but to no avail. (Pei was making sure of that although the System iterated to Jin that no such 'perks' were added into the inscriptions).

"Great job. Their demands shouldn't be too much of a problem. I did emphasise that the development of the portal device would be facilitated within our premises since we have all the equipment and know-how. While they can work out there, I am going to build up a lab instance, but until it's complete, you'll be temporarily housed in the Sanctum of Worlds Instance. That way, you can also get the other monsters to assist you in the experiment more easily." Jin told them, which made the elfish researchers and Ayse perked up.

"You mean I won't have to sleep on that cramped little makeshift bed in your Dungeon Maker anymore?! Good Heavens!" Ayse exclaimed in delight, whereas the elfish researchers had their jaws wide open. They couldn't believe what Ayse had just said, considering she had a king sized bed all to herself in the Dungeon Maker. How much more luxurious would she want her bed to be?

"You guys will be moved to the real deal after the Dungeon City Fortress is up and running properly. Though I understand that shifting of equipment, research data into a new place might be a pain in the ass. Until then I hope you can tolerate staying holed up in a sort of makeshift Home Lab." Jin replied.

"Meh, if the Home Lab is good enough, we can use it as a primary site and a secondary lab in the Dungeon City Fortress. Sometimes, splitting the researchers might potentially increase our efficiency. Also, if I remember correctly, the Home Lab can be improved further right?" Ayse questioned and Jin nodded his head.

"How long do you think the creation of the Dungeon city fortress will take?" One of the elves asked.

"To be honest... I don't really know. Especially since I intend to lay out the foundations of the city first according to the city plans Qiu Yue made and reinforce our defences as soon as possible. The deadline for the Dungeon Core powered shield will be down on the 7th of January. So we have a bit over a month." Jin replied with an occupied thought on his face.

"We will have to see how fast the Goblins and Orcs can set things up. Though I doubt Moloch's ex-King, Baal, will have his full army ready to march on us by that day, a certain basic defence perimeter should be up and ready to deter other sorts of mishaps like...I don't know, Adventurers raiding? Pillaging from nearby monsters?" Jin said casually, only for Moloch to appear right beside him, responding to the call of the System.

"Master, you shouldn't focus on just random adventurers and monsters attacking you. Your priority should be on other towns and cities, who might take the chance to eat up your resources and take it for their own use since your Dungeon Core will have fully evolved into a City Core by the end of the deadline. Most new Dungeon City Fortresses don't stand a chance against armies from veteran cities. Worst case scenario? Your city core could be taken and used as an enhancement material for other existing city cores. As a result, your city would cease to exist." Moloch stated matter of factly, with Jin stared back at him with a blank face.

"...So when were you planning on revealing this little caveat? Better yet, why didn't you tell me all of this at the start? Or at any point until now?" Jin asked with his gaze piercing through Moloch, causing him to stutter a bit.

"Errrrrrrr...you seemed rather busy..." Moloch tried to come up with a good excuse, which only served to make Ayse laugh out so hard she nearly got a stomach ache. The elves (wisely) decided not to get involved as they slowly crept to one side of the room. (Out of view, but not out of hearing range.)

"Okay, erm that is rather valid. But still...you know. This kind of information is ...How shall I put it nicely? Vital? Crucial?" Jin answered with a heavy bit of sarcasm. Moloch, seemingly not in as much trouble as he'd feared, shrugged his man puppet's shoulders.

"I figured you would come up with a solution on your own. When I saw how you and the others handled the goblin war, it was... Marvellous. Even Lord Wolte secretly praised your spectacular performance in handling the intervention. If you hadn't shown me that my Master could produce this kind of results, I would have honestly worried for you. I'd rather not you becoming another one of those cursed people who break their promises." Moloch commented as he took a card out to fiddle with. The card picture changes whenever Moloch flipped the card with just one hand.

"But then again, even if you lost this plot of land, I reckon you could always create more instances to accommodate us. So I did not worry too much at all." Moloch replied and Jin did not know whether to reprimand him or thank him for his praises.

"Nevermind, I will figure something out as soon as possible. In the future I hereby ORDER you tell me those vital things beforehand." Jin realised that the situation was more crucial than he thought it would be. Perhaps, it was a blessing in disguise that the System made it part of the mission objectives.

Jin initially planned to concentrate on the new Christmas themed instance for December after he was done with the Portal Device, but it looked like the plans for the Dungeon City Defence had jumped up in his priority list.

"I have to contact Qiu Yue on this and maybe negotiate for the goblin army as part of the primary workers and later the defences for the Dungeon City before I use them in the Farming World. The Demon Rats will have to wait...." Jin said out loud and the other monsters around could only nod their heads in reply since they were not involved in this decision making.

Realising that sudden awkward situation Jin placed them into, he quickly dismissed them except for Moloch and requested him to follow Jin to find Gold, the Werejackal Leader so he could explain the overall situation.

"Ah, Master! yOU AreE HereEE TOday! Annnd yoU BrouGht a FRiend! ComE, COme, jOIn me for a DRiiiiinnkkk~!!!" Yellow greeted Jin in an oddly drunk state. Gold and Grey immediately rushed over and apologised for the rudeness of Yellow.

"We're testing out the traditional rice sake procedure that Lynn asked us about and he had volunteered to be our guinea pig as soon as he'd heard about it." Gold defended his subordinates which Jin did not mind.

He was more surprised about Lynn's secrecy since this was the first time he had heard about it. The atmosphere among the werejackals once more had turned for the worse as Jin's face immediately revealed his underlying meaning. Though Lynn did not exactly insist on them keeping it a secret, it was clear to all that Jin's unexpected visit had ruined what was supposed to be a surprise.

"Gold, you free to discuss a few things?" Jin asked, trying to move past this incident for he trusted Lynn to update him when the time is right. Gold quickly left Yellow in Grey's care as they proceeded into his private office in the mansion.

To Jin's astonishment, the office was immaculate, and to the point, he sensed some obsessive compressive behaviour at work. The books and cupboards were all well categorised. There were no messes of paper lying on the desk, and parcels were tidied to one corner of the room. Compared to the other parts of the mansion, which were staffed by the rotating werejackals for cleaning, this room felt too sterile for Jin's liking.

"Please Master, have a seat and Lord Moloch too." Gold said, but the two guests looked at each other as if they were a little too worried to sit on Gold's pristine clean chairs.

"As I was saying Gold, I need to talk to you on a certain issue." Jin took a small leap of faith to sit on that oddly cleaned chair then continued to ramble on the situation he was currently facing which Gold eventually understood the overall picture.

"I see... while it is indeed regrettable that you are unable to help at this point of time, I understood the situation in your hands. If I were you, I would not even have bothered to answer my ...ermmmm minions. Therefore, thank you for breaking the news to me personally." Gold said with a tinge of sadness lingering in his eyes.

Jin felt it was a little unfair to the werejackals. He had gone ahead to conduct a town hall meeting and even agreed to embark on a journey with the goal of getting a goblin army to help their world. But right now, he wasn't able to keep his promise for Gold. Jin honestly felt terrible about it so he decided to compromise, by continuing at a smaller scale.

"Please don't misunderstand me. I am not saying that we are going to leave those Demon Rats unchecked. For now, how about we start by sending a small scouting team to check on them? I prefer getting a better picture of the situation in the Farming World before I take any concrete action." Jin folded his legs and leaned his body to the side of the armchair.

"Master, I appreciate that, but you really do not have to do that." Gold answered. He then awfully bad since it became obvious to Gold that Jin became obligated because he was guilt tripped into it, and refused him adamantly. Nevertheless, Jin had made up his mind and continued to ramble on.

"As far as we know, the Demon Rats had established widely unlike the Orcs who were starting to invade the goblins, and they had been oppressive according to your information. If possible, I want to know if any resistance groups are against them or better, a rebel haven where we could assist them in the shadows before we officially enter the scene. I want to avoid getting dragged into the midst of something like a coup d'état as soon as I arrive there." Jin suggested as he remembered the day he accidentally entered into a Kingslayer's Ambush while his insistence immediately put a bitter smile on Gold's face knowing that his Master still cared to keep his promises.

"Pick your best sniffer or stalker for this mission. Ideally, it should be someone who knows the region pretty well, not necessarily your vice leaders since they are needed to keep law and order among your other werejackals. I will task Moloch to send one of his own battle maids as well as Flame Ripper. I bet he's itching to go on another mission." Jin ordered and immediately turned to Moloch who had already opted to send his best, Sebastia, for this mission as a gesture from the Minotaurs.

"If that is the case, I will go. I should fit all of your criteria. Besides, I would like to check on somebody while we are there." Meomi who had secretly been hiding behind the shadows of the cupboard, spoke out which startled both Jin and Moloch though not Gold.

"From your expressions, I guess you agree that she is a fitting candidate for the scouting team!" Gold unexpectedly laughed out loud as he turned to Meomi "If Boss Jin allows it, you have my blessing. Please go ahead. Also, I hope you find your people are still well." Gold said in a solemn way, and the werecat walked out from the main room as if she owned the office.

"Then that settles it! A three man team, your job is to scout the area, gather information, see if there are any potential allies out there, like a resistance force and most importantly report back on a biweekly basis." Jin said while he clapped his hands once as issues were being resolved.

"If there is a need to save someone, try to rescue as many as you safely can, even if it's a whole village. If the opportunity presents itself, feel free to do some sabotage, I leave it to your discretion Gold. I appoint you as the team commander for this particular mission." Jin said which made Gold slightly appalled.

"No, Master, I am not very good at it. I think other monsters like Grey might be a better fit. I am just a leader because of my previous title." Gold felt this responsibility was befitting of his combat vice leaders.

"All the more you should learn, should you not Scholar? If you need their help, just ask them, I see no harm in that. Not to mention, you are well versed in the matters of the Farming World, more so than any of us there. I will also allow the System to teleport you guys wherever and whenever you need to. Utilise its portal capabilities to the fullest." Jin retorted Gold's argument.

"Lastly, I want absolute surprise when we attack them, DO NOT make them aware of our presence. Disguise, fake it out, blend in. I do not care what methods you use. Never let them know we are coming to strike them with an army. Spread your purpose only to the people you trust." Jin instructed, and Gold proudly accepted the mission.

"If I might add, we should designate an area for the teleportation. A secure room with a fake environment if that is possible. It would be a disaster if some of those rats if they are sneaky as Gold

claims them to be, manages to slip into our portals." Moloch suggested which the System concurred instantly.

"Demon Lord Moloch's advice appears to be the best course of action. A countermeasure room will be set up, to catch any rats. It may be in User's interest to take some prisoners to study them. Experiments on them would be performed mercilessly given the nature of their species." System spoke through Jin's phone and Gold's eyes turned menacing.

"System, you better keep your word. They don't deserve any mercy. Their kind wiped out countless towns and villages because of their greed. I expect nothing but the best information about them so we can not just track every single one of them but kill them all." Gold uttered in a deadly tone.

"System will comply with the Scholar of the East, Werejackal Gold's request to the fullest." The System replied as Jin thanked Gold for his assistance. After a short inspection of the fields and the progress of the Living Armor Plants, he messaged Qiu Yue to learn her whereabouts. After an hour, the System finally informed him that she was busy in the Goblin World, interviewing the goblin professionals for the Dungeon City Fortress. (At the very least Jin had spent the time surveying the progression of the captured orc army too.)

"Guess I should drop by, to view the selection of candidates since I need to speak with her in order to proceed with the foundation building." Jin thought to himself as he looked at his watch to take note of the timing.

Somehow, he felt that time became more and more of a luxurious commodity he had to spend wisely in the coming days.

Chapter 402 Too Conventional

"Next, please." Qiu Yue yawned in between the interviews of the professional goblins. It was not going as smoothly as she'd expected.

"Maybe I have too many expectations on them..." Qiu Yue thought to herself when another goblin craftsman came to showcase his work.

"Milady, we feel that your selection is a little too strict. We barely managed to find anyone to your liking." The Goblin Finance Advisor whispered to her. He, together with the other two goblin advisors sat on the panel of judges (though their votes were not as important as Qiu Yue's). So far, the number of approved goblins could be counted on one hand.

"But I feel it's not like I am asking for anything impossible. The only requirement was to produce a list of their work experiences. Anyone in their line of business should have at least some sort of notable achievements. Present some sample of what they created or have a letter of recommendation." Qiu Yue remarked casually.

It was not her that was cruel, but her Sub System that had been secretly rating each of the goblin professionals and most ended up on the lower side of the scale.

At the same time, it also filtered out anybody who lied about their resume or achievements. Qiu Yue didn't know how it was able to do that. Her best theory was that the Sub System had been cross referencing some raw data it had received from the various goblin advisors about a few days back when they were touring around the various bureaus.

Suddenly, a portal appeared during one of the interview intervals and out came none other than Jin himself. Qiu Yue immediately understood it had to be something urgent enough to warrant an extended break between the numerous interviews.

The advisors agreed upon seeing Jin, who still held the title of Special Royal Advisor, and decided to break for half an hour. "I'm sorry to disappoint. In the end, there were only a few that stood out, and even they weren't as fantastic as I hoped. A magical clay...craftsman, a stone mason- Oh, we surprisingly found a weaponsmith and her cousin, a runesmith." Qiu Yue noted.

"However, that was the one who stood out among the most. If I am not mistaken, the goblin runesmiths are something similar to our inscribers. Instead of paper charms that would merge with our weapons or bodies, they place their magic into rocks and metals and imbue these runes into the weapon or use those stones directly." Qiu Yue explained while drinking the bitter tea the Goblins provided.

"If I had known that she was one of the few exceptional ones, I'd have asked her for more details. We had limited the interviews to a maximum of 5 minutes per goblin, but I will definitely get back to her soon... After I finish looking through this next batch of goblins." Qiu Yue commented which Jin acknowledged.

He loved her hardworking nature and appreciated that she was doing her best. After her report, Jin told her about the purpose of him rushing here and the dire circumstances that were revealed by Moloch.

"I see, in that case, we will have to hurry with our plans. Have you already made a decision which of those layouts you'd like to choose to implement the city foundations? We can work out some more, each with their own pros and cons." Qiu Yue asked as she took out her phone, ready to show Jin the various city templates they have added.

