

Dungeon S 421

Chapter 421 Hot Ice Café

"So do you guys still want to try any other rides?" Jin asked, but Lai Fu and the rest believed they had had their fill for the day even. Though they only had the chance to enjoy one ride, that particular WunderPanda event afterwards really tired them out.

Si Fang needed to catch a break from all that commotions and his fellow business store owners also needed some time to familiarise themselves with their boost in cultivation.

"Very well, please come back again." Jin waved them goodbye, only to see a familiar face from the corner of his eye, standing in a shaded area. She bowed slightly when he turned to her and tilted her head sideways, beckoning him to come to talk to her. Jin nodded in reply and walked towards her with Ku Wai as her bodyguard standing nearby.

"Hi Jin, it's been a long time." Yang Ling greeted him in a friendly manner when he got closer. "Shall we find somewhere more private to speak?"

"I know of a place, follow me," Jin replied as he brought her to Hot Ice Café, a coffee shop staffed by penguins alongside the worm ants, where they sold beverages and simple snacks like Chilling Cold Ice Cream with Sizzling Hot Waffles. Anything that had to do with a combination of Ice and Heat, the menu had it all.

Their best seller though was undoubtedly their exceptional coffee. Instead of selling Black Ivory coffee which already had a unique taste to it, Lynn had taught her Peggies how to make other sorts to provide some variety, and Hot Ice Café chose to offer its customers the Blue Mountain Coffee which was extremely well balanced in flavour with a mild acidity to it.

The only downside was the coffee beans, which were quite expensive even on the System's market. Fortunately, not too long ago the System found a way to circumvent it.

After Lynn's budding experiments with the Jacks started to show some results, the System had assigned Ayse to assist the Chef in any way she could think of. The Orc Researcher herself did not really have any experience in that field.

Fortuitously, the research team happened to have one elf researcher who was adept with farming and the cultivation of food products. So, Ayse had tasked Melis, the Food Experimentation specialist, to spearhead the research on food science so Lynn would be able to better refine her products.

Melis started experimenting with monster faeces since they were all natural fertilisers ever since she found out about the Phoenix Dung, providing a lot of nutrients to aid the Living Armour's growth. Furthermore, through some mix and match as well as a pinch of awfully good luck, Melis discovered that the Wyrms Ant faeces were compatible for growing Blue Mountain Beans.

Especially the younger generation's manure had traces of an element that was vital for fertilising coffee beans in general. The System literally threw additional funding for Melis to have a proper understanding of how it worked and Voila~! This way they managed to circumvent the middle man in the System market and grew Blue Mountain Beans which were better than those bought from the market. (Most importantly, faster growth too!)

Needless to say, the price of that coffee was more expensive than the Black Ivory even though the latter was supposed to be the most expensive coffee in their world which Jin was selling at merely a fraction of its price. It was because only true coffee connoisseurs like Xiong Da would understand and appreciate the true flavour and authenticity of it.

Jin had also tagged the Black Ivory Coffee as Black Coffee from the start to misconstrue people's conception. He couldn't let people know that he was selling the Black Ivory Coffee Beans at such a cheap price, as that would have only led to people calling him a fraud, particularly when he just started out.

Besides, its unique taste was not to everyone's liking, so it was not as popular as other drinks but compared to his reputation now and his drive for quality, the Blue Mountain Coffee could readily be sold with a steeper price tag. (The modern cultivators would always pay goodn money for quality coffee.)

Anybody who's a coffee addict loved it very much after just tasting it. (Even Melis herself began to grow her own stash for the researchers and her personal use.) Thus, it was priced at 103 Yuan (~15USD) per cup. It was a premium drink, and the Customers who bought it never regretted a single bit — even more so when it was brewed with Mr Hot's flames, and the penguins' inner chi.

On a separate note, Hot Ice Café, the store in WunderPanda was on the premium side in terms of prices; thus the interior design was more spacious and partitioned too. Similar to the rides, customers needed to queue outside to try out the coffee and snacks which were all under Chef Lynn's control instead of the System.

She had been extremely busy pulling a couple of all nighters these past few days to prepare everything after Jin approached her the moment he had thought up the concept of the Christmas instance. This instance literally allowed her to showcase all her creativity as well as creating a chain of food stores/carts that were manned by the more competent peggies themselves.

"Ooh, I adore the interior design of the place! Classy!" Yang Ling said as she took a picture of the dining hall. It was an 80's kind of diner car theme experience Hot Ice Café was presenting, and the partitions were well decorated with pictures from the 20th century including images of Elvis Presley or Marilyn Monroe's infamous flying dress scene. "Ku Wai, mind stepping aside for the moment?" Yang Ling asked her bodyguard when she sat down with Jin.

"But Miss, I cannot- "

"You can and you will. Jin is strong enough to protect me. Besides, I believe I am at one of the safest places in the whole region. Go get a coffee, you desperately need it. Jin, please help me put his bill on my tab." Yang Ling commanded and Ku Wai had no chance to rebut. He quietly accepted his mistress' orders with reluctance.

"Wow, I think he must be scarred for life ever since that assassination incident," Jin mentioned as he ordered two Blue Mountain iced coffee and a Sizzling Hot Waffles with Ice Cream which surprised Yang Ling quite a fair bit.

"Why, what's wrong? You don't drink coffee?" Jin asked the moment he returned the menu to Mr Hot, the Fire Wyrn Ant who personally attended to them.

"No! Erm...I erm..." Yang Ling was suddenly at a loss for words when she realised that she was now all alone with Jin. "...I just did not expect you to order food."

"You are asking for a chat, I figured it would be nice to have some food as well. Besides, it's just waffles." Jin replied and far from the store was Kraft and Kiyu peeking via the System's footage. His Original Bellator sighed at how thick headed Jin could sometimes be, but Kiyu did not understand what was wrong.

"The tiger girl likes him a lot, similar to how Lynn likes him," Kraft commented and Kiyu looked at him with a weird face, since she had been released not too long ago, and did not have too much time to familiarise herself with Jin and his 'girls'.

"Are you serious? Don't you mean Qiu Yue?" Kiyu questioned and Kraft sighed once more.

"Not really. Despite all her physical touches and initiative towards Jin, Qiu Yue appears to want to grow and be something like Jin right now. A new upcoming powerhouse. She admires him, but at the same time she's jealous that Lynn has taken quite a fancy for him." Kraft explained and Kiyu nodded in acknowledgement. "You could say she is going through the 'I am an independent woman' phase right now."

No one could hide any motives from this particular Bellator, especially when he had personally sworn to protect Jin even without the System making him do so. "I also believe Jin is quite aware of Qiu Yue's temperament and her slightly touchy tendency. Her language of appreciation. That's the reason why he doesn't respond to her that much."

"What about that incident when he and Qiu Yue were interrupted by the Ruby Rats attacks?" Kiyu asked and Kraft smirked with a grin.

"You should know what kind of needs young girls and boys have..." It did not take much for Kiyu to understand that meaning and she finally comprehended why Pei called Jin a lecher.

"Oh well, at least he did fend off Milk's advances..." Kiyu meekly tried to defend her master, but she could feel that Pei would scornfully snicker at her remark.

"Well, I'd consider Milk more of a tease. But maybe that might change in the future. Regardless, aside from Qiu Yue, both Lynn and Yang Ling have clearly shown an interest in him. Jin did quite a number on both of them, even if he may not have intended it." Kraft explained while zooming into the System's footage.

"Saving Lynn from being betrayed is one thing. Jin also sacrificed and assisted her reconciliation with her father. But on top of that, he has granted her a Sub System, and she has powers others can only dream off." Kraft remembered how fun it was to see Jin's panicked face.

"Saving Yang Ling's Dad, herself, helping with her deal and giving her back the ability to walk. Even Jin schemingly knew that they are going to want to repay his kindness. Just not the way he thought it would be. Quite a shame our master has the heart of a maiden and will only choose one." Kraft laughed to himself.

"Anyways, we shouldn't intervene in his love life and let him do his own choices and mistakes. Though we both know, that the System expects him to sire an heir sooner rather than later..." Kraft elaborated

to keep his long time companion up to date when suddenly the phone he was holding spoke back in retaliation.

"Many Heirs." The System corrected the original bellator and made the two of them laugh hysterically.

"Looks like the System does not care who he ends up with as long as Jin reproduces." Kiyu was still giggling as she leaned casually on Kraft to watch the interaction between Jin and Yang Ling.

"So, what brings you here? It's rare for you to come here unannounced." Jin treated her to the coffee and waffles as a friendly gesture. He knew that there was a high probability she would bring up the matter of the military army exercises which he and Hou Fei had discussed previously. However, Yang Ling was perceiving the friendly gesture as something else entirely, especially when she had been treated coldly by him on several occasions. This was the first time he had openly offered her a treat even though she knew what Jin was thinking about. Yet, she could not help but think that maybe, just maybe that Jin might have developed some interest in her.

"Just wondering how my father's saviour is doing. Ever since that attack, he has been actively erm... in a covert manner trying to find the other assassins, and if possible, the organisation as well." Yang Ling whispered as Jin was serving her a piece of waffle.

"You do not think it's a solitary attack? And don't mention it, it was my duty to try my best to save him. How's your father's recovery by the way?" Jin asked as he had his hunch about a secret organisation too. The System did hint about it, but it had not many details to follow. To the System, Jin's business growth was more important right now since Jin started to reach what the System regarded as a 'decent' cultivation level and not to mention, sufficient bodyguards around him.

"Nope, for someone to infiltrate so deeply into a military vendor company with their clearance showing no records of such possible activities...it's a bit concerning." Yang Ling replied as she savoured the sizzling hot waffles that were melting in her mouth with the blueberry ice cream.

"Oh yes, I did hear that you have signed a contract with the local police station to protect yourself from the Ruby Rats." Yang Ling showed some concern to Jin, and he immediately thanked her.

"Mmhmm. I too have heard that you played a part in me getting some business from them too. The sales of both lethal and non lethal weapons have drastically increased for the month of November. It would give my supplier...some confidence to push higher tier goods to me." Jin revealed and Yang Ling suddenly realised that maybe she could help.

"Do you need me to assist you in any way? I am sure the supplier would be even friendlier to you if they know you have the backing of the Royal Tiger Zodiac family. I owe you at least that much. Especially after you helped me extensively with the sales of the Gearboxes. They have proven to be a hit and are selling like hotcakes. Although a lot of them...preferred the one you custom made for me." Yang Ling admitted in a slightly playful tone.

"Hahaha, I bet they do. But I'm sorry I cannot help you with that since the gearbox I made was somewhat special. I had a good reason to assemble it just for you. Besides, some rare materials in it are nearly unobtainable through regular methods." Jin tried to deflect any possible custom made orders from this world. At this point, he believed he had done enough for her.

Yang Ling, on the other hand, felt her heart beating quickly. Good reason? Just for her? Nearly unobtainable? Was Jin very concerned of her well being from the start? But why was he acting so cold towards her? To play cool? To play tough? There were so many questions in her mind after Jin's reply, and she could not keep her head levelled.

"Ahhhhhhhh, I noticed too when I tried to reverse engineer the gearbox you gave me instead of the improved blueprint versions that you sent me. Oh well. Still, it's a pity because those customers were willing to buy that gearbox version for five times the price." Yang Ling sighed as she made an excuse up though it nearly made Jin spit out the coffee he was drinking to the point he was coughing.

Yang Ling reacted quickly by leaning forward to pet his back and taking a piece of tissue by the table. She did not know why she was acting like this and feeling very flustered too, but Yang Ling decided to press on with her actions.

While Jin was preoccupied with the fact that her customers were willing to pay five times the price, he could see how fast she had adapted with the new gearbox that was under her half dress.

There was no standing issues nor sensory feedback issues such that her movements were so natural with it. Jin felt like boasting that the gearbox he made on the fly was nearly flawless. "What? Why are you looking at me like you are stunned about it?" Yang Ling asked with a little blush on her face.