"The first one we've shown you is the most balanced, but if you have any special preference, like focusing on industry or agriculture, we have some prepared. All of the city layouts use up the same amount of allocated land, so that won't be a problem." Before Qiu Yue could pass her phone to Jin, he suddenly refused and asked the System a very simple question right in front of her.

"System, since you are partially the owner of the Dungeon City Fortress, is there any limit how high we are able to build the city up or how low we are allowed to go?" Jin asked. Qiu Yue noticed that Jin had a certain glint in his eyes, which could only mean he had come up with another one of his weird crazy ideas.

"Please wait..." The System remained silent for about ten seconds before it replied to Jin once again.

"There are no height restrictions if User wishes to build skyscrapers, there won't be any problems. The same holds true if User wishes to dig deep." The System replied.

"It will be impossible to reach anything like the core of the planet, but there is nothing preventing User to go as low as technologically possible. Nevertheless, certain restrictions still apply. Most notably, the allotted acres of land by the Dungeon Core cannot be extended. If User has planned to build an

underground Kingdom, he won't be able to stretch it out beyond his own confines of the allocated land." The System replied.

"Thank you, but that was not what I had in mind. Again, are you completely, 100% sure that as long as we remain within our borders, there is no sort of depth restrictions?" Jin asked for an affirmation, and the System replied affirmatively. Jin quickly turned around at Qiu Yue as his face turned wide in glee.

"That...is a rather terrifying expression. You briefly looked like the Cheshire Cat from Alice in Wonderland." Qiu Yue's shoulders stiffened and Jin's grin got longer and wider as if to prove her point. "Alright, Mr Cat, colour me curious. What exactly do you have in mind?" Qiu Yue asked as she offered him a seat at the table.

"Nah, I think it's best to return to the Dungeon Maker for this. It should be easier if I illustrate it to you." Jin sniggered as the System created a portal for them. Upon reaching the Dungeon Maker, he used a pen provided by the System. (Though he called it Creator Pen or sometimes the Doraemon Pen since it reminded him of the blue cat robot that brought changes and wonders to his human friend's world.)

A virtual whiteboard console came out, and he began to draw out what he had envisioned for his new city. All along the System, Qiu Yue and even Moloch had only ever planned about what kind of city they should build to achieve the highest productivity, highest efficiency while ensuring that they would be able to defend themselves from external threats.

Jin had been wrecking his brains every now and again to think how best to overcome this bland idea. That was why he created the Escape City Dungeon Instance to have a feel how City Building felt. Because it was a dungeon instance, the System was giving Jin all the tips and reminders on creating the city instance.

But the more he build the Escape City Dungeon Instance, the more unsatisfied he felt. There was something missing and the novelty of a modern city was boring to him. He saw how mature cities like London tried to incorporate futuristic modern buildings in their old and traditional landscape. It felt foreign, surreal, but somewhat dull too. However, as Jin enjoyed a break after the release of the Escape City Dungeon Instance, a small idea had been grown out of his mind.

He was happy that he could use New York as a template for his Dungeon City, even though this somewhat limited his imagination. However, why shouldn't he create something as fun as the dungeon instance for the Dungeon City Fortress? Who exactly stated that they had to follow a certain standard for their city? Wasn't the Dungeon World full of unexplainable magic, monsters and mysterious beings living in it? Wouldn't a city defying all norms add to that charm?

"It's like we were being too constrained by the fact that we want to follow the best examples from this world. But you've seen how the goblins still can go on with their lives in their unique slow medieval world setting. Yet without their expertise and our help, we wouldn't have created something as unimaginable like the Sandroku golems." Jin started his pitch as he continued to draw the city layout for Qiu Yue to see.

"We have a freaking Fiery Demonic Queen Sage, a Legendary Battle Saint, the Strongest Swordsman in our century, an Original Bellator with the powers of nine..., well currently eight other former bellators under his command and the most versatile family heirloom backing me up. Let's not forget a Red Panda

Cutie and a Sweet Penguin Ninja Queen Chef. So why are we limiting ourselves by being so conventional in our thinking?" Jin asked rhetorically as Qiu Yue finally saw the outline of the city Jin was painting.

"You must be kidding me." Qiu Yue placed her hands on her head as she pulled her hair backwards in disbelief. Now she understood why Jin would need the Dungeon Maker to lay the concept out for her. This thing before her would be impossible by any modern standards. "I think I might fall in love with you again. You never cease to amaze me." Qiu Yue blurted out loud and Jin laughed. (Although the System took Qiu Yue's statement very seriously)

Qiu Yue went closer as she observed Jin's drawings on the three dimensional whiteboard. The layout slowly came to life with the Creator Pen with each stroke from Jin. To her surprise, the Empire Building Sub System was already analysing and imposing its results and marked the most ideal locations for various buildings, colour coded by industry on the layout itself.

At the very end of the rough draft, both the System and Empire Building Sub System concluded that it was indeed feasible to create this magical city Jin made. Qiu Yue took some time to have a good look before exhaling a deep breath out. The threshold between Insanity and Genius only differed by a hair's length.

"The city will be broken up into many various floating platforms, each platform will be split into modules of their own according to their designated purposes." Jin began to explain his concept. "That way, we can concentrate on each module separately while splitting up the city platforms based on how much percentage we wish to allocate them for their purpose," Jin added and Qiu Yue became very excited.

"But our previous city models were based on trade, commercial businesses, agriculture, scientific research and military. There was no focus on residential areas, so we were planning to incorporate housing in every sector like shophouses or underground flats. With your new model, there seems to be nothing left for residential housing." Qiu Yue felt the need to point it out, though she suspected the bottom part of the layout was the answer. And she was correct, as Jin pointed a laser from the Creator Pen at the bottom of the drafted plan.

"That is where we will build our Underwater Sea City Rapt... Pand-Atlantis. Its main purpose is going to be for residential use. Without any depth limit, we will be able to accommodate a quasi unlimited number of people. It should also prove to be much better than living underground. With an underwater sea city, we can also utilise inscriptions or perhaps...runes? To make people able to breathe underwater. That way they wouldn't even feel too claustrophobic as well. " Jin replied as he expanded the 3D layout.

"Besides, I think we all prefer fishes swimming around our apartments than insects crawling in it right?" Jin giggled as he imagined a large whale hovering above the sea apartments.

"So basically you have a floating sky city for work purposes and a residential underwater sea city for this concept?" Qiu Yue tried to confirm Jin's ambition for the Dungeon City Fortress.

"Yeap! The floating city platforms can be equipped with cannons and fortress like defences even though we said we did not need them initially. This way, we already drive our enemies to divide their forces. Not only will they have to handle the sky city platform, but they also have to watch out from our retribution from below. " Jin pointed at the entrances and showed how they could disrupt an incoming invasion almost immediately.

And that also means the invading army requires not only sky force but an equally good underwater sea fleet to be able to attack our cities. The nature of our cities alone should hopefully discourage most enemies from trying to assault us directly." Jin explained proudly and Qiu Yue was unable to find any fault with this plan.

"And see here, all those statue models at the entrances of the 'dungeon'? When you told me about your magical clay craftsman, it reminded me of THAT Qing Emperor's tomb where he had those battalions of clay soldiers as part of his grave. What if we were to replicate that idea? But on a much larger MAGICAL scale." Jin started to smirk in evil delight and Qiu Yue understood where he was coming from.

"So thousands of replaceable magical clay soldiers that could be activated in a moments notice when the invading army will mistakenly assume it's just part of the dungeon's interior décor? Oh! Oh! That is interesting!! Hey! How about...say we put a gigantic clay Chinese dragon here trying to take off and surround itself around the floating cities too? You know, the big crazy ass one from Dragoonball Y." Qiu Yue suggested.

"That is fantastic...and let's make it look like it is trying to fight with...hehehe Pandajilla near the seashores!" Jin added and Qiu Yue was tingling with excitement at the kind of ideas they could think for their defences.

"I am not waiting, I am going back there and employ as many magical clay craftsmen, masons etc... I will also get the goblin army as soon as possible from the King too." Qiu Yue said as she asked the System to create a portal to return to the Goblin World.

"But what about loyalty issues and such?" Jin brought up a valid question which Qiu Yue winked at him.

"Don't worry about that. Look forward to a bunch of eager goblin workers." Qiu Yue's show of confidence relieved Jin as he now entered the guest instance of the Sanctum of Worlds where he had been keeping the Orcs.

It was time for the Orcs to earn their pay and place.

Chapter 403 Goblin Craftsmen

It was a long and tiring day for Qiu Yue after the brief meeting with Jin. Previously, it had been a drag for her to choose the candidates but with a clearer picture and that ludicrous city concept from Jin, she felt that she needed to do more to meet her new boss's expectations.

To the candidates, it was an equally exhausting process as those who Qiu Yue had approved from the first round of interviews were asked to stay back while the others rejected left. Still, they weren't going back empty handed. Qiu Yue heard from the advisors that there were many who travelled far and wide just for this particular five minute interview with her.

Hence, she promised that their efforts were not wasted as there was a compensation of varying degrees ranging from 1 silver coin to 5 gold coins depending on how the interviewee performed during Qiu Yue's bombardment of questions.

There had been some who had just been trying their luck with their mundane job skill set. Those, together with those had been lying, were given a single silver coin. The ones who took the time to travel and genuinely wanted to succeed for the interview even though they did not make the cut were compensated accordingly. (Granted, Qiu Yue could've been even more lenient on the criteria, but she already closed an eye for a few goblin candidates and her budget set by the Empire Building Sub System was limited.)

Once the interviews were officially over, the accepted candidates from the first rounds of selection were gathered in front of Qiu Yue in the Throne Hall. There was sufficient space for the entire group to enter quickly and instantly became mesmerised with the grand hall of their beloved King.

King Sol was also present and personally thanked them for volunteering and passing the strict requirement of the Humanoid Qiu Yue. He gave them an encouraging speech before Qiu Yue took charge of the subsequent session.

"Each one of you is worthy to be considered a great craftsman in your line of work. But, I do not wish for you to become complacent yet. Being accepted by me and the panel of goblin advisors was just part of the entire process. We will have each of you be tested in your area of expertise to get a clearer picture of your capabilities." Qiu Yue explained and there were murmurs going around in the crowd of goblins. Most of them had never been through such a rigorous process of selection, and some might already have some doubts about this being a scam if not for the King backing Qiu Yue.

"As for now, please enjoy yourselves. You will be served with food by the King's finest chef as well as providing you with a place to stay for the night in the Royal Castle. However, I must warn you that it might be a little cramped with so many of you. Rest properly and maybe ease up on the alcohol for tonight. Tomorrow there will be a test at a different location and we want you in your best conditions." Qiu Yue explained as she put down a stack of papers on the table beside her.

"Should you decide to stay for the test after the feast, you will need to fill up this particular form and ink it with your own blood. This will serve as oath which will ensure that whatever you see and experience in tomorrow's test remains a secret." Qiu Yue's tone became serious.

"If you ever breached the contract, you will be struck down by lightning. Trust me, you do not wish to test them. Therefore I advise against revealing any information to parties not involved in this. Should you fail tomorrow's upcoming test, you will be compensated 10 gold coins as an appreciation for your participation." Qiu Yue told the goblin crowd as she enjoyed watching them show a plethora of emotions on their faces. She waited for a while to let that information settle and let them mutter to themselves.

"For those of you who shall pass, I assure you 10 gold coins is just a bare fraction of what you will end up earning and you all have the opportunity to bring your family members with you. You and your family will be fully rewarded for the years of hard skilled labour you'll be working with us. At the very least, three years of good hard labour before you are able to return to this Goblin Kingdom. Take your time, think it over during the feast and sign the document before you go to sleep."

"For those who had doubts about the contracts and wish not to take part in tomorrow's test, you may stay for the feast and collect ten gold coins from me too before you depart. It is a thank you gesture for

making this far into the capital and passing my first round of interview." Qiu Yue concluded what she had to say and bowed in appreciation.

"Oh and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. I am happy to entertain any questions." Qiu Yue smiled as she carried the large stack of contract papers and proceeded to the corner of the throne hall. These contract papers were the key essential items that would bind the goblins to the Empire Building Sub System temporarily.

As soon as they signed with their blood, the Sub System would enact the Loyalty Enforcement Orders on to the goblin unknowingly. However, it would only stay active for the period stated in the contract.

At the end of the contract term, they would have to make a choice. They could receive an extension of the contract, agree to willingly submit themselves to a Permanent Loyalty Enforcement Order or they could choose to return.

Should they go with the latter option, their memories of selected events would be completely erased, and their memories would be modified to account for the time dilation. Kraft would make sure that there would be no possibility of anything leaking.

The contract itself also offered some benefits to the goblins and their families. The System would be liable to help heal any injuries, they might have had or they incurred during construction, as well as being obligated to resurrect them in extreme cases. Hence they were treated similar to the contracted rental monsters like the Boar Knights, without having to fight for him.

The skilled goblin craftsmen heeded Qiu Yue's speech and feasted on the King's buffet, courtesy by Lynn too. Especially when she provided a great number of the raw materials for the feast and even offered some of her more experienced penguin chefs to aid the Goblin royal chefs.

It was also an excellent chance for Lynn and the penguins to learn some of the more exquisite Goblin Cuisine since the Royal Goblin Chefs were supposedly the best in the Kingdom. There were some methods which Lynn vehemently disagreed with, but there were also many subtle arts of cooking that she was able to catch on, all thanks to the Cooking Sub System she possessed.

Learning their recipes in just one glance? Catching a possible flaw in their recipe? That was just a few of her secret abilities granted by the Cooking Sub System and Lynn fully utilise it to her advantage.

When the feast was over, Qiu Yue was surprised that nearly every goblin craftsmen had decided to pick up the offer except for a few extremely sceptical ones.

The reason was that many of the goblin craftsmen had seen other humanoids coming to protect not just the goblins, but also their families and their hometowns too when the Orcs invaded. And unlike the humans they had encountered in their lives, these half masked humanoids had offered aid to more than just their villages and towns.