"No, I just saw how seamless you are walking right now as compared to uhh a month ago?" Jin replied while thanking her for the tissue paper. From afar, the two of them looked very natural with each other that Kraft and Kiyu were having fun filming them secretly.

"Anyway, where were we? Ah yes, I would like to talk about the military deal." Yang Ling who was all smiles and giggles became serious when it came to business. (but she cannot deny her pounding heart and this was the only way to distract herself for now before he noticed something else.)

In the meantime, Jin was at all ears and made sure that the System covered the partition they were in properly before they initiated the conversation.

Chapter 422 Year 430, Ordning Town

"The Farm Rats finally are resting for the day," Sebastian said as she changed shifts with Flame Ripper. While Jin was busy creating the WunderPanda instance and now discussing business with Yang Ling, it had been days since the scouting team had been on the lookout against this particular battalion of Farm Rats.

There were several close calls of being spotted, but the vanishing presence spell that Sebastia used was proven to be effective, those farm rats thought it was some stray animal that was staring at them. Some of the rats attempted to catch it for supper, but it did not know where it disappeared to.

However, it was only Flame Ripper and Sebastian that were rotating. Ever since the first day, Meomi never returned to their sight as if she was doing her own scouting within the forest that was situated beside the temporary camp the rats made. Flame Ripper did not know what to do with Meomi with her

disobeying his orders right at the start, but he noticed that there was no sudden upstart of activity by the Farm Rats.

That indicated that she was stealthy enough not to be caught or raise any attention against the Rats or maybe she might have run away from the team and the Demon Rat battalion which they were supposed to be watching.

"Anything out of the unusual?" Flame Ripper asked via a secured System Channel which they had used during the fight against the Orc King Hamu. The best part of a secured transmission channel by the System?

No sound was involved, making perfect for a long range (more like interworld range!) and encrypted communication while having zero risks of getting caught. This way, they could make contact with Gold and passed the information to him even though he is back in the home instance.

Gold and the rest of the werejackals would then piece all the information together and decipher the tactics of the Farm Rats from afar. Flame Ripper also hoped that Meomi was listening in so that whenever she needed help, he would at least know.

"Nothing, as noted for the past days, they have zero mages at all. All they have been pulling out were something akin to steampunk technology. I see machinery, enhanced armour suits and weapons, cannons and even tanks." Sebastia said as she passed a book which Flame Ripper and her had been writing in about the behaviours of the Farm Rat.

"Maybe their Mages were not in this particular battalion?" Gold who knew the timing of their shift changes, came 'online' and chipped in his opinion. The way he phrased it, the tone made Flame Ripper felt like he was sure that a mage was to be expected... Or at least for a certain somebody to appear.

"I honestly do not think so. There was another battalion that came in around the forest earlier this morning. They brought in heavy weaponry that could rival the technology that we gave the Goblins. I saw a bunch of rats flying in some machinery with wings and blades similar to the C130 planes but of a much smaller scale." Sebastia said with some concern as she climbed further into the mountain ranges to hide herself to rest.

"Its called a helicopter based on Jin's current modern technology standard. I cross referenced the image you took with the System's help. Perhaps to the other folks in the Farming World they were considered as magicians when you have this kind of technological edge against them." Gold said , and again it made Flame Ripper suspect there was something more than in Gold's words.

"Considering that they were not just training here but extracting some sort of fuel or energy source at this mountain range as spoken previously, they might find this as a place of importance. That is why they decided to bring in more security in to ensure the safety of their mining operation." Flame Ripper spoke in return via the channel.

"In my opinion, if we wish to strike this place, its best to do it tonight when the first battalion is working on restocking food and equipment. Their guard would be down." Flame Ripper said, but Gold disagreed immediately, Two monsters against two battalions of Steampunk Mechanised Demon Rats? Even adding Keyrin the Thunder Ram Demon would not be sufficient to balance the equation.

"Litoride." An unfamiliar voice in the secured channel came about and everyone was surprised that Meomi had decided to speak. "They are using Litoride as the fuel source for their equipment."

"Shit, are you serious?" Gold suddenly sounded very troubled by the new fact that was presented to him.

"Is it some rare fuel or something?" Flame Ripper asked as he continued to observed the Farm Rats.

"More than rare...That is like ore from the Farming World's Life Stream veins. I do not know how to explain it but Jin once akin it similar to the chi circuits of the world when I casually talked about it with him once. If they extract too much Litoride from the world, the Farming world might die." Gold explained.

"You know it's not just that. Year 430, Ording Town." Meomi said with controlled anger in her tone.

"...You are right." Gold suddenly gave a sorrowful reply. He knew what happened in Ording Town and why Meomi mentioned that. It was her hometown and Year 430 was when the Scholars of the Compass officially recognised and recorded the threat of the Farm Rats.

The Ording Town was famous for the Litoride extraction. While Gold said that extracting it heavily might injure the Farming World, small amounts of mining would be beneficial to the world too. The Compass Scholars found out that if the Farming World possessed too much of Litoride in its lifestream veins, the excess Litoride would swell inside of world's core causing major natural disasters to happen or unusual changes to the crops.

Thus, the Compass Scholars had also discovered a way to extract the liquid Litoride from the Life Steam of the world and made them into solid ore for transportation and storage purposes.

But in Year 430, the miners found something more than just Litoride liquid. Within the buckets of Litoride, they found a black crystallised ore in it. It was the first time they saw such an abnormality in their years of mining, so they had contacted the Compass Scholars as a precaution.

They were none other than the Scholars of the North and South, which later Gold uncovered that they could be the ones who instigated this entire Demon Rat infestation to this world after he and Scholar of the West fought with them. That was because the crystallised ore the miners had found contained the origin of the viral plague.

The Original Virus of the Demon Plague.

Gold did not have the exact details since he was not at the scene, but it was reported to him that the virus killed half of the population in that area immediately, changing them into demon rats. The rest were infected or partially infected, making them carriers of the plague. The Scholar of the West was the first to come up with a high level Mitigation Spell and she had assisted with the recovery of plague victims. However, she initially did not share the information with the other Scholars.

Because she knew that this plague outbreak seemed too artificial.

It was until when Gold, the Scholar of the East back then, came to her rescue against the Scholar of the North and South, confirmed her suspicions. The aftermath of the battle was obvious with the traitorous

Scholars enhanced by the original virus. Hence that was also how West gave Gold the details of her mitigation spell through a book.

Ever since then, Gold was running around aiding other fellow Farmers before he created the Jacks as a disguise for his rescue operations. Why? Because the people had become their slaves with the Farm Rats in order to stay in their good books and not be killed by the Demon Plague.

Originally, the Demon Plague could only affect corps, but the traitor Scholars had managed to weaponise it to infect humans. That was in theory, though in reality, such lethal weapon was in limited quantities. However, widespread misinformation of the Ording Town incident ingrained the surviving Farmers to fear the Demon Rats.

Thus, a bandit/rebel cover for the Jacks made it easy for them to steal and grab resources while preparing a sort of resistance group up and running in the Farming World... until Jin intervened and inadvertently grabbed them for himself.

When Jin learnt of this, he felt incredibly guilty, but Gold told Jin not to worry because he had passed that mitigation spell information to other living remaining mages he could trust. The group that Jin caught was just a small portion of the Jacks, and it had so happened he managed to get the Leader and a few vice leaders along.

"So yea...Meomi was one of the original survivors of Ording Town which the Scholar of the West had managed to rescue." Gold said in the chat after a long explanation. Flame Ripper and Sebastia could probably guess Meomi's true intention of coming into this Scouting Team upon learning her past through Gold's recount of events.

"You talked too much, Gold," Meomi replied in the channel with a strong hissing tone.

"...I believe It is necessary for them to know your identity so you can work better with them." Gold commented, but he did not know that he explaining the details to Flame Ripper and Sebastia would eventually backfire against him.

"You should call Keyrin in soon," Meomi said as she finally revealed herself from the shadows and aimed her Sniper Whip on a target she had been eyeing for a very long time.

The overall commander of Demon Rat Battalions.

He had been cladded in a full suit of steampunk armour the entire time they were observing, and this was the first time he finally took his suit out for some maintenance. From all the observations the scouting team had made in the past days, it was undeniable that he was the overall commanding and his suit armour made him stand out even more.

Meomi initially wanted to stay obedient and tolerant as sincerely requested by Flame Ripper but the last conversation they were having in the secured channel minutes ago made her blood boil continuously and reignited her purpose once again.

Right now, her feral instincts had taken over her, and she had only one objective in mind. "KILL KILL KILL THE FARM RATS." Meomi readjusted her aim at the tired looking rat commander as his steampunk suit automatically open the chest armour compartment and subsequently the helmet attachment. She took a deep breath with her finger half pressing the trigger, ready to fire anytime.

Although the Farm Rats did not notice a thing yet, Flame Ripper finally got a glimpse of her location the moment she made her movement of taking out of her Sniper Whip rifle. "Shit shit shit shit, She is for real! Sebastia prepare for battle!" Flame Ripper said as he held on to the notebook he was writing tightly.

BANG!

The deafening noise of a shot echoed throughout the dark forest causing all the Farm Rats to turn at that direction, missing the scene of their commander still stuck in the process of stripping his armour, being shot in the head.

BANG!

Another shot was heard and now direct to his heart. The surrounding rats around their commander finally saw the horrifying scene of their commander's corpse explode right in front of them. Meomi had used an explosive shot to make sure that their commander remained dead.

"CHARGEEEEEEE!" The Demon Rat's Second in Command shouted, causing everyone to drop what they were doing and ran for the forest.

"Come now. The cat is hungry for some play." Meomi licked her lips as she saw the horde of Demon Rats coming to her.

Chapter 423 Meomi's Fury

"Don't make a move!" Gold shouted at Flame Ripper and Sebastia through the System Channel, making them to stop at their tracks. "Meomi had decided to do this without your co-operation, and you should respect her for that."

"But isn't she?!" Flame Ripper controlled his anger and frustration for a while, and later silence ensued. He knew from the random arena instance fights that Meomi had been trying hard by herself, struggling with various cultivators and sometimes against two cultivators herself.

In a one to one fight against the Demon Rats, she would completely annihilate them, but this is not even a group but a horde of them! Not to mention, all of the rats were carrying steampunk enhancements on themselves. Also, the rank and file were equipped with basic weapon and armour equipment enhancement that would boost their strength.

Gold also said that these Demon Rats were born from crops ranging from food to even weapons. How could Meomi possibly fight against all of them without their help? Was Gold really going to call forth Keyrin to finish the entire two battalions of Demon Rats rushing against her? There was also the issue of the forest where she shot her Sniper Whip Rifle from.

Keyrin, the Thunder Ram Demon could not possibly summon a thunderstorm that pierces the lush forest's emergent layer of the canopy to fight and support her. No matter the combination, Flame Ripper could not think of any way that Meomi could emerge this from all this.

"Our Lady fired the first shot!! Attack now!!" A sudden high pitch squealing was heard the top of the forest and suddenly multiple, if not dozens or maybe up to a hundred pairs of eyes shone through the blackness of the woods. All of them were gazing fiercely against the horde of Demon Rats and tens of arrow shots flew abruptly across the forest.

The surprise attack caused the demon rats to halt their advance for a while and Meomi took that as an advantage to attack the first few of the Demon rats. With just one swipe, the rats in front of her turned into mince rat meat. The rain of arrows did not cease, though none of it hindered Meomi's furious charge of attacking the Demon Rats.

Some of the Farm Rats immediately went into formation and brought their guns out to shoot where the arrows were coming from, but they felt like they were shooting at some shadow of the forest. "Hahaha, they think those metal projectiles of theirs could hit us." A tiny low pitch voice cheerfully said as the rain of arrows came from another direction which the Demon Rats did not expect.

As the rats were frantically shooting and shouting into emptiness, Meomi continued her onslaught systematically. With each kill she performed, the rats felt that she was more confident in her attacks as well as stronger and faster.

They were not wrong.