All of them had heard how their King was saved by a humanoid who had rescued and cared for the three generals' sons after they disappeared about a year ago. In addition, they selflessly aided the defence against the Orcs at multiple occasions at the frontlines, inadvertently saving numerous goblin soldiers at the cost of their own.

Furthermore, what attracted them the most was their technology. When they saw the humanoids came flying to their rescue in those loud, metal giant bird monsters, they were frankly amazed by it.

Some of the goblins even mentioned about the Sandroku golems that had been used to parade the Capital town as a show of strength and cooperation when they celebrated the retreat of the Orcs.

Also, a few of these craftsmen personally experienced being rescued by the Humanoids and their fellow monster allies and felt they were indebted to them. All in all, they knew that if they were to join this... work contract with the Humanoids, the craftsmen had the undeniable feeling that it would further their proficiency in their field of craft expertise.

This notion had been reinforced by the strict selection criteria and the intelligent straightforward questions that were asked by the Lady Humanoid. Not to mention the secretive nature which Qiu Yue had allured them all into believing that the project they might be doing was more than meets the eye.

No artisan in their right mind could have forgone such an opportunity to play an active part in something so historic. Besides, being rewarded with a Royal feast in the Throne Hall? It clearly showed the relationship between the humanoids and the Royalty, and it was already blatantly loud. The majority was immediately sold as soon as they heard that their families and loved ones could join them for the project.

On a separate note, Qiu Yue was very delighted that this had been such a major success. She had lowered her expectations and would have been happy with an acceptance rate of 45%.

That was because she had essentially made a death threat to the goblins who signed the contract. However, the number of goblins accepting the agreement begged to differ. "Oh Jin, this city project will be a blast to do." Qiu Yue thought to herself while handling the paperwork individually for every goblin. (Her Empire Building Sub System needed her to be the one to validate the contracts to ensure that the Loyalty Enforcement Orders was working.)

Jin came into the guest room of the Sanctum of Worlds and requested the System to call out for Nubwort, the infamous Orc General known as the Black Disaster.

Compared to the other Orc Generals or officers he and the other cultivators assisted in catching, none of them could be compared against Nubwort. He had earned enough reputation to be respected among all of the various Orc Armies, including the aggressive Fire Orcs and the all loyal Thunder Orcs. And yet, he was now bending the knee to Jin through the power of the System.

"Yes, Master? To what do I owe the honour of your presence?" Nubwort was currently in a much better mood as compared to when he was first captured by the System.

Ever since he realised that Jin was only expecting one thing of him, which involved killing any cultivator that came upon him in the Secret Raid Instance, he was contented. In fact, he was very much enjoying living the life of a Battle Orc. Seeing that his fellow orcs were not mistreated in any way, but instead being encouraged to fight to their fullest, Nubwort began to see a new light on Jin.

"How are the Orcs doing?" Jin asked as he was slightly worried about the accommodation of the guest rooms. The Sanctum of Worlds' guest instance hadn't really been designed to hold that many creatures

at a time. The idea was always for the guest room to be a temporary solution until he could build a Home Instance to his monster's liking.

"It's not that bad. True it's a bit cramped, but it could be worse. All prefer this over being chained down and behind bars. The food was decent too." Nubwort stood up and looked at Jin's expression for a while. "I suspect you are not here just to ask about our well being. So, what can we do for you, Master?"

"You are sharp. Call the rest of the Orcs for a Town hall meeting. And I mean every single Orc." Jin ordered as the System teleported him to the Concert Hall instance where he used to host a Town Hall meeting.

While waiting for the orcs to assemble, Jin began to prepare the presentation materials to showcase his city concept to the Orcs. He needed them to know what he was going to do since they would be instrumental in building the dungeon city fortress up from scratch.

If it was a dungeon instance, Jin wouldn't have asked anyone for help but this was 'real life'. There was a need for some extensive heavy lifting in the construction department and the Orcs were suited for this, even though Jin could have asked Peppers to use magic on that front.

However, he wanted to use her for other things, mainly the levitation of the platforms to create the floating cities and magical quakes that were large enough to penetrate the ground to form a crater valley deep enough for the creation of the underwater Pand-Atlantis.

As he was waiting for the Orcs to arrive, the number of orcs the System had captured totalled in the thousands, and it was breathtaking to see all of them lined up systematically in an orderly fashion to await his announcements.

"Oh boy, now I kind of understand why Orc King Hamu was so obsessed with power. This is ...this is too overwhelming for me. To be able to command all of these orcs with just one word. One sentence." Jin whispered to himself as he saw the various generals going forth to report to Nubwort that all the orcs were present and had been accounted for.

"Then get used to it, or User won't be able to get the job done both at present and in the future." The System prompted as it caused a podium to emerge out the elevated stage platform.

Jin took a deep breath and stepped forward to the podium the System had prepared for Jin to address the Orcs on the situation at hand.

Chapter 404 Orc Builders

"Erm, Hi. I am going to make this a little informal, so you may stand at ease. If you want to, please feel free to have a seat. All you got to do is listen to what I have to say for the next five minutes or so." Jin started off by telling them to relax... though none of them did as the Orcs remained in full attention. It made him slightly nervous when he looked down at the large number of orcs having their eyes focused on his every little move.

"Okay, I will be straightforward with you guys. I have gathered all of you here to inform you about our future plans. We are building a city from scratch and I need you orcs as the pioneer builders for this particular city." Jin said and instead of the expected questions or anxiety on their faces, the orcs were somehow elated...? Jin couldn't understand why but he decided to go with the mood here.

"Also, we are going to make you guys work full force 24 hours, of course in rotation." Jin continued and the Orcs got even more hyped up. Some were cheering like crazy and Jin felt like he needed an explanation from anyone on their behaviour. Was it the Loyalty Enforcement Orders at work? Or was he missing something crucial?

Fortunately, Ayse was around as well when Jin did tell Nubwort to bring every orc to the town hall. She had voluntarily allowed the System to search through her memories and asked the System to transmit it to Jin since the Hall was too noisy for him to notice her. (Even though the System already had access to being with.)

Answering Jin's confusion, the System stated that construction was in the blood of the Orcs and it was even a delegated honour for them, like a rite of passage when they were a teenager.

True, they loved to kill, destroy and conquer... because they wanted to build more stuff. That's one of the reasons why they were so obsessed with the Lost Technology artefacts because it gave them the opportunity to create something so extraordinary, making their ancestors proud.

"I always thought that it was the dwarves who loved building, not the orcs." Jin thought and the System replied that the fantasy tropes their world used, were after all fantasy and not facts.

However, it did add that his orcs possessed a few genes and possible traits that hinted at them having the dwarves bloodline. The System elaborated, that to put it simply, goblins, orcs and elves were all distant descendants of the dwarves in that particular world which Jin had visited.

Jin found it an oddly weird coincidence but decided to accept it. He couldn't help but wonder if some of those fantasy authors hadn't been World Travelers, for the lore of these worlds to be so identically close. Or perhaps there was some hidden proof for the existence of these sub races in Jin's world historical timeline of monsters and magic.

"In any case, more details will be given in the next 48 hours or so. You will all be working closely with some of my other monsters and even goblins. Please try to get along." That last line suddenly made everyone stop in their tracks for a moment. Goblins? Orcs working with Goblins? They all stared at Jin, not sure if they heard correctly, to which he nodded his head.

"Yeah, goblins. The Goblin Kingdom is sending me a battalion of troops to help with the city building as well as a group of craftsman. I expect you guys to get along well. In case you don't, you will be ordered to comply, even if you hate the goblins to the core." Jin warned the Orcs.

However, I'd prefer not forcing you that way. I don't pretend to understand why you have a feud with them, and frankly I don't really care. If you are working under me, you better jolly well try to work together, eat together and sleep together. They are now to be treated the same as your comrade in arms, and I expect no less from those goblins. Should any of you disobey the orders repeatedly by causing the System to enact the Loyalty Enforcement Orders on you, I will make sure that the guilty be placed in solitary confinement with meagre food and be re-educated by Kraft himself." Jin was giving no

quarters for the Orcs to make up any excuses. His word was ironclad, and the Orcs knew that from day one.

"You also know how Kraft loves to have more candidates for his experiments. So I repeat, do not force my hand to do such a thing. Other than that, you all will be provided with a supply of delicious hot piping food courtesy of Lynn, our Head Chef. Yes, you are hearing right, three meals a day, every day. You will be able to eat what she and her penguin chefs cook. (with meat being back on the menu)." The Orcs suddenly cheered up again upon hearing that they do not have to eat the standard food that the System provided on a daily basis.

"Apart from that, you guys will also be compensated with System points, on top of the ones you gain from fighting. I'd advise you to save some up for future purposes such as buying a house in the new city or having access to better facilities or equipment in your future Home Instance." Jin revealed to entice the Orcs even though he technically did not need to do any of this.

Jin wanted to treat them as humanely as possible while meeting the mission's deadline set by the System. That was the only few ways he could think of balancing the carrot and the stick (Since death was not an issue to them.)

"Master, if our future home instance can fit us all, why would we need to buy a house of our own in the new city? Can't we just live in the Home Instance?" An Ice Orc Officer brought up a valid point.

"Yes, you can, but do note that the home instance for you orcs will be shared among all of you. Space wise it might be limited so you might want to save up the points to buy a house of your own. Or feel free to collectively put it in a pool and upgrade the home instance. Else, you can also use those points to purchase some items made in the Dungeon City Fortress in the future." Jin answered and everyone got all excited again.

"Oh Yes, speaking about craftsman, are any of you good at certain professions?" Jin suddenly thought about it and decided to ask the crowd. If there were thousands of orc soldiers, chances are there might be a couple few who could have worked in a skilled profession before becoming a soldier.

Ayse had previously informed Jin that the Orcs had to draft people from towns and villages to boost their military manpower. To his utter shock, nearly everyone in the crowd raised their hand up and they all had some sort of profession.

Questioning Nubwort, he learned that all the Orcs required to be battle ready and thus, military training was a module for them in schools since young (A fact not in Ayse memories, as she had been taught personally under the Former Head Researcher). That was why all of them had a working profession since being a soldier was second nature to all of them.

"System, please consolidate the skilled professions and send the list to Qiu Yue, I'm sure she might find it useful," Jin asked as he dismissed all Orcs except for Nubwort, who had a few questions of his own.

"Is it really necessary to work with the Goblins?" The Black Disaster asked. He could not help but treat them as his lesser, even though he was beaten by Piercestriker.

It also did not help a bit, that most of his compatriots thought the same. The Orc schools had heavily emphasised that in the majority of their glorious history, Goblins used to be their slaves. A fact only

strengthened by the perception that most goblins Orcs came in contact with, were the slaves of other orcs. In his opinion, it would just reduce the efficiency of the work the Orcs could do if the Goblins interfered with them.

"How about giving them a chance to prove that they are not as useless as you might think? While I would like the city to be built overnight, it is impossible. Hence, every hand available is useful in meeting the deadline." Jin replied and Nubwort could only sigh at his master's direct orders.

"Alright. Just one chance. Any screw up and I ask you to allow us to end the cooperation. Let us orcs work in different places and you will be able to see our superiority be the results." Nubwort was giving no space for negotiations even though he knew that his new master could overwrite his decisions.

"Then what happens if the screw ups happen at your side?" Jin folded his arms and challenged him. Nubwort scoffed at it and told him that orcs didn't make mistakes.

"Yea right, in that case, you guys wouldn't be here serving me." Jin remarked and the Black Disaster kept his silence for once.

"Fine, if ...and a very big IF. If we screw up, I will ensure that the others will give them an additional chance in cooperating with us should they inevitably make a mistake. Happy now?" Nubwort snorted and walked away back to his guest instance.

"Orcs and their pride issues." Jin shook his head as he headed towards the Terrace House where he believed Peppers to be. He needed her to start terraforming the land in the Dungeon City Fortress as soon as possible to get everything ready.

"Peppers, you in there?" Jin knocked on her door, and there were a bit of clashing noises heard from behind the door. "You okay in there?!" Jin asked once more, ready to break down the door to help her. Suddenly, she opened the door and Jin was surprised that she was not in usual pyjamas.

"Master, I am all ready to work!" Peppers was in her full battle gear that he had never seen before. As well as multiple large vials of life potions created by Milk to allow for fast recovery against the body strains she was bound to suffer after using a large amount of Mana.

Apparently, the new battle gear she acquired was from all the fragments she earned on a daily basis and figured it would help her to cast efficiently and quickly, causing less strain on her body.

"...How did you know that I was looking for you?" Jin asked and Peppers pointed at his phone.

"To ensure a quick start for the terraforming, System has informed Bellator Peppers in advance. It should be noted, however, that she ended up ditching her previous assignment of researching the manual cultivations as fast as a student hearing the school bell." The System took the initiative for the first time in a long while.

Jin was astonished but delighted to know that the actions taken meant that the System approved of Jin's city concept. It tattling on Peppers was met with just a slight grin.

In no time, Jin and Peppers reached the massive empty plot of land which the dungeon core provided for the construction of the Dungeon City Fortress. Moloch accompanied them since he was partially the owner of this City Fortress after all.

"Just wondering, where exactly is the core? All I see is empty land with no one in sight except for your minotaurs camping right here." Jin wondered as the Cosplaying Minotaurs all greeted him the moment he arrived.

"Ah, that." Lord Moloch showed Jin a deck of opened cards, and with a flip of his hand, the cards turned into a miniature version of the dungeon core Jin remembered seeing as he made the System and Moloch activate it.

"As one of the Lords, I was able to carry this with me before the Dungeon City Fortress began its construction. Since you seem ready, we will need to put the core in a centralised place to provide 'life' to the city." Moloch explained.

"Like erm electricity and water supplies?" Jin asked and Moloch shook his head and his finger at his master.

"Most importantly, resources. Raw Materials and the likes. Sure, it could produce water from the core itself, perhaps electricity too, though I think we will need to tinkle with it a little to make it understand the concept of electricity. In this Dungeon World, it does not necessarily have what Master's World had. While we do have the concept, it is more so catered to turn enemies into ashes." Moloch said.

" 'Understand the concept?' You mean like the System, the Dungeon Core can learn stuff too?" Jin asked as this revelation opened up a lot more possibilities.