Because of her efforts and constant pestering, Jin had decided to give her a few extra upgrade cards when he turned Grade 8. One of which was called Catzerker Fury. Each time she killed an opponent, she would have a slight boost in stats momentarily. The boost was an addictive effect and it continued to add up until a maximum stack of 20.

Unless the System was seeing things, it observed that Meomi had long exceeded the 20 stacks of Catzerker Fury, hitting almost 40 stacks and counting with each additional rat she kills. It was a unique phenomenon that the System could only believe that the werecat was pushing the limits of the upgrade card herself. The drive to decimate the Demon Rat race was driving her more than expected.

"System will not be surprised if werecat Meomi voluntarily evolved without any trigger." The System reanalysed Meomi growth as it continued to observe her reckless fighting.

With her increased stats from Catzerker Fury, her regeneration rate increased too. However, she still had to endure the constant pain inflicted from the Demon Rat's stabbing, shots and slashes that she received from all sides of her body. As long as it was not a vital wound, she continued to fight with heightened ferocity. That was why she was thankful that her increased regeneration abilities of the werecat were able to keep up with her battle tempo.

Seeing how the Demon Rats fell quickly from the attacks of the merciless werecat, they decided to bring the big guns out. (The ones that did not require much time to activate.) A mobile steampunk tank like cannon mounted on a modified Demon Rat who was two times taller than Meomi.

Like all of the steampunk enhancements, this mounted tank cannon was heavily reliant on Litorde ore as its ammo. The bullet was charged with Litoride, and the explosion radius was at least ten metres according to Flame Ripper's observation and calculation.

If she was the only visible target, take her out first. It did not matter to the rats if there were some friendly fire. To them, more can be created with mere crops by their saviours, the Scholars of the North and South, so that was not an issue. After which, they could proceed to remove the hindrances in the forest and burn the entire forest if required.

A Demon Rat loaded the bullet into the mounted cannon and tapped on the Ogre sized Demon Rat to fire. However, instead of shooting to the intended target, the shell exploded right in its face, causing the demon rat on its shoulder to suffer the backfire, eventually dying from it.

Meomi knew it was aiming at her, so she already had thrown her Sniper Whip forth, causing it to wrap around the cannon and crushing the barrel. Therefore it was unable to fire as intended when the Ogre Demon Rat pulled the trigger.

However, the backfired explosion was not enough to kill it, merely allowing it to suffer third degree burns throughout its body. Even the arrows seemed like they were just poking him. Meomi, who was busy fending off a continuous attack against the Demon Rats, knew that she was obliged to take that Ogre Rat down as soon as possible so she can take a proper breather.

Thus, she summoned out her Gun knuckle and equipped it on her left hand. The modified gun knuckle wrapped around her hand similar to a power gauntlet, comparable to what Xue Ping, the Prancing Puma cultivator had used.

Using a storage inscription charm, Meomi summoned an attachment for her gun knuckle, and a rocket booster attachment appeared on it. Doing what a rocket booster should do, the gun knuckle roared extremely loudly, violently pulling Meomi along with it towards the Ogre Demon Rat.

The Ogre Demon Rat was not stupid enough to let it get punched by Meomi, so it raised its arms out like an 'X' cross to block the attack. However, Meomi smirked at such foolishness. With a pulse of slight magic coursing through her veins and into the storage inscription charm of the gun knuckle, the rocket booster disappeared, and now a spinning drill attachment was on the gun knuckle.

Meomi pressed on the knuckle's trigger, causing the drill to spin with high power while she delivered a barrage of bullets at the Ogre Demon Rat. The drill contacted with the burnt arms of the Demon Rat and it pierced through it effortlessly. Meomi thought it would be an easy kill...until she noticed it slightly late.

The Ogre Demon Rat originated or...mutated from a Venus Flytrap crop plant. Therefore, its mouth grew larger in size, waiting to snap at the delicious incoming werecat. "Heh, I am a werecat remember? My senses already told me you had something up your sleeves." Meomi made an excuse as her tail ring glowed and suddenly she was able to evade in midair, avoiding the snap of the Flytrap mouth of that demon rat.

After which, Meomi readjusted her sniper whip as well as changing the mode of the rifle into one of the modifications her dear fellow werecat had installed previously.

A flamethrower.

Not just any ordinary flamethrower but a flame breathing device capable of the savagery equivalent to Mr Hot's wyrm flames and its sheer volume which it spits the fire was nearly the same as two breaths of Wyrm Ant Father Hot. After Meomi evaded above the mutated Venus Flytrap mouth, a click from the

rifle produced the flames of destruction to flush the life out of the Ogre Demon Rat as well as the surrounding rats.

"Woah! Lady Meomi had such an interesting device!" Another cheerful squeak was heard from the above the trees as if they was being encouraged by Meomi's actions to press on harder. True enough, the arrow shower did not stop and was even more accurate.

At this time, some of the Demon Rats were scuffling back to base, hoping to sortie in their different steampunk machinery so they could take on the ambush they encountered in the forest. But someone was not giving them any chance while Meomi fought at the frontlines.

"Do not think you can escape alive from desecrating my home with your filthy presence." Keyrin stood majestically at the top of the cliff with storms brewing above him, and coincidentally he appeared just a few metres away from Flame Ripper. In his fury, multiple blue orbs swiftly appeared in front of the Demon Rats and their pieces of machinery. As they were entranced by blue orbs, several bursts of lightning struck their camp base, damaging the steampunk machines in one go.

It caused the Litoride in those steampunk machines, those tanks and helicopters to explode, causing multiple fires to spread throughout the camp base. Being an Avatar of Fire, Flame Ripper could not stand by idly when he saw that he was able to help out without making too much of a presence.

He whispered a minor enchantment which caused the flames to be under his control temporarily and moved them at will, burning anything flammable. Thus, allowing the fire to grow stronger as well as ensuring that the rats die within the flames and smoke too.

But Flame Ripper had another objective. He made sure the flames did not burn the commander tent down, and that was when Sebastia made her move. She knew that there would be vital information and went ahead to see if there was anything worthy to retrieve.