"Affirmative, System had already inserted information vital to our city layout as well as the concept of basic modern necessities. The core will need time to modify its materials and uses based on the concepts System had inserted. In the meantime, Bellator Peppers can start with the Terraforming procedure." System stated but Peppers was already gathering magic in her hands, transferring them into her wooden staff.

"I will take some time to do this in order to modulate the amount of Mana passing through me, but you should be able to see visible results very soon. Do not worry, I won't kill ourselves, I am pretty sure of it." Peppers smirked as she smashed her wooden staff into the ground.

Instantly, the ground started to crack and the Minotaurs who were camping in the area had begun evacuating the camping grounds, taking what was necessary and running towards Moloch while looking at the miracles the Demonic Sage Queen was doing.

"Feed the ground with savage intent and not even Mother Nature will be able to hold it back." Peppers placed her hands on the staff and called out her spell name out loud.

"EARTHSHAKING SHATTERING - *cough cough* QUAKE!" Peppers screamed a little too loud that it strained her throat

"You sure we won't die?!?!!" Moloch had serious doubts about Peppers' vouch and Jin could only cross his fingers when they were all been shaken violently by the ground under them.

Chapter 405 Workings of the Dungeon Core

For the next few hours, Peppers managed to crack the floor bed of the 'Dungeon' they were in and proceeded to levitate each piece of land into mid air. The System was detailed in its instructions, telling Peppers how much Mana to use in order to crack open the ground. This was done so that the amount of land allocated for a platform corresponded to the percentage of land each industry would be granted to utilise efficiently, according to Qiu Yue's Empire Building Sub System.

Peppers then cast a permanent levitation spell on each platform that regularly consumed mana from the user or the surrounding. After Peppers would leave the Dungeon World, the Dungeon Core would be part of the surrounding which needed to provide the mana.

With the System as a partial owner of the Dungeon Core, it would have to ensure that the Mana dispensed by the Dungeon Core was regulated properly into the platforms to keep them afloat and also to avoid them leeching the mana off each other.

Even Moloch was once again amazed by the System's capability since the Dungeon Core was more complicated than it appeared. "Our most experienced Demon Sages in this world could never handle this kind of calculations like the System in order to make the Dungeon Core work as they please, Moloch told Jin as it surveyed how Peppers conscientiously worked her magic unlike when she was in battle.

"Really? I guess that's the System for you... But to be honest, when you previously said something about the resources and how it's similar to the System, I kind of just blindly nodded my head." Jin shrugged, hoping Moloch could give a better explanation.

"The Dungeon Core may look like a holy grail granting anyone whatever they want to for their land. But it's not as simple as what you might think. Most masters of a Dungeon Core will just stick to the initial input options provided by the core and create their town fortress or cities fortress that way. " Moloch pointed at the active Dungeon Core that was rotating right in front of them since the System dealing it without touching the spherical metallic ball.

"The Dungeon Core needs input, A LOOOOT of precise inputs to create something specific and ensure it works the way you want it to. The more complicated you want it to be, the more precise you will have to code it. Think of it as a software language builder like eh... C++ programming, if I used that term correctly. You have to type in certain codes for the Dungeon Core to work the way you want it to." Moloch started to explain when he scratched his puppet head

"But us Demons, or as the System classified us as Dungeon Demons since you have encountered like demons from the Farming World, Demons in your world....anyways, I digress. We Dungeon Demons compared to other monster races in this Dungeon World have a better edge since the codes required were based on a language that was nearly lost in the annals of history. "

"I said 'nearly' because it still exists in secrecy. We've termed it as the Core Language. If one is privileged enough to have learnt the Core Language, he would be highly sought after by various high class Dungeon Demons. King Baal has gotten a hold of one and paid him wealthily for the knowledge he held. That was also how Baal was able to create a near impenetrable Metropolis fortress." Moloch continued while they both watched Peppers levitating a humongous platform to the far end of the dungeon.

"So with the knowledge of the language, King Baal didn't rely on the input options but rather inserted the code directly into the Dungeon Core. Thus fully making use of his dungeon core. However, that was

just one way of using the Dungeon Core. " Moloch said, and as if the Dungeon Core knew what he wanted to say, it revealed a series of codes to Jin. But the omnipotent System was already typing and rearranging the numbers on the Dungeon Core with no physical input.

"As you can see, another way would be that the Dungeon Core reveals an analogue code puzzle filled with numbers. If you manage to decrypt it, the Dungeon Core listens to whatever command you have requested. For example, in this case, levitate that platform for eternity." Moloch said, and Jin was curious if there was anything more to that.

"It cannot be that simple right? There must be some diminishing returns or something?" Jin questioned when he observed the code being cracked by the System.

"Hahaha, not diminishing returns but increasing difficulty. The first code will be simple to crack. Once you have given it a wish of any magnitude, the Dungeon Core processes the request and reveals another analogue code puzzle with a difficulty based on the magnitude of the most complex wish you've ever made." Moloch answered.

"I do not know how it scales its difficulty, but there were some Lords and Kings who used this method to jumpstart their cities by giving them a mountain of dungeon dollars to start building. Some other lords were more conservative and used this particular method more wisely like an emergency wish...say a group of army suddenly attacks the village and the Lord could use this wish to summon a big giant guardian monster to defend them." Moloch explained and Jin was nodding his head in silence.

"So I was very sceptical when your System decided to use that method to get the Dungeon Core to do things...until I saw how easily it broke the code in a blink of an eye. Those harder puzzles were nothing to it, whereas such codes took High Wizards ages to crack similarly difficult ones, especially after such a high price." Moloch said while mentally recounting the the rumours and reports he read about them.

"Now that I look at it, I wonder how many wishes the Dungeon Core will grant before it will say enough is enough." Moloch sighed in amazement when he saw the System crack yet another code, and wishing for the huge ass platform at the ceilings of the dungeon to be permanently levitating.

"If the core does not have any limit, our city might be unbeatable. Surely, there must be some criteria barring certain circumstances? No? Oh and System, why did you not just wish to build the city for us?" Jin asked and Moloch shook his head.

"I'd have said that there are none just some time ago... except, that we have already tried, wishing for your city to be built according to your specification, only for it to reveal that a wish of this magnitude is not possible without much more input. " Moloch sighed and the System on his phone acknowledged.

"There were also too many uncertainties in your current layout, which were prone for errors. While System previously stated that it is feasible, it was a gross understatement. Specific areas still needed User's or Sub System User Qiu Yue input for the System and Empire Building Sub System to proceed." The System reported.

"So congratulations, you have managed to uncover something that we all thought that every wish is possible. Not counting that, King Baal used his own wish to reverse the tide in a crucial battle in his Metropolis Fortress against an alliance of 'the goody holy knights and mages'. And up till now, no one

was able to unlock the analogue puzzle his dungeon core had presented to grant another. " Moloch offhand mentioned it to Jin about the potential of the Dungeon Core.

"To this day, there's a reward of 1 billion dungeon dollars for the grab if someone managed to unlock that puzzle," Moloch remarked. Jin was quiet for a moment while his brain was thinking up something very... shady.

"Let's just say...what if we were to disguise ourselves and complete the puzzle to earn the reward, do you thin-" Moloch used his deck of cards to slap Jin. He knew what Jin was thinking the moment his master proposed the idea.

"Only the Lord in control of a Dungeon Core can use the option no matter the circumstances. You might earn yourself 1 billion dollars, but there is no way you can cheat him of his money and use the wish for yourself. That is even if you found a way to make the System into a partial lord. " Moloch stated until Wolte, who was hiding among the Minotaurs suddenly voiced out.

"But what if you combined a fragment of your own Dungeon Core with the existing Dungeon Core? That way, it might be possible to make the existing Dungeon Core assume you were one of its Lords. And guess what? We do have fragments of a Dungeon Core." Lord Wolte, The Slug suggested, which made Moloch furrowed his brows hard.

"What do you think Moloch? Can it work?" Jin was amazed that an old timer Dungeon Demon could give such a daring proposal.

"Not sure. Something as crazy as that hasn't really been tried out before. Do you remember what I told before? Dungeon Cores are generally functional or non functional. What Wolte is suggesting is to bring his own functional Dungeon Core near King Baal's Dungeon Core, then use it so that the living core can merge with his core in order to get our Lord's authentication signature in." Moloch seemed annoyed when he explained the possible rationale.

"However, if you were to assume it could work, as you want it to, you would have about 15 seconds, to crack the code and make a wish. Anything later and Wolte's Core Fragment would cease to be. Then we would only ensure that King Baal ends up with a slightly strengthened Dungeon Core, giving him even more power aside from cracking his code."

"So, it works. That is all I needed to hear. And that does not sound so hard." Jin shrugged his shoulders as if fighting for his life was a daily affair to him which made Wolte laughed loudly.

"Son, I like your way of thinking. I approve of you. Take my dungeon core to that bastard King. Teach him who's boss." Wolte said and the Minotaurs at the side snickered at his overconfidence while Moloch rolled his eyes upwards. Jin was partially joking with Moloch, but he could see that the chubby minotaur puppet was taking Wolte's and Jin's words very seriously.

"...I may have a way to make that happen but once he knows about our presence and intention, he's bound to invade us. And I mean full force. He won't be pulling any punches." Moloch said as he portrayed a depressed smile on his minotaur plushie.

"We will do it if we get our bearings together by 7th Jan next year," Jin replied and for some reason, Wolte seemed a little disappointed even though he finally had a say in things for a long time.

"I'm glad that I survived but I don't wish to remain in this form any longer. Without the Dungeon Core I feel as terribly useless. If only I could have my old body back..." Wolte said out loud even though everyone seemed to be ignoring him.

However, Jin already had a plan for the Slug after he saw his stats on Wolte's attribute statistical page. Though his physical stats were near rock bottom, his mental strength capacity or the 'Will' Attribute was tremendously high and the System stated that it was the most likely reason how he managed to use a half broken functional Dungeon Core for his own use.

"Perhaps, I could make him a metal body...something like a HulkBuster. Then we could literally turn him into a Metal Slug. Hahahha!" Jin thought to himself while Peppers seemed to be doing the finishing touches.

She had lifted almost 95% of the land in the Dungeon and created a crevice that was more than 3000 metres deep. However, Jin wanted an even deeper valley like crater so that he could build the foundation for the Pand-Altantis. "Ideally at least 10,000 metres deep," Jin told Peppers who was taking a breather from all the work she had none.

"Ehh...then you want me to fill the entire place with water once I create a deeper depth?" Peppers asked as she took her pointy large hat down to fan herself while replenishing her vitality with Milk's very own concoction of power vitality drinks.

"Not really. I mean, since the crevice is still empty, it will be easier to descend and construct the foundations of the city before filling the entire place with water. Besides, any falling incident won't harm the monsters since they are immortal. Oh wait, those goblins that Qiu Yue recruit might die." Jin suddenly felt perplexed upon realising a possible problem.

"User doesn't have to worry. Those who have been contracted to be under the Loyalty Enforcement Orders are protected by the System. The System will resurrect any monsters regardless of the extent of the fall. Should the System fail in resurrecting said monster, System will create a clone and replace the clone with the memories of the deceased monster." System said in a very cold tone.

Surprisingly Jin accepted such countermeasures, as he believed the System would have already taken precautions. Hence, if such unfortunate events were to occur, it would be just poor luck.

As if the System willed it, Qiu Yue came to Jin with a sunken look in her face. "You look like you haven't slept for ages." Jin joked but she placed her head on his chest, nearly falling asleep at the touch of his warm chest. She then looked up and saw that the floating platforms were already ready. Jin then remembered that the time difference between Goblin World and the Dungeon World was moving at two different paces.

"You are fast, I did not expect you to get the floating land platforms ready this quickly." Qiu Yue said as she pushed herself away from Jin and took her phone out. With a tap of a button, 3D holograms of steel bars and ropes were seen connecting from where they were standing to a particular floating land platform.

"Emi, you can start doing your job now." She yawned as she called out to her Empire Building Sub System, which she had nicknamed for laziness sake. In no time, two System portals appeared with Orcs

and goblins coming out from each. The goblin soldiers-turned-workers, had some slight reservations but weren't as terrified as the craftsmen in the presence of the Orcs.

Due to the Loyalty Enforcement Orders, both the Goblins and Orcs just kept their mouth shut and started the work as to how the Empire Building Sub System had commanded them to do. Tools and raw materials magically appeared for them, courtesy of the Sub System when they reached the 3D holograms.

Apparently, it was the blueprint which the Sub System had already prepared and all the monsters had to do was to blindly follow the blueprint indicated by the Sub System. It was fast, efficient and not to mention precise. If a nut or screw was not placed properly, the Sub System would individually alert the monsters to tighten or loosen them.

Within less than half an hour due to the ...complicated relationship between the two goblin and orc races, they managed to create a temporarily wide sky bridge towards a large floating platform. Qiu Yue asked for a piggy ride which Jin saw no reason to refuse and carried her to the platform.

She did the same thing again, but this time, they started constructing buildings and it seemed like it was for agriculture purposes when Jin saw 3D holograms of a tractor and a farmhouse.

"Your Sub System can build gadgets too?" Jin asked though Qiu Yue was lazily nodding her head and began snoozing the moment she confirmed that the buildings were set in place.

This time round, Jin saw that the Minotaurs were also mobilised by the Empire Building Sub System. There were various building and construction tools he had not seen before, turned up from thin air, courtesy of the Sub System too.

"Alright, I guess you did your part well. Thank you, I will bring you back to your bed you little red panda cutie." Jin smiled gently as he saw his monsters were all beginning to work on the task which the Sub System had given them.

"I will overlook the building process for a little while after I bring her back," Jin said to Moloch, leaving him in charge to make sure that the three monster races played nice with each other.

This was the beginning of the infamous Dungeon City Fortress that would subsequently be known throughout the Dungeon World.

Chapter 406 Extra - Goblin Negotiation

"Argghh Lady Qiu Yue. You are really putting me on the spot here... You are simply asking too much from me!!!" King Sol sounded unusually annoyed while shaking his head vehemently towards her. While she had already acquired the Tri-force army according to Jin's preferences, Qiu Yue wanted to impress her boss by getting more on top than what she had contracted before.