In the heat of the moment, the Demon Rats did not notice the quiet female minotaur maid passing through all of them while gathering any possible critical information. Of course, there were occasional Demon Rats that seemed to enter into the tent for safety, but they were killed immediately by her unusual technique of coin tossing. (Seems like Moloch was not the only one who was good with 'magic' tricks.)

"I threw all the documents I can find in the storage ring," Sebastia said as she made her way out of the tent and fled into the darkness of the cliffs, allowing Keyrin to unleash his rage full force at the base camp for defiling his home territory.

The Farm Rats realising that this was a coordinated attack of some sort had decided to retreat tactically to inform of such powerful rebels existing to other battalions. Else, at least report that Keyrin was not dead at all. With the numbers, some had decided to split the angry rat mob fighting against Meomi into several groups to increase the chance of survival.

However, Meomi did not let them off...or to be more specific, her lackeys. While those Demon Rats were attempting to escape, several figures jumped off the forest canopy and hunted the retreating Farm Rats. Flame Ripper took a closer look at them with his binoculars and realised that...they have a rather small build.

Despite those small builds, the figures aimed precisely at the Demon Rat's vital points, killing them mostly with just one blow.

"Mousefolk or weremouse. They preferred the former as it sounded less stupid." Gold said as he appeared right beside Flame Ripper. Not just him but the entire group of Werejackals appeared via the portals.

"Hmmm let's just say they are the subjects of Lord of Ordning Town which my dear departed friend had once saved. If I say that Meomi was the daughter of the dead Lord, things should make more sense to you." Gold nodded his head lightly, and the werejackals behind him jumped into action, including Nyanmi.

"Since they have no magic, we better make sure all of them die so that they cannot report anything out there. I am counting on you, Demonic Sage Queen, Peppers." Gold said as he jumped down, transforming into his werejackal form midway to fight against the Demon Rats.

"I am surprised you accept to help us." Flame Ripper knew how superior the Bellators were and they were in no way answerable to the monsters that Jin had captured. "...unless Master Jin sent you here to aid us."

"Nah, I owe this little scholar a small favour for something he did for me. That's all." Peppers said as she plunged her staff onto the top of the cliff and initialised her area wide search magic.

"No rat will run from my prying eyes of magic, be it under or above ground." Peppers said as she smirked wildly.

Chapter 424 Extra: Shooting Targets

The Basic Mechas were dubbed as Core Units for being extremely bare bones. Aside from a few thin sheets of metal plating, the Core Units were a joke if they would have been sent out for fighting. Hence, what the Pandawans were going through was just an introductory course to piloting to give them a sense of how the robot driving felt like.

The reason why they could get straight into action right now was that they were basically still in tutorial mode. After passing the tutorial, would they be subjected to the waiting time as indicated by the Pandamonium App.

However, that too was an artificial timer meant to waste the cultivators' time and to create hype. It would be rather sad if Niu Lang had put in so much effort making all these robots and no one would like to play.

But to date, at least 60 cultivators were playing simultaneously which could rival the number of cultivators playing the Pet Card Arena and the Orcs Spinning Top Blades. The System also noted that there were already some cultivators obsessed with the current game, clocking almost 3 hours real time in without any signs of stopping. (The park was barely opened for 4 hours in real time.)

When the Core Units were in autopilot mode in order to get out of the Hangar Bay, virtual consoles were booted up to display instructions to the cultivators as a part of the tutorial. There were visual guides and cues in the entire cockpit showing what the controls were for and the cultivators took whatever time they have to learn as much as possible.

Stepping on a pedal to drive the engine like a car accelerator, flicking a few buttons to activate a radar map in front of them or switching to infrared vision. There were even levers and buttons to control the movements of the hands. Moreover, the helmet they were wearing was directly connected to the camera feed that was being shown via the Core Unit's head.

But right now all of the Mecha robots were in autopilot mode. All those control and button mashings were for nought. The Pandawans could only use that time to familiarise what was presented in the cockpit.

It wasn't until all eight Core Units reached a large desert field like terrain that the autopilot came off. That was when there were minor cues to tell the cultivators what to do which allowed them to start moving the robot as they wished.

In less than a minute, Shi Hui became the first robot casualty when she moved her Core Unit's right leg too far front, causing the robot to lose its balance and fall right into the dunes of the desert. "How the hell do you even control this!!!" She screamed while frantically pushing all the controls.

Not only her, but the rest were having difficulties balancing their robots except for Bu Dong and Deng Long who seem to have more 'gamer' sense than the rest.

"You useless smellies, look at the left corner of the control panel, there is an assisted AI movement, turn that on." Furi grumbled in the intercom of all the pilot's cockpit when he saw the situation from afar in his jeep. Mari was his personal assistant, and current driver while at the same time, evaluating the rest of the Pandawans.

The cultivators immediately turned on the Assisted AI Movement mode and their performance instantly improved. Some of them even tried to jump around or sprint around until Furi spoke to them through the intercom once more.

"Smellies, the targets will be up in 20 seconds. They could be anywhere within this desert terrain so unlock your weapons. The Core Units are all equipped with a basic sidearm pistol. If you'd like a challenge feel free-"

"just shoot down all the targets. Highest score gets secret prize from me." Mari interjected, and the intercom was immediately jammed with all sorts of chatter. Jia Ying was excited and asked if it was some sort of chi infused potion or some secret equipment? Separately, Deng Long believed that the prize had something to do with this Supa Robot Wars game which everyone boo-ed at him simultaneously.

In the meantime, Bu Dong sent out a voice prompt to the cockpit AI which had been playing the tutorial for him asking where he should press to unlock the pistol.

"Move your Mecha's right arm and hover it around the right upper thigh of the robot. There will be a prompt appearing right in front of you, allowing you to unlock it and retrieve the sidearm pistol." The AI

instructed. For the rest except for Deng Long, a voice command was all that was needed to retrieve the pistol since they had the Assisted AI Movement mode turned on already.