"But this is still reasonable, right? I know this hasn't been written in the contracts, so how about you consider this as personal loaning?!" Qiu Yue replied while she sat at the very same meeting room she had used to recruit the craftsmen. The Three Goblin Generals, two of their sons and some of the

advisors were also present for the additional negotiations, yet King Sol was in a pinch since it appeared as everyone else in the room was in cahoots with Qiu Yue.

"Hahahah Lady Qiu Yue, you are just too crafty. Thank goodness, you are dealing with our King, else I would have given in a long time ago!" Sword General Gladios laughed loudly, and even Dagger General Igni smirked at Qiu Yue's proposal.

"Look here, Lady Qiu Yue. We are not trying to deny the truth of you had done us more than just favour, which will be remembered in future history books. I have already made preparations for that army you need, heck I've even added 5% more than what you have asked so that you are in possession almost all of our very few but competent elites to serve you. My three Generals here can vouch for that. This is proof that you deserved our gratitude of the highest form." King Sol sighed and leaned his body forward and reminded Qiu Yue about them having made all kinds of concessions in their previous dealings.

"I understand that which is why I am not asking for an army - "

"- You are asking half of the goblin mage AND the entirety of our combat engineers battalion to be loaned for a year!" The King slammed his fist in a fit of anger for it was really an unreasonable no, absurd request even by the Humanoids.

It was one thing to loan out all their elites as the Humans should be too scared for a while to try and take any sort of action given the show of military might in the previous war.

However the same could not necessarily be said, if spies would to inform their human neighbours that nearly the entirety of the Goblin Kingdom's military had mysteriously left. Qiu Yue then realised that she seemed to hit a raw nerve and kept silent for a while as the King simmered down.

"How about this? We will ask if any of the goblin mages and combat engineers want to join Master Jin, granted they are given perks that will be significantly better than the ones the craftsmen have received?" Dread Reaver who had been quiet up to this point of the conversation, had decided to back her up.

"Maybe it is time that you reveal to us a bit more about, why you would want that many mages and engineers? What exactly is Master Jin plotting?" Spear General Argent asked with curiosity ever since the day the Humanoids asked for craftsmen that were obviously inferior to the Humanoids' technology

"He is building a brand new city and he needs as many experienced professionals as possible." Wyrstriker decided to chime in but he was only telling them the partial truth since he had not yet been informed about the changes in their newly formed floating/undersea city.

The whole reason why Qiu Yue currently asked for combat engineers and mages was for the construction of more Sandroku Golems which could be used to accelerate the building process especially for the larger buildings as well as delving into the deep valley crater to construct Jin's Pand-Atlantis.

This was because the deeper they had to venture into the valley, the hotter it would be. Even though the System can consistently revive dead monsters, it would be too impractical to do so just because they died from heat strokes. Considering Peppers had 'dug' much closer to the Dungeon World's core, it would be better to be safe than sorry and protect the monster workers.

To counteract this, Jin could fill up the deep valley crater with water but that would lead them to handle the pressures of deep water construction. The System had already calculated the cost and find that constructing more Sandroku Golems were more cost effective.

Alternatively, they had considered fighting against the immense heat with a system of constant ventilation with cold icy winds while mining tunnels around the crater. Regardless any option they chose, the mages and engineers were still needed to make as many Sandroku Golems customised for construction as possible.

Ayse and the Elfish researchers had already improved the initial Sandroku design as assigned by Jin and they could have asked the System to build it. However, that would incur huge unnecessary costs compared to getting the Goblin Mages and Engineers to build them since all they had to do was to follow the blueprints.

The new Sandroku golems are now modular in nature, allowing it to fit parts for construction like drills, scoopers, claws etc. It can also be refitted within a span of 15 minutes with battle modules so that they are all battle ready, making them extremely versatile. But because of the modular nature of the golem, it was not as tough as the first generation of battle golems. (But at least, the new one has cockpit air conditioning!)

Therefore, it was Qiu Yue's job and responsibility to make sure that Jin had sufficient money to build his new empire and then some for the future too by saving money on operational costs. But in a rush to catch up with Jin, she unwisely showed less tact with her current negotiations. After dealing with King Sol, so much over the last few weeks, she had not taken into account, that even the most patient creature could reach their limits at some point.

"Still, that does not warrant using our civilian and military engineers or mages? What do you think we are? Some rental store?" King Sol said with a tone of controlled anger. He wasn't too proud for having lost his temper for a moment. In fact he knew, that Qiu Yue had always been quite fair in their negotiations, not taking too much advantage of them having saved his country and waited for her to explain herself.

"...I shall elaborate more." Qiu Yue understood she was in the wrong and knew that she needed to mend the relationship by giving them the full picture. When the Goblin King and his general heard the concept, they could barely believe it. After Qiu Yue, showed them the images of their blueprints, all of them applauded it. That mysterious Jin kept surprising them over and over. For him to have such an ambition to create a floating city as well as an underwater one, it clearly showed to the Goblin King how much power that young man was wielding.

From the previous war, he had hundreds if not thousands of humanoid followers willing to aid to his cause. He also possessed mighty firepower that held back the Orcs and their infamous Lost Tech artefacts. Lets not forget him having seemingly unlimited other sentient monsters that were completely foreign to the Goblins. Not to mention giving them hundred of thousands of gold as part of the contract immediately up front? All this served to remind them that the Goblins should not even think of fighting against a person like Jin.

Loaning all their elites as their 'ultimate gratitude'? Suddenly King Sol thought it was laughable that he thought of it that way. Even if they gave away the entire kingdom to Master Jin, he would think that was

nothing to him. Qiu Yue hadn't realised that her simple explanation became an efficient way of threatening-erm persuading the King and his Generals.

"Thus, in return, those Sandroku Golems your mages and engineers are going to construct will be sold to you all at half the price we are selling at the end of our City Building." Qiu Yue finished her pitch and King Sol furrowed his eyebrows.

"I understand your concept now. But why are we paying so much when we are loaning you the manpower?" King Sol asked his tone being more placid than earlier.

"Because we have already improved the designs of the initial Sandroku Golems and we are going to buy all the raw materials from your goblin suppliers. We will need to earn something back or else Jin might not have enough money to build his city." Qiu Yue answered. King Sol considered her answer for a while before he suddenly smiled a little.

"You have convinced me. I permit you to loan 60% of our mages and engineers to build the Sandroku Golems. The Kingdom will even pay for all the raw materials you need. In return, we ask for the selling price of the Golems to be at 10%, if possible at 5%." King Sol offered as he could not imagine how much those improved machines... Those work of wonders he saw briefly during the Celebratory Parade would cost at full price.

"6%. That is the cost needed to cover maintenance and the payment for my other workforce. As you should be aware, some of the materials needed can only be provided by us." Qiu Yue was a bit surprised that King Sol became so friendly, but she was willing to take his offer up.

They had taken enough advantage of him already, so it should prove beneficial to make them this concession as a show of goodwill, for future negotiations. (As what Jin always emphasised to her.) The Sub System had already calculated to total amount they needed for magic fuel and other expenses, and hence the 6% of the original selling price would become 150,000 Goblin Gold.

King Sol agreed since the gold used to spend on the local goblin suppliers would give the Royalty some exclusive loyalty benefits in the future too. It could also be seen as an injection of funds to potentially aid these suppliers as a tactic to recover the sluggish economy after the war.

Qiu Yue instantly created the contract documents on the spot upon hearing the King's agreement. The Sub System had provided her with a suitcase that had an inbuilt printer and laptop (as well as other things!) that allowed her to change and amend any prepared contracts on the fly. After which, she gave it to the King to sign. (The King was amazed that the Humanoids had such advanced printing technology. The goblins had to use mages to write that fast.)

However, this contract was unlike the previous ones when she made only King Sol sign it. Thanks to the introduction of the Empire Building Sub System, she was able to make anyone who signed a contract with her to be subjected to the Loyalty Enforcement Orders.

Therefore she decided to make sure that the Three Generals signed it as well. It was not too hard to convince them, as they were all in charge of the mage battalion. (King Sol did not want to give a general too much power by taking charge of the most offensive battalion in their arsenal.)

As all four of them signed the contract, they did not know that there was a small subtext which stated that the Sub System could enforce it into a permanent Loyalty Enforcement Orders.

It was an underhanded trick and Qiu Yue felt bad initially for making use of their trust this way, but she wanted the four goblins to eventually be exposed to the System so that this good hearted King and his three Generals would continue to rule the Goblin Kingdom with their citizens in mind for a very long time. (It also was a great way to keep tabs on them. because Qiu Yue unknowingly preferred to have them under her control, just like how she quietly controlled the Orc King Frost Echo.)

"Congratulations Sub System User Qiu Yue. You have completed the optional Mission by gaining control over 2 Kingdoms now." The Sub System told her and granted her a crapload of gold for completing a side mission. Qiu Yue casually opened her phone to check her account to verify the amount given.

"I initially wanted to use this gold to finance the Sandroku Golems. I will have to thank King Sol's change of heart, which provided us with some extra allowance to play around for Jin's new city. Thanks, Emi!" Qiu Yue smiled as she thought to herself while King Sol assumed that she was doing so because of the signed contract.

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"As stated, I will return the mages and engineers back as soon as possible. Also as a sign of gratitude, I will send over one free Sandroku Golem Mk.2 for your other mages and combat engineers to study it. Who knows? Maybe they might find something that the assigned goblins could not?" Qiu Yue giggled and so did King Sol who imagined the prospect of having a mechanical army to deter his neighbours.

Chapter 407 Goblin Runesmith

It was a rocky start, but somehow, the Orcs managed to keep their temper in check as they worked alongside the goblins. The Goblins were surprisingly agile and useful when it came to more delicate tasks such as fixing the lights or electrical wiring, all dictated by the Empire Building Sub System. Oh and speaking of the Goblins...

A few hours ago, the incoming goblin army who would be aiding in Jin with the construction of the city, were briefed by Dread Reaver and Wyrstriker on the 'System'. They explained that Jin had employed a wide area magic that would allow commands and instructions to be given within their head. All they had to do was just to follow the orders from the voice in them.

The goblins soldiers who also went through the signing of the contracts thought they knew what to expect until they reached Dungeon City Fortress and noticed two things that made their brains go haywire.

Large floating land platforms above their heads and Orcs. Lots of Military Orcs.

Some of the soldiers kept their wits as they had been warned beforehand, that there would be other races helping with the construction and only placed their hand on their weapon should they need it. However, the goblin footmen, especially the younger ones unsheathed their weapons instantly and

were ready to fight at the word of the sons of Goblin Generals... until Wyrstriker came forward and shook hands with the Black Disaster. It was almost impossible and in their eyes, it felt like it was betrayal until Nubwort threw a wrench at them:

"What you puny green noses looking at? Get to work for Master Jin!" The Black Disaster shouted and the Goblins were stunned.

"This is one secret we had withheld from you guys, but until you saw it with your own eyes, you wouldn't have believed it. Master Jin had graciously healed those orcs and now they are in his debt. They shouldn't do anything stupid such as attacking you guys. But if they do, you will be protected by us and Master Jin's miracle magic." Dread Reaver reassured the goblin soldiers and the craftsmen who came in last.

"Oh, but if you wish to spar against them, there will be a time for that too, trust me, heh." Dread Reaver added before he left.

On a separate note, the goblin mages and combat engineers had yet to be selected by their battalion commanders and the contracts weren't prepared yet. Why? Because Qiu Yue was busy sleeping in her room (with time dilation on to match the Goblin World) after spending nearly a day signing each individual contract of the goblin soldiers.

Thus, they were projected to arrive at least a day later in the Dungeon World before they started working on the new customised Sandroku Golems for use in the construction of the Pand-Altantis. Right now, the entire workforce concentrated on creating the foundations for the floating industrial cities which was proceeding rather smoothly.

The work was so simple as stated by the Goblin Generals' sons. It was basically so idiot proof that the soldiers had no qualm following it to the dot. The monsters only needed to keep up with the orders the Empire Building Sub System had created to build the city up from scratch.

Through logical analysis and based on proven theories, the buildings built by the System would be nothing short but superior. It was made to withstand a certain degree of damage and would be easy to rebuild again, should the need arise. As what it does as always, Modular building. Divide the heavy workload into various small tasks and conquer them individually.

This particular System ensured the least amount of dissent and increased the teamwork between the Orcs and Goblins, as both races had differing opinions on how to 'properly' build things.

The Orcs preferred big bombastic kind of architecture whereas the goblins preferred to save and cut costs on building materials. For the Orcs, only the honourable ones were allowed to design or even build, so they used the opportunity to ensure that their building would be extravagant as a testimony of their abilities, and for future generations to try and improve on it.

The goblins, being smaller in comparison and more pragmatic due to their nature, did not need a lot of space. While there was a minority who considered it a challenge to design houses as minimalistic as possible, the majority would not complain about building to have some extra room. The two extremes were forced to change their views when the Empire Building Sub System ordered them to do things the Sub System way, and it was refreshing for both races.

Despite the aforementioned (enforced) teamwork, scuffles between the Orcs and Goblins did happen, but they were quickly broken up by the Minotaurs before any serious damage could be done. The Minotaurs were larger than the Orcs and had more strength than an average Orc soldier which made them ideal to intervene on the behest of their Lord Moloch. (Somehow the cosplay they were wearing made them even more menacing than they should be. The Orcs did not know how to argue or fight against them.)

Although the Orcs could have overpowered the Minotaurs given their massive numbers, they were previously informed by their officers and generals that Nubwort himself would take strict action against any Orc who initiated the scuffles with the goblins. (He knew how prone young hotblooded orcs were quick to anger. Nubwort did not want to lose face by losing his Master's bet. The looming threat of Kraft was also quite effective)

Hence, when the Minotaurs broke them up, the Orcs were immediately asked to leave the vicinity and work elsewhere to cool off. Unlike the orcs, the goblins were informed by the Goblin General's sons not to create any trouble at any circumstances with the promise of bonuses such as more gold or a custom made weapon/armour at the end of their work.

It was a valuable learning point for the system to see that the Orcs were more receptive to punishment while the goblins preferred the carrot to the stick.

The craftsman, on the other hand, were not subjected to the strict commands of the Sub System. Instead, they were given general tasks to do according to what they specialised in. For example, the magical clay craftsmen were each given the order to create a sample clay soldier for the Sub System to analyse. The best work would also be awarded an additional monetary incentive.

It did not take long before the craftsmen informed Moloch of the quantity and the raw materials as well as the tools required. Because they did not have a proper place to create their products, the goblin soldiers and the minotaurs assisted them in building a few makeshift workplaces to start working.

However, not all were satisfied with this particular arrangement. Jesta, a reputable Goblin Runesmith, demanded that she and her cousin Hespesta, a Weaponsmith, had a proper workplace to create their products. "I was made to believe that the Half Masked Humanoids have the best technology and you want me to work in the dirt?!" Jesta complained so much that even Moloch gave up calming her down and requested for Jin's intervention.

Jin, who was in the midst of preparing to design the upgrade of the Recovery instance was interrupted by the System, and came in to see two angry goblins pouting. His mood was not the best, especially when he had felt a sudden inspiration on what to do for the Recovery instance, only for him to lose his thoughts at the interruption.

However, it was also on his behalf that the System was instructed to refrain from using the Enforcement Loyalty Order except for emergency situations. From what he knew, the two craftsmen (Actually it was mainly Jesta) were unhappy that they had seemingly been cheated by Qiu Yue and demanded a suitable and comfortable workplace or else she and Hespesta would not perform anything that Jin's magic instructed them to do so.

Jin felt a migraine coming up almost immediately when he heard it. He clearly understood that it was important how he handled this. He needed to play this cool. If he allowed those two haughty goblin craftsmen to get their way, others would want similar treatment too. But he also knew that Qiu Yue and the Sub System had chosen the best goblin craftsmen in the kingdom and they weren't wrong to ask for the best equipment to maintain the quality of products they create or excel even further.

"You are right, all you have is makeshift workshops. Is there anything wrong with that?" Jin, who had entered without his mask, as he saw no reason to continue the farce in the Dungeon World, had decided on the way he would intervene.

"Who the hell are you?! I wish to speak to Jin and not some human trash serving under him." Jesta snapped at Jin, only increasing the odds of his incoming migraine.

"I am nobody just like you in this place," Jin answered as calmly as he could while folding his arms. He stared her straight into her eyes while emitting his chi encapsulating the two. She and Hespesta immediately fell to their knees and started to cough a little before Jin released the pressure.

"If you want to play with his toys, you will first need to prove that you can make do with these makeshift workshops." Jin purposely said it out loud for the other craftsmen to hear.

"Haven't we proven ourselves enough in Lady Qiu Yue's examination? Why do we need to prove ourselves yet again?" Jesta replied with a shout though Hespesta was trying her best to calm her cousin down. They were in another foreign land, who knows how far away from home and the Orcs around them were giving them ugly stares of disgust.

"Prove? You call those examinations proof that you are worthy? Don't make me laugh. All you have proven is that you are worthy of our interest. Don't forget it is US giving YOU the chance to learn OUR technology." Jin was getting irritated even though he knew it might potentially make the situation worse.

"You have the chance to acquire the knowledge you would think its impossible!!" Jin stated blatantly. While he did not like playing the arrogant bad guy, he figured that it would be better, in the long run, to prevent them from getting ahead of themselves.

He snapped his fingers twice, and a piece of inscription charm appeared in his hands. "Tell me, can you even make something this with your runes, Ms Runesmith?" He picked up a stick which a nearby Magical Clays craftsman had just made and slapped the inscription charm on to it.

After which, Jin walked a few metres away from them and ensured that there was no one in front of him. In less than a second, he activated the inscription charm with his chi. Suddenly a burst of fire engulfed the stick without burning Jin's hand in any way. Jin turned his head to make sure that Jesta was seeing the result of that and he was quite amused at her shocked expression.

Previously, Jin had asked his three goblins to tell him more about Runesmiths and they confirmed that they were similar to inscribers in every way except for the medium they used, which in turn resulted in one particular aspect that separated them from the inscribers. The runes could be activated by anyone, even a goblin baby. Since no chi was involved, even a non-cultivator from Jin's world could use it.

Instead of chi, it used the magic that was within the rune itself so it was not wrong to consider a rune something similar to a magic battery. The task of the Runesmith was to create a rune and its corresponding magic he or she wished to insert.

With more proficiency, a Runesmith could ensure a higher quality of magic within the rune or an increasing number of uses in it. Naturally, the most proficient Runesmiths were able to ensure both. Jesta was one of the geniuses belonging to the particular category. She was hailed as one of the Kingdom's finest and able to insert any Grade four equivalent magic into a basic rune.

This exceptional ability clearly put her on top of other runesmiths. The knowledge and expertise to create runes of that power weren't secret so all it came down to was ability. It was easy to imbue an elemental type into a Rune corresponding to Grade one magic, but even the ablest could at most execute a Grade two magic on a basic rune.

If they wished to make a more powerful Grade three or four, those runesmiths would need higher quality stones or minerals which were hard to find in their world (but exceedingly common in the System's market)

Jesta did not know how exactly Jin performed his show though she realised straight away that it was similar to her runes just that it was in paper form. She could sense a bit of foreign magical energy or some kind of energy transfer into the paper that was already embedded as symbols on the clay stick before the burst of fire appeared.

"You think this is it?" Jin asked after he had given her time to analyse what he had done. He slammed the clay stick down to the ground, and an immensely large fire blast was emitted out of the clay stick which scared the hell out of the goblins behind Jin, thinking that the fire blast was going to backfire at them.

"If you are smart enough, you will get what I mean." Jin came out of the fire, without suffering any injuries as he threw the clay stick to her and she looked over the symbols on the clay stick, still glowing for a while before they went out.

It was a direct challenge from this human and a show of power to signal the others not to mess with them especially not to harbour any intentions against the human in front of them, thinking that he could be taken advantage of. However, Jin was not going to leave without giving them something to ponder about.

"We do not expect things to be done fast from you craftsmen. We understand items of quality take time to make. But for now, we want to see what you are capable of, without access to rare or high tier products. Show us decent results as ordered by the voice in your head, and you might just earn yourself a brand new luxury workshop and a wealth of knowledge that you'd never have the chance to touch upon otherwise." Jin saw that other goblins and orcs were looking at him from above the floating platforms and he nodded at them too.

"That includes all of you out there! If you think that you deserve better treatment, prove it through your actions!" Jin stopped and looked around him once again since it was addressed to all of them. As if a switch had been flipped, all the goblin craftsmen began to work with that goal in mind. Even Jesta kept her peace and decided to work as instructed...for now.

In the meantime, Nubwort and the Orcs had witnessed Jin's show of strength and they respected the way he managed the situation. It proved once more that Jin stood above them all.

"Heh, that kid. He understood how to handle both Orcs and Goblins at the same time." Nubwort thought to himself before he continued to 'urge' his fellow orc comrades to pick up the pace.

Chapter 408 Revised Layout of the Recovery Instance

"It is rare for you to be that angry at a monster, especially a new one – wait why the sad face?!" Pei asked via the bracelet as she observed the attitude of her master.

"... That one time use of Fire Blast Inscription was worth at least 500 Yuan. ... I just spent 500 Yuan trying to show off. Uhhooooo" Jin exclaimed while feeling terrible. He thought it would feel good showing off and boasting about the System's inscriptions to the new subcontracted monsters, but right now he felt regret.

"It is all User's fault for being so careless and choosing the wrong inscription." System stated as it knew that Jin had wanted to choose a cheaper inscription, the Burning Slash inscription.

"It is not my fault! I was too angry that I snapped my finger twice okay!" Jin understood where it went wrong after he released the Fire Blast inscription charm only to realise it was the wrong inscription. However, it was too late to stop, and he had to keep up the act to ensure that the monsters were terrified and understood their own standing.

"Hahahahah! At the very least, you made them acknowledge your seniority in this place. However. I still don't get why you haven't told her that you are the Master of this place? The System would have taken care of the Enforcement Loyalty Orders the moment they doubted you." Pei asked.

"Eh really?" Jin got embarrassed as he hadn't even considered that option. It could be that he was too immersed with the building of the recovery instance and got irritated when interrupted that he had forgotten about it.

"Don't give me that 'eh Really' reply!" Pei came out of her bracelet and knocked Jin's forehead with a large paper fan.

"Ouch! What?! Ow! Where did you get a Paper Fan out of nowhere? You think this is some slap comedy? Ow!" Jin said while feeling wronged as he tried to defend himself with his arms blocking the incoming attacks. Pei had initially wanted to only hit him once, but she suddenly felt it was therapeutic, even fun doing so and laughed along too.

"Anyways, those are deserved hits for being such a lousy designer when it comes to the recovery instance," Pei explained as she took another look at the current blueprint of the System Console in the Dungeon Maker which Jin had left halfway. "Imagine what would have happened if you used this to revamp the Recovery Instance...Oh wait, you might not know about the consequences since you do not have any experience in it. Anyways, the old System designed instance had a much better layout." Pei stated, and Jin noticed that she was in another traditional costume, a silky, neon blue Mongolian dress.

"What are you looking at?" Pei squinted her eyes when she casually looked back to see Jin scanning her entire body. She instinctively took the large paper fan and whacked Jin's head so fast that he did not see it coming.

"Urghh... Sorry, it's my first time seeing someone wearing a Mongolian costume. By any chance is your choice of weapon that large Paper Fan?" Jin commented, and the paper fan flew towards him and instantly hit the bullseye (his forehead).

"Just something a prop that I used on a daily basis when I was alive. That's all." Pei giggled and she observed the layout thoroughly once more. "I was a surgical doctor by trade. A real doctor, unlike that fraud Milk who uses magical spells to heal people. And if you are wondering, yes, I have been keeping myself updated with the latest knowledge. Peppers isn't the only one who has access to the hijacked data from your school's database. While I can't stand that fox guy, even I have to admit he's capable of keeping the database updated." Pei said with some annoyance, but promptly smiling to herself as she remembered the times she sneaked out to gather a few research articles in while Jin was busy creating his dungeon instances.

"Some of the information was quite appalling, to say the least, but they made much sense," Pei explained as she sat down with her legs crossed and swiped the digital console of the Dungeon Maker.

"You are a doctor? I thought you were just good at psychological defence?" Jin uttered as he was beckoned by Pei to sit beside her.

"Learnt that as part of my job. The System was kind enough to provide me with sufficient practice inside that blessing bracelet." Pei said while she placed her hand on the table to support her lazy chin.

"Wait...What?!" Jin accidentally shouted and Pei's eyes lazily looked at his direction.

"You heard me. The entire blessing bracelet is like a surgical room for me to practice my surgical skills. Granted it started out as nothing but a storage ring, but I told the System to renovate the contents inside. So I eventually got a space for myself to cut a few zombies up for practice." Pei said.

"Wait, what did you think I do in there? That I'd stare at you constantly for the entirety of your life? Waiting patiently for a moment to catch someone who tries to perform a psychological attack or use some mind magic? Dream on." Pei said as she took Jin's Creator Pen and circled the flaws of his new recovery instance design.

"Well...erm... No, I was thinking that you more of a hacker of sorts, something similar to Kraft?" Jin answered without thinking and he was given a violent (death) stare for mentioning that name, but that was better than being whacked on the head by her. (Since the paper fan was beside him and not her. His forehead still hurts.)

"Anyways, here. Here. And Here. This is bad floor designs. I know you want your patients *cough* I mean cultivators to be at the crux of the care flow but if you place your nurse station here. They will have to run from one end to the other to take care of your cultivators. Expending of portals to travel will only incur unnecessary costs." Pei pointed out as Jin kept quiet to listen.

"You should place your storage rooms at the centre since this is not a real hospital. That way, your panda nurses can restock if there is a need. Also, you need about two cleaners per level too. For one

thing, it will be faster than assigning your Panda Nurses to do that whenever they are free. Besides, it would indirectly degrade the image of your Panda Nurses as well as their perception of nurses in the real world. They are lifesavers, not servants." Pei explained.

"At least it's great that you have planned to include one more surgical rooms. It seems the assassination incident made you wary. But your surgical theatres are ill equipped." Pei berated him and started to create a list of items that Jin needed to buy from the System Market. Things like gloves, masks, gowns, extra sterile apparatus including a sterilising oven etc.

"Oh my god...I didn't expect it to be THAT expensive. A surgical couch cost at least 340k Yuan (44K USD)?! You must be kidding me!" Jin browsed the System's market and could not believe it.

"Trust me, the items sold at the System's market are already waaay cheaper than those medical vendors out there ripping hospitals up." Pei added as she continued to ramble on that Jin also needed to add an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for follow ups after extensive surgery. She did not recommend an intermediate care ward because the surgical room and the ICU were for extreme cases which should not happen too often in Jin's place.

"Oh eh and upgrade your Panda Nurses. Like how you did for certain other NPCs like the Sushi Chef Roro. That way, your Panda Nurses won't just be some idiot servers. That should come in handy if there is every a surgical procedure, you'll have nurses who will be able to deal with emergencies." Pei added and Jin's heart was about to break even more after seeing the total cost for going through Pei's revisions.

"System...do I need to follow Pei's recommend- Ouch!" Jin got whacked by Pei before he could finish his sentence.

"Do you really want to have a repeat of that Banned Emperor Assassination all over again? Do you think Milk's powers are limitless?" Pei rebutted as she folded her arms angrily.

"Huh? What do you mean? She can cure wounds and stuff, right?" Jin replied and Pei sighed at her hardest. It seemed as if she had enough of her stubborn master, for now. Seeing the frustration of Pei, the System instead took over, explaining why Pei was angry.

"Healing Magic is not the same as surgical procedures. While Bellator Milk had successfully managed to do that surgery, it was through the System's and Peppers help that it was possible. If all three possible Dantian sites had been affected, Milk would not have been able to remove it at all unlike Former Bellator Pei." System said and Jin nodded his head confused.

"You are not answering what he wants to hear, System." Pei sighed again, feeling the urge to show a large enough paper fan at the System if situation permits.