"That movement mode might be useful now, but it will definitely hinder you if you plan to play long term." Deng Long constantly reminded himself as he tried his best to do what the AI cockpit told him to since he was moving the robot manually. However, compared to Bu Dong, Deng Long had more difficulties controlling the more delicate movements though he seemed to be getting the hang of it.

Twenty seconds had passed as the group fiddled around with their pistol and the stationary wooden target boards appeared right in front of them. Without much difficulty, they had taken down their first targets, but the next wave of stationary wooden targets was now miles away from them. Although it took a few more shots than the first one, it was still manageable for everyone.

The third wave of stationary targets became a challenge when it appeared at random places and even further from them. Se Lang knew that his pistol had an effective range as he briefly went through the weapon specifications which were pulled out from the AI cockpit database while waiting for the time to pass.

Hence, Se Lang moved closer to the target before firing his shots and hit them within two shots. Meanwhile, other Pandawans like Yue Wen used two whole magazine clip trying to shoot the wooden target down because she was not used to the range. Her lack of knowledge in that regard also prohibited her from fully utilising it.

Jing Ru, on the other hand, was similar to Se Lang but instead of moving forward, she made her robot prone and fired from a distance. She did some quick mental calculations with the aid of the AI cockpit and managed to get her first shot to hit the target despite using a pistol.

That gave her brownie points in the eyes of the System- erm, Mari and Furi. "As expected from someone who was trained by a Police Sniper. She made use of the AI cockpit to assist her for giving her a good shot." Furi grinned at Mari

"She even took account of the wind speed which their current AI had yet to implement it into the hit probability rate. She would definitely succeed as a heavy arms support ." Mari nodded her head in agreement with Furi.

Bu Dong was amazed that the bullets were not unlimited like in games, the cockpit featured some realism by showing him how much ammo he had left in his gauntlets where the pistol magazines were stored. There was no recharge of bullets unless there were ammo crates around which he assumed none were given since he did not see any around the desert terrain.

His notion got reinforced when Yue Han accidentally spent them all by spraying the pistol bullets just to hit a particular target, leaving him empty. Bu Dong decided to be nice to his friend and threw Yue Han a magazine. "This is the only one I am sparing you! I haven't much left myself!"

When Bu Dong threw the pistol magazine at Yue Han, the fourth wave of stationary targets coincidentally appeared as well as something else. "Didn't you say this is just a training mission!" Jia Ying continued to shoot the stationary targets as she saw two Core Units similar to theirs emerge from the dunes of the desert. They were painted in solid red, making it very easy for the cultivators to spot them.

"I did tell you to kill some moving targets, right? So, stop complaining and destroy those Core Units! The stationary targets are now optional!" Furi scoffed as he folded his arms and watched the scenes unfold.

Chapter 425 Extra: Enemy Core Units

"Fear not! We have eight Core Units here! There are only two enemy Core Units!" Deng Long said to rally the Pandawans who were felt slightly cheated by Commander Furi. But at the sidelines, Mari was already giggling if they believed that was all the Pandawans were going to encounter.

Jia Ying was the first to rush towards the enemy Core Unit. She knew that her aim was terrible even with the aid of the Assisted AI Movement so what about a melee brawl? Perhaps her knowledge in melee combat could aid her in bringing down the enemy Mecha down.

"Ahhh!! Stupid! If you rush in, how am I going to shoot the enemy!" Yue Wen said as she refrained from attacking. Even Jing Ru, who was a sharpshooter, was shaking her head at Jia Ying single minded selfishness in attacking solo. Since she was blocking the way, there were only two ways.

To join her in a close combat fight or stay out of the way until the coast was clear.

Choosing the former, Se Lang started pushing his robot forth towards the second Core Unit while searching the inventory of his Core Unit for any other weapons. He found that there was a combat knife attachment hidden under the armour chest plate. He announced it to all of the Pandawans and took it out by hovering his robot arm over his right chest plate. However, Jia Ying was already engaging the enemy Core Unit with her fist.

She was a spear user, but her Grandmaster taught her to a few basic moves regarding fist and leg strikes to complement the openings a spear user could potentially show whenever she missed her targets. Thus, Jia Ying used what she learnt and apply it for this particular fight. But...the robot was just too slow in responding in a close quarter fight especially with Assisted AI mode on.

The enemy Core Unit was not as easy they thought it would be. It managed to dodge the opening blow that Jia Ying had thrown and activated a jetpack booster to ram against her. The other Pandawans saw that and frantically search for a booster option in their cockpit too.

"No, you smellies had nothing attached than a gun and a knife. Do not bother to try finding." Commander Furi shouted as he picked his nose and removed a booger that was stuck in it with a flick.

"At the very least, I have a clear shot." Jing Ru said as she fired her pistol when Jia Ying was slammed to the ground by the charging enemy Core Unit. The Core Unit took a hit from Jing Ru, but it only damaged its left arm considering the AI use it to block the attack. Unlike living beings, the robots had no pain in them so that precise shot was nothing unless Jing Ru aimed for the cockpit.

"Shit." Jing Ru said to herself as she thought she could kill one of the enemy Core Units before unloading the empty magazine on her pistol. Her right Mecha's wrist flipped open to reveal a pistol magazine compartment.

She still had four more clips compared to the rest who were hovering between one or at most two magazine clips left. Some like Shi Hui and Yue Han were dangerously low on ammo too, but Jing Ru also knew that they did not expect a 'mini' game in WunderPanda would be that overly complicated.

It was challenging which dawn upon Jing Ru that she was beginning to like it as much as Bu Dong and Deng Long. Unfortunately, to the rest, they find it extremely hard to cope, and it also reminded them how powerless they were when they first started out cultivation.

"Too much of a grim reminder of how unfair this world could be." Jia Ying sighed as the enemy core unit took out a metal stick from its waist which eventually powered up to be an energy sword. With just one plunge of the sword into the cockpit area, Jia Ying's Core Unit lost power immediately.

"Reckless behaviour but it cannot be helped. She does not have the essential items to help her survive." Furi said while looking from the battle from afar.

"Her spear?" Mari asked and Furi laid in silence.

"Her determination to win. All the unknown factors had made her lose confidence in herself." Furi said, and Mari wrote it down as part of the evaluation. "...and yeah, I guess you could say, her spear too."