"Healing Magic fastens the process of recovery, such as wounds healing. It assists the body by removing insignificant foreign body objects like a small bullet with a cure wounds spell. But what do you think happens, when say...a spear is stuck in you? I hope you don't need for me to explain how a basic 'cure wounds' won't help much, right?" Pei asked and Jin nodded his head.

"It would only stop the bleeding, and more basic 'cure wounds' spells would need to be cast to close the wound even further. That is kind of how Chi Potions work too, right?" Jin remembered the time he had to chuck a potion to recover his chi so that the wound would stop hurting.

"Yes and no. Those chi potions made your chi generation more potent by unblocking clotted chi points, allowing you to create more chi and thus assist you to stop the bleeding. But can 'cure wounds' or chi potions able to help you with a chopped off hand?" Pei asked once again, and Jin shook his head, saying that he cannot grow a new hand out.

"Exactly, that is where surgery and medical skills come in. Healing magic prompts the growth of your cells to replicate faster or in a way, enhances your body's healing mechanism. You can say it is some sort of time acceleration magic or hell, a mixed bag of time acceleration and deceleration magic." Pei explained.

"Fine, maybe Milk has spells that allow shit tons of time acceleration for you to regrow your hand back but not every healer in the world had powers like her, and they would surely be downright expensive," Pei said her alternate thoughts for a second before returning to her exposition.

"Unlike true time acceleration magic, healing magic's time acceleration portion is only focused on one particular spot, the wound. The spell also aids in numbing the pain though that particular component is currently argued by many scientists that it could be the rush of adrenaline with the aid of time acceleration magic. Still, that is debatable." Pei said as she leaned backwards in Jin's chair.

"And I can guess what you are about to ask. What about those even higher level spells? Or even the rumoured almighty magical spell able to bring one back from the dead? You do know why it has to be cast almost instantly - okay at least a difference of five to ten minutes - or else it won't work? Two words." Pei asked as she pointed two fingers out.

"Time Reversal..." Jin blurted out before Pei, and she smirked as if Jin had been listening and learning as she nodded her head in delight.

"Correct. That so called 'resurrection spell' literally brings a person back to a state before they died. But do not confuse that with the resurrection with the Dantian core since it must be within the time limit to work. The longest I read is about 30 minutes? And contrary to the Dantian method, there are no worries about anything going wrong in the process provided one has the knowledge as well as a shit load of mana required to cast it. Something limited to those high grade ...very high grade spell users."

"...No wonder my professor said that the Dantian resurrection was something like a quantum jump made easy. Eh...Easy as in feasible and reproducible." Jin commented out loud though Pei was not well versed with the modern world's physics.

"Ehh..okay. Anyways, that is healing magic explained in simple science terms. Even though those mages always claim that magic could never be explained by science, hah. So yeah while healing magic does have its uses, it also suffers from limitations. It is possible to produce 'miracles' as proven by Milk, but would you rather hope to recreate a miracle, or be able to reproduce something 10/10 times through tried and proven methods?" Pei admitted with a bit of annoyance.

"Then how come you did not come to assist me when the assassination happened? Oh yea...I think the System and Kraft had not released you to me yet when it happened, no wonder Milk had to...Ow!" Jin

got hit on the head again with that large fan which suddenly appeared in her hands again and he kept his silence.

"System deemed that the impromptu surgery with Milk and Peppers has a 98% confidence level it would succeed without the aid of Pei back then. Should the Head of Royal Zodiac Tiger die, the System had also determined that User have sufficient witness to prove his innocence. User had also attempted to aid the ailing Head of the Royal Zodiac Tiger which had already increased his chance of being judged innocent. Furthermore, if the Head dies, it aligned with the previous objective of revenge which the System had temporarily ceased for now." The System explained its rationale, and there was a slight pause in the conversation before Pei changed the topic.

"Anyways, I will write down more of those flaws of your recovery instance. You concentrate on settling the few things that I pointed out. I will prioritise what you need more urgently for the surgical theatre so you won't have to worry about your budget too much." Pei added as she continued to draw big red circles on the layout with Jin's creator pen as if a teacher correcting her student's mistakes.

"Don't worry User. System will compensate adequately when User completes the Recovery Instance objective." The System replied but Jin still did not believe the System when it comes to rewards.

"Please don't do that. Don't give me hope." Jin said as he took another spare Creator Pen provided by the System and started working on the pointers Pei gave him.

Chapter 409 Farming World's Scouting Team

"Weapons Checked? Armour Checked? Light Flares?" Flame Ripper asked Meomi the WereCat and Sebastia the Minotaur Butler on their equipment status in the Werejackal's home instance.

They were assigned by Jin and Gold to scout the Farming World and report the severity of the Demon Rats infestation or as the Werejackals dubbed them: 'Farm Rats'. If needed, they would assist the existing rebel forces and perform guerrilla missions with them.

But for now, their main objective was reconnaissance. Secrecy was of the utmost importance. Flame Ripper had been appointed as the leader for the team of three, and though he wasn't the most familiar with the Farm World, the goblin undoubtedly had the most experience as well as the most power amongst them all. As his first action, the assassin had asked the System to provide them with a few sets of cosmetic inscriptions to blend in.

It wouldn't be a problem for Meomi since she could switch to a human form but the horns on Sebastia and Flame Ripper being all goblinish red would immediately attract attention. (The half masks were an option, but as soon as they discovered even once, everyone would be on the lookout for masked individuals.)

However, Flame Ripper wasn't taking any chances for the group and asked that Meomi to put on a new face too. Oddly enough...she took an inscription that made her look like a bald guy and demanded the rest of the team to call her baldy for the duration of the mission. Both Flame Ripper and Sebastia were speechless and they did not know what the werecat was playing.

"Onnee-sama! You forgot this!" Nyanmi shouted to Meomi as the team was finalising the checklist for the group. Meomi looked shocked and refused since what Nyanmi presented was her very own Sniper Whip, a personalised weapon given by Jin.

"No way, I cannot allow you to loan me your weapon. Master Jin created that for you to use. What are you going to do without it?" Meomi asked and Nyanmi shrugged her shoulders nonchalantly.

"I can ask the System to make me a replacement one, right? The most I have to do is to spend some points. Even if it were unwilling, I would use my default sniper rifle or the whip Jin had previously equipped me with those upgrade battle cards. Don't you worry too much about me. You need it more than me in that god awful Farming World." Nyanmi retorted and pushed the Sniper Whip back at her.

Both werecats could have asked the System to create a new Sniper Whip for Meomi, but that would also mean that they would also need to recalibrate it for her own use. Moreover, they would need to spend system points for the recalibration, plus all the mods they had added into the existing Sniper Whip, such as a faster reloading magazine, longer barrel for range and more rapid transformation mechanism for the whip.

Buying a weapon from the System would always result in getting a basic one. In the first place, it would have been Jin's responsibility to equip his monsters, but he was consistently being swarmed with more work that he needed an alternate way of dealing this particular matter.

Thus, he had asked the System to make an exception and start awarding his monster's with System Points, which they could use to pay for any mods along with other personal calibrations. It was because Jin felt that his minions would know what they needed, and the monsters appreciated the extra freedom, being able to buy what they wanted.

It had proven to make them work harder and pose more of a challenge to the cultivators. However, Jin would still personally give the battle upgrade cards to them since they were considered as new equipment and battle skills.

Unfortunately, this process would have taken time and points, both of which they did not have much to spare at the moment. "Alright, in return, you take my right Gun Knuckle. That way, you can surprise the cultivators doing the Bank Heist Instance or the Random Arena Instance." Meomi insisted as she shoved her personal weapon to that little cat sister of hers. They were not blood related as Nyanmi had been loaned and later bought by the System, but it was the closest relative she had among these rowdy werejackals.

"Heh, I bet those cultivators will be confused once more about which werecat is which." Nyanmi giggled and hugged Meomi before Flame Ripper announced that they were departing. Gold had already assigned them a place to start their investigation, and that was the very same mountains where Jin had fought against Keyrin.

The System had informed them that it had noticed the presence of a single Farm Rat spying on Jin when he had disappeared. It wanted them to learn if that was a scouting Farm Rat or just a stray one.

The difference? A scouting Farm Rat meant that there could be an outpost of the Farm Rats in the vicinity of the mountains. Gold had determined that it was spacious enough for Jin and the others to set up a rebel base there since it was considerably secluded. "Oh, and while you are at it, try to confirm the

location of the other three monsters that Jin has yet to fight for the upgrading of his Living Armour Suit. But that is wayyyyy secondary."

"If that's the case, I suggest you guys follow this route....here and here..." Grey had suggested in a meeting with Flame Ripper before their departure. Nevertheless, the goblin was not very satisfied with the route indicated by Grey even though it seemed like it was the shortest way through. Similarly, Meomi also stressed the change in terrain and landscape would be an arduous trek.

"Worst case scenario, you guys can teleport out, I guess?" Gold reminded them since Jin did mention to use the System's portal magic to the maximum. "Besides, the System has finally budged and allowed the teleportation of 'foreign objects' since we have prepared a secure area for them to be teleported into."

"Still, I feel it's for the best if we use the long way instead. In that case, we can resupply our food supplies and gather some information in the smaller villages before we reach our destinations. Portaling will create a disturbance in the atmosphere. The change in magic ley lines in the background can be picked up." Flame Ripper said. After he became the Avatar of Ifrit, he was able to sense these things whenever a portal appeared.

"I shouldn't have to worry about such a possibility that much. The Farming World does not have that many mages compared to what you World has. The search for talented individuals with magical powers had always been quite a tenuous search, even for us Scholars of the Compass. While it's not that rare for the inhabitants to have come in contact with a form of magic, being able to wield them as they please? That is another issue entirely. From what we had learned in the past, the Farm Rats have no such capability." Gold commented, but Flame Ripper shook his head.

"As you have said, that is the knowledge of the past. I do not dare to assume. Take me as a prime example. Would anyone have ever even considered that someone like me would manage to gain the approval of Ifrit? Nope, absolutely not. I was content with the knowledge that I would gain the chance to evolve into a Hobgoblin. But here I am, happy for fate to have had other plans for me." Flame Ripper said as he presented himself to make a point.

"So, we are not taking any chances until we learn the true capability of the Farm Rats. That also means unless it is an absolute emergency, we will try to avoid using portals." Flame Ripper iterated which his members readily agreed with him.

"I concur with that approach. If the Farm Rats can hide in a clear open day, we have to be better than them and not provide them with opportunities to predict where we are or what is happening." Sebastia, who had gone through various scouting missions for Moloch, remarked to the scouting team's debriefing.

"Then what are we waiting for? Let's go." Meomi was all serious, but she did not add anything else since the route that Flame Ripper was going for coincided with her personal objectives as well. Both Gold and Jin did not object to it as they trusted her not to take any rash actions when the time comes.

The System teleported them without a hitch, and they were at the very same place where there were still some faint tracks of the leftover burnt marks all over the plateau even though most of it were already covered by the daily snowing.

Incidentally, all of them were simultaneously searching where the sun was at the same time and with just a nod. Flame Ripper took out a piece of chalk from his storage ring and marked the side of a nearby stone to indicate that this was their starting point.

The entire party all had a basic storage ring courtesy of the System so that the monsters wouldn't be hindered by weight as they travelled. (They were the very same rings used by Sebastia and the other Minotaur Battle Maid scouts when they were searching for the broken core. The System had transferred the rights to Meomi and Flame Ripper.)

While they had all unanimously agreed on the direction to walk, Meomi stopped their tracks when they had barely begun. She placed her nose closer to the ground and subsequently crouching as if to have a better sniff.

"I smell them. It's not strong, but I smell them." Meomi, now disguised as a bald man, picked up the presence of a few Farm Rats. "Hmmm... They are leaving their tracks too obviously. Definitely, not seasoned scouts." Meomi said as she(he?!) pointed at the direction where it was coming from.

Sebastia, who disguised herself as a short haired athletic female adventurer, first cast a shadow hiding spell to reduce their presence upon hearing Meomi's findings. Flame Ripper currently appeared as a teenage boy allowed Meomi to take the lead since she discovered the source. Perhaps, Gold's prediction about the Farm Rats was correct, and he hoped that the magic portal had not caused too big of a disturbance that it had already alerted the rats.

Within a few minutes, Meomi discovered that it was not just a few rats but at least a battalion of them and they seemed to be training themselves here near the snowy mountains. "Odd...I remember Keyrin telling us that there should be no- Oh... Keyrin is not around anymore." Meomi slapped her bald head and made sure it was covered properly or else the reflection of her shiny new head would attract unwanted attention. However, her claws were instinctively at the ready until Sebastia told her to calm down.

"Don't be hasty. Remember we are here to scout. Any divergence from our mission objective, especially this early in the mission will make everything we wish to do futile." Sebastia reminded Meomi about the consequences of her actions, and she took heed reluctantly by withdrawing her claws.

"To be honest, this could be a great opportunity to see how the Farm Rats function since we have no idea what to expect from them." Flame Ripper suggested as he took out a binocular from the storage ring as well as a notebook and a pen.

"I see. Observing their actions and tactics, learning their chain of command, their routine as a rat. It's a good idea." Sebastia whispered as she too continued to observe the battalion.

"For me, I just want to kill their commander and key personnel if possible." Meomi should have thanked Nyanmi for not allowing her to refuse taking the Sniper Whip out for combat.

"I think I can do you one better since you want them dead so much. Why don't we ask the System to call out Keyrin to wipe them all out, once they are nearly done with this training exercise of theirs. That way, even if they end up learning that their camp has been wiped out, they will be looking for Keyrin instead of us." Flame Ripper offered as he watched over the rats. He was surprised at the performance of the

Farm Rats. They were disciplined enough to train, had created tents and had also started building some barrows from the looks of it.

"Hmm, fine. I'd prefer being the one to do it, but as long as they are dead... Anyways, I shall be scouting the rats in my own way. There is a crowd here and even if we have the height advantage now, who knows if they haven't deployed any veteran scouts in the vicinity. We don't want to end up as the mantis who was unaware of the oriole behind." Meomi said which Flame Ripper hesitantly agreed to her plans.

Separately, Sebastia readily sympathised with both of them. She knew that one was doing his job based on strict orders while the other was dying to get some form of revenge against the ones who apparently killed someone dear to her.

It was not an easy job for Flame Ripper, but he had to keep her in check. Too lenient and she might blow this particular mission right at the start. Too strict and it might turn into a case of insubordination. Since he wasn't Jin, he had no way to enforce any orders and it could eventually lead the entire team into trouble.

But for Meomi, this was more than an act of pure revenge. Ever since she had heard that Jin was going to assist the Werejackals against the Farm Rats, she had been training tirelessly all day and night and even to the point that she would volunteer to be selected for the Random Arena Instance.

Instead of a clone, she would personally join the Arena Instance, and because of that, the System rewarded her with additional points. She then used those points to increase her dexterity and spent the remaining ones to modify her Gun Knuckle further.

She even tried learning basic magic from Grey, but unfortunately, she lacked the talent. However, Grey admitted there was some sort of weird magic in her which he was unable to identify. The only thing he could do was help Meomi course that magical source into usable magic energy, thus allowing her to conjure sufficient magic energy to activate an inscription charm.

Upon learning the skill, Meomi proceeded in advancing her Gun Knuckles by adding inscriptions in it since there was no way to wear any decent fitting armour given the nature of her shapeshifting ability. Nonetheless, it did not mean she could not wear accessories filled with inscription charms, and she got a tail ring and a pair of earrings with the points she had accumulated.

Meomi repeatedly pushed her limits to the point where Nyanmi would exchange some of her own saved up System points for recovery potions or healing spells so that Meomi could save hers. If given a chance, the System would have evolved her long before the goblins did. (But because of the System's nature when it comes to rewards, it would withhold such evolution trigger card from Jin until he accomplished more tasks to spur him on.)

If all Meomi needed was just the trigger for the evolution, she figured that she should either train even harder to evolve naturally or get Jin's attention. But ultimately, it was Jin's decision when to evolve a monster if it required the trigger.

Otherwise, it all depended on the monster's own initiative to show to Jin that it was worthy of an evolution. Reason for that was Jin had discerned that an evolved monster required more resources from the System, which indirectly impacted Jin's money flow. It was not apparent until recently with the newly evolved goblins.

They needed more quality food to satisfy their hunger compared to when the monsters were first captured, and the System would only provide the least required amount of food necessary for survival. Any more would be on Jin's expense, which he could see a potential significant uptake if all of his monsters were to evolve.

That was also why she decided to volunteer herself for this scouting mission so that Jin would notice her. (The System did assist her by notifying her about this possible lead for the mission, which was the reason she had been hiding in Gold's office even before the conversation started.)

If there was someone who wished so badly to annihilate the entire race of the Farm Rats, it was none other than Meomi. She would not stop until she achieved her objective.

All rats must die.

Chapter 410 Magical Clay Craftsmen

As the days went by, December was just around the corner. Jin and his monsters had been working their damndest to keep up the pace so that he could fulfil the mission objectives. So far, Flame Ripper and his scouting team were able to avoid any encounter with the Farm rats.

Despite what Meomi said, she figured a bit of patience would not harm her current objective. But she took the time to learn and had already memorised the dynamic patrol patterns those farm rats had employed.

On a separate note, the Dungeon City Fortress had gone through a lot of changes since the first day. Some smaller buildings on the first platform were completed, while the larger ones had started to take form. Moloch did warn Jin that adventurers and other monsters could visit their city at any point, so he had instructed the Dungeon Core to deny entry to anyone outside their territory. He wanted to ensure that what they were building, would remain a secret until the fortress was functioning properly.

With the current timeline, Moloch felt that they could only open the dungeon 'doors' at the end of 7th Jan. He also started to see why Jin loved to 'surprise' others as even the minotaurs, orcs and goblins who were the ones building this magnificent city, were staring at it with bewilderment at the end of each day.

The platoons of Goblin mages and combat engineers eventually arrived on the morning of the second day on time for the start of construction, only to be astounded by the sheer size of the city Jin was building.

As instructed by Qiu Yue and the Sub System, the goblin mages and combat engineers were given a small workshop to start building the Sandroku Golems under the supervision of none other than Ayse herself. The craftsmen no doubt got a bit jealous but when they saw the work of marvel being created, most of them kept silent.

Those goblin engineers and mages were fast workers and had hands small enough to manage the delicate work but Head Orc Researcher Ayse had also employed some of the Orcs to do the heavy lifting rather than make the mages waste their powers lifting the metal body pieces.

It did not take long for the orcs to become intrigued, desiring to build their own version. Ayse had already prepared a special blueprint for them the moment she heard Jin and Qiu Yue discussed the worst case scenario of King Sol unable to loan them any more goblins.

Even though such a scenario did not happen and there were currently more than enough goblins to create the Sandroku Golems, Ayse already predicted that the orcs would love to try and build one. It was to prove that they were in no way inferior to the goblins. Hence, Ayse carefully picked several quick handed orcs to handle the delicate stuff while some of the larger sized ones and a few mages did the heavier lifting of the Golem armour platings.

The orcs, who were building their own version of Sandroku golems were indirectly competing against the goblin made Sandroku Golems despite the fact that they were working for the same master. Ayse purposely allowed both races to work away from each other as she could sympathise with her fellow orcs' distaste for goblins. (Well...not exactly far away from each other since the workshops were just opposite one another.)

If not for her having worked alongside the selfish researchers, changing her narrow view of the world, she too may have looked down on the goblins. (Granted, she did not expect other worlds existed.) So while the orcs and goblins were forbidden to fight directly, surely there was nothing wrong with a bit of friendly to prove who was superior between the two through the Sandroku Golems.

So Ayse decided why not? It meant that more golems would be ready, at an earlier time frame and if successful, orcs could even participate in creating the foundation of Pand-Atlantis rather than just the goblins. She also knew how competitions might have a chance to create some friendly rivalry between the races to interact, so they break away from the stereotypes that were deeply embedded in them.

Interestingly enough, the orcs and goblins had their own ideas about further improving the revised version of the Sandroku Golems. Although some revisions were flat out rejected by Ayse, she ended up accepting a few and allowed them to test it on the next golem they were building.

However, that was under the condition that if the revised golem did not work, they had to salvage the golem and build the approved model. Not to mention paying for any parts that would be unsalvageable like fried machine chips or components that broke down during the experimentation.

Oddly, not one of them disagreed with this. Despite the consequences, both races were willing to risk it all to prove who was the better one at building. The goblin engineers seemed to have an advantage at first since some of them were the ones who previously worked on the first generation models in the Northern Valley but the few selected Orcs had experience with building Lost Tech artefacts.

Apparently, those orcs came from engineering teams which were outsourced by the Military Research Department during the war since Ayse could not be bothered to handle everything herself. She had to focus on the more critical military inventions like the lost tech portal device. Thus, Ayse was also interested how those Orcs would fare against the goblins.

Therefore, it became a mini arms race to see who could build the most versatile Sandroku Golem for both construction and combat use.

At the same time, the craftsmen had worked in unison to make batches of various clay soldiers all in different shapes and sizes. Jespa, the Goblin Runesmith, had created a magical rune that allowed the clay soldiers to be activated with just a mind command while her cousin Hespeta and some other Weaponsmiths began crafting weapons for them. Since they were ultimately expendable, quantity preceded quality.

Many of the magical clay craftsmen worked tirelessly day and night, rotating amongst themselves to create as many shapes and forms as their imagination would allow. Until now, there had been no request to create a specific sort of clay soldier model with a standard mould and tool because the System wanted as much data as possible on their magical clay.

It may look like mashed up clay, similar to the ones used for children to play with, but it was the forming of the mud clay by the craftsman that gave them their unique quality. It would seem like an easy task from an outsider's perspective since all they did was smash it together at first glance, but it wasn't particularly straightforward.

Similar to drawing, the magical clay craftsman would first imagine a basic structure and the form in their mind. While mashing it together, they would insert their mana into it and make sure that the clay mixed evenly with high quality spring water.

That lump of clay in their hands would then slowly change its form without the goblin touching it at all. It was all through the manipulation of the prepared mana. The bare bone structure could then be created within ten minutes.

The next step was to recreate the bodily features of the moulded clay.

Unsurprisingly nearly all of their soldiers took on the forms of Orcs, Goblins or Ogres. After all, those were the creatures the craftsmen were most familiar with and had sufficient inspiration right in front of them. However, some of the more creative talented craftsmen who were bored making orcs and goblins had started to deviate from this. (Besides, it allowed them to break their general perception of the world they had been living in.)

There were some Humans, Masked Humanoids though the majority were in the image of the Minotaurs since they were in plain sight. Suffice to say, the first iteration looked barely anything like Moloch's servants, but it did provide the System with some feedback and the idea of letting Jin's Monsters model for future versions.

The last step was to add minute details to the clay soldier such as broken nails, an uneven set of teeth, skin folds at the neck and joints etc. According to the craftsmen, having more distinct details on the clay soldiers would increase the durability of the magical clay models, thus also more alive and vivid once animated.

But unlike the clay soldiers, Jespa's runes had to be carefully created. Her runes were essentially the heart, and the larger clay soldiers such as the lifesize Clay Ogres would have at least two runes inside of them.

Having two runes not only made those giant clay monsters harder to kill, it would also give the perception that the Clay Ogres were invincible. Be that as it may, in truth, destroying one rune can slow the Clay Orges down considerable. Regardless, the clay soldiers would be nothing more than glorified decorations without her runes.

Her work was of the utmost importance, which was why Jespa had not been too happy with her current predicament. She could not believe that she had been asked for hundreds if not thousands of her runes only to be placed into non living clay soldiers. Jespa initially thought the weird voice that instructed her was joking, but when she saw the magical clay craftsmen hastily building tens of dozens of those clay monsters, she realised it was not a joke at all.

"I can only make 3 of those runes a day. Any more and I won't be able to guarantee the quality as fatigue might become a factor. I won't jeopardise my Runesmith oath to provide only the best just because you want a large amount of quantity in a short amount of time." Jespa tried to shirk that responsibility by talking her way out of the task at hand as she complained to Moloch, after making sure that strange Human was not about to appear again.

She was hoping they would pass this tedious, monotonous job to some other runesmith. Unfortunately for her, Qiu Yue had not hired any other runesmiths since they were rare to find in the first place, much less a proficient one.

Moloch had been given full authority by Jin to handle any other disputes. In view of the previous incident, Moloch had been strictly told not to bother Jin anymore, unless it was a REAL emergency. Since calling his master was out of the question, Moloch decided to take a gamble since the System was watching after him too.

"Then why not switch to a lesser version of the rune, so that you can create more of them? You sure you are even up to the task for greater things?" Moloch folded his arms as he confronted the pompous runesmith.

"Now what do you even mean by that? There is only one rune capable of animating those clay things! Do you even know how hard it is to create one?" Jespa defended herself while taking out a sample rune of Animate Dead from her haversack. It was one of the many runes that she had carried with her to the capital to show Qiu Yue and the other goblin advisors her work for the interview.

"That is exactly what I mean. Can you really just produce ONE type of Animate Dead? Master Jin already has a shit load of zombie monsters that can do much more than just moving around. How about you show us something we cannot do ourselves!" Moloch tried to taunt Jespa, who only appeared confused on what it was he wanted.

"Sigh. Have you never tried combining your Animate Dead with another spell? Something like...I don't know. An Increase Attack Power Rune or something of that sort? That way you'd get Animate Dead with a Power Up." Moloch suggested and Jespa scoffed at his idea.

"Combining two insignias into one rune? Are you mad?! This is only possible in those legends used to motivate aspiring Runesmiths. Even the most proficient Runesmith that I've ever known, my own master could never do that." Jespa stated matter of factly as she shook her head.

"Then I suggest you better pack your bags and leave. Have you already forgotten what you've been told? Only those who can push their limit by showing what they can do with what little they have right now will be rewarded with a better workshop and a better lifestyle." Moloch recounted Jin's words.

"If you are not interested in furthering yourself, then there is no place for you to be here. It is a shame, but we will be better off, finding someone less talented and teaching them. Someone who won't give up so easily, before even trying to find ways to do what she's asked to do." Moloch was stern and it struck a raw nerve for Jespa.

"...Wait...Its just that... I don't have the materials and tools!... I mean, I may have the basic tools and can try with them, but the materials needed for combining two runes would be high tier and extremely rare to fi-" Jespa suddenly stopped in her tracks when Moloch used a card trick to reveal a specific material to Jespa.

"You mean like this the one?" Moloch asked, and it completely shocked her wits away.

"...Yes. How did you even manage to..." Jespa was lost for words. Even though this was the first time she saw mithril it matched what she saw and read upon recognising the rumoured metal of legends immediately and Moloch just pointed his thumb backwards.

"There's a shitload where that came from. If you need to recover your mana, all you had to do was ask. I have this little birdy for you. It will do the job." Moloch said as a blue magpie came out from his vanishing card tricks with another sleight of hand.

"So, stop complaining and start giving me results. Since you've come here, all you did was complain. Just take a look around you. All but you are busy with the tasks we assigned. All of them were given the bare necessities, but they all just made do with them." Moloch said as he folded his man puppet hands.

"Give me all the combinations possible with Animate Dead. I do not care how you do it. I expect all the runes to have something special aside from allowing those figures to move. Consider it a punishment for trying to act all stuck up in front of our master earlier." Moloch said decisively and Jespa's face turned white and became dumbfounded upon learning it was Jin. She then recalled and remembered that the orcs who were grumbling, kept their silence when he came into the picture.

"That.. *gulp* that...that Human was the Special Royal Advisor Jin? I thought he was a humanoid...?" Jespa could hardly articulate her words correctly but Moloch managed to catch wind of it.

"He may be human, but he is anything but ordinary. I can assure you that." Moloch replied as he spread his arms wide as if to portray that all this that Jespa was seeing now around her was all Jin's effort.

"And that stockpile of mithril? He prepared it especially for you when he learnt that you were supposed to be the most capable runesmith." Moloch turned his back and started to move away from her.

"Therefore, don't you dare disappoint our master. He might have given you a second chance with that terrible attitude, but the rest of us don't." Moloch's eyes turned pitch dark, and Jespa knew better than to mess around.