"Shit, this is serious, they can easily take down our core units just because it had attachments and fancy gadgets." Yue Wen said as she warned Se Lang not to be as reckless as Jia Ying. However, it was too late. She could see Se Lang was enraged, shooting his pistol at the other enemy Core Unit relentlessly.

Similar to the previous enemy core unit, the one Se Lang was facing had a portable shield that deflected a few of the shots. The shots that got through was inconsequential, and the enemy even fired back several rounds against Se Lang. Thankfully, none hit the chest area where the cockpit lied within.

Se Lang could see that damage was taken to his shoulder and his chest too. There were armour integrity values indicated on the console screen of the cockpit, showing how much damage the armour could suffer before its integrity was compromised, exposing the internal circuitry of the robot. But knowing all this was futile when all Se Lang wanted was to annihilate this particular threat as soon as possible.

When his pistol clip was empty, he flipped the pistol around and held the barrel, whipping the butt of the pistol at the enemy Core Unit which it, in turn, blocked with its shield. However, the impact from the charging Se Lang caused the shielded arm to be torn off.

Apparently, from Furi's point of view, the shoulder joint of the enemy Core Unit was already critically wounded by one of Se Lang's shot when he was running towards the enemy Core Unit. The pistol whip did the rest of the work, causing the enemy Core Unit to lose an arm. Se Lang did not stop there as he pulled the combat dagger from his chest plate and slash at the area where the cockpit would be.

Sadly, the slash was shallow, revealing the crust of the cockpit module. Se Lang believed a subsequent penetrating stab would finish the job, but the enemy Core Unit was not going to stay there being defenceless. It headbutted Se Lang's Core Unit, causing it to flinch and became unstable. It then reached out a submachine rifle from its back and aimed at Se Lang's Core Unit chest.

The enemy Core Unit fired ruthlessly at point blank towards the chest of the core unit, destroying any remaining armour plate it had before breaking the circuitry in the chest. Without a doubt, the Core Unit fell to the ground with the cockpit all destroyed too.

As if the enemy Core Unit was basking at the glory for destroying Se Lang's Mecha, the other Pandawans fired shots in retaliation. Yet, all those shots were just a distraction for the actual killer to prepare her move.

Jing Ru recalculated her trajectory and aimed her shot towards the enemy Core Unit. The distraction was enough for the enemy Core Unit to turn its back at Jing Ru, allowing her bullet to penetrate the enemy core unit frame from the back and destroying the AI cockpit.

The rest cheered momentarily, but there was still the issue of the one that had killed Jia Ying's Core Unit. At that point, Bu Dong and Deng Long who had gotten used of the controls decided to team up together to fight against the remaining core unit.

Similar to Jing Ru, Bu Dong realised there was an aim assist in the AI Cockpit system, and he utilised it to the maximum. "Aim at those joints!" Bu Dong said to the AI Cockpit system which the AI proceed to predict the hit probability of those joint parts. It also adjusted and increased the likelihood of its analysis the more Bu Dong moved closer to the last Enemy Core Unit.

However, unlike Jing Ru, who did some manual calculations to append the hit rate probability, Bu Dong relied only on the AI assist. Hence, some of his shots missed because of the moving robot frame. Deng Long, on the other hand, kept his pistol back in the Mecha's holster to conserve his bullets and charged in with his combat knife.

Unlike Jia Ying fighting bare fisted, Deng Long knew how to handle a knife since the fighting style had some consistency with his dual batons techniques. He was also getting used to the robot movements and fighting close quarters would not be a problem as compared to Jia Ying who usually fought with some distance between her enemy due to the range of her spear.

The Enemy Core Unit did not stay stationary upon Bu Dong's firing and instead used its Jet boosters to evade the attacks while maintaining its distance away from Deng Long. However, it was not long before the fuel in the jet boosters were used entirely, giving the Wobbling Wombat cultivator a chance to catch up.

Therefore, it fired up its energy sword and decided to eliminate Deng Long first. "While I know I can evade, this heavy piece of junk is just too slow! I rather count my blessing surviving the attack then rely on it to dodge!" Deng Long complained as he maintained his charge forward while placing its left arm ahead to block the attack first.

The AI computed that the energy sword was sufficient to destroy the left arm of his Core Unit and a high chance of penetrating the armour plates to reach Deng Long's cockpit. So, it proceeded with the attack with Deng Long blocking the attack as deduced.

Nonetheless, Deng Long was not going to let the enemy Core Unit to kill him that easily. He slammed his brakes, causing him to place all the strain of the momentum and weight of his Core Unit on the left leg to crouch. The left leg sunk deeper into the sandy terrain causing the entire Core Unit to dip in height.

This caused the energy sword attack only to have sufficient power to slash the left arm away and not able to penetrate the chest plate since the angle of attack was displaced by Deng Long's shrewd movements.

That was when Deng Long initiated the attack at the Core Unit's cockpit by attempting to stab his combat knife into it. The AI responded by putting its arms forth to block the attack, but its arm joints were partially damaged by Bu Dong. The stopping power of the enemy Core Unit was severely hindered and was being overwhelmed by Deng Long's Core Unit, allowing him to push the knife through the arms.

Given that the Deng Long's Core Unit had sunk deeper into the desert terrain, he was able to strike at the weakness of the armour plate that was protecting the cockpit. Through a low angle, Deng Long slipped the knife into the inferior crevices of the armour plate and stabbed through the enemy Core Unit, rendering it immobile.

It was a hard earned victory for the Pandawans in the end.

Deng Long was sweating and panting crazily at the adrenaline rush he was feeling after the fight had ended. He could not believe that robot piloting could be this thrilling. Commander Furi sent a short message that the mission had concluded, telling the cultivators to rest in the cockpit for those who were unable to move.

He was specifically talking to Deng Long who was stuck in the sand. For Se Lang and Jia Ying, they had been teleported away by Commander Furi (aka the System) before the enemy Core Unit ravaged their cockpit with their attacks. They were now sitting in the jeep behind Furi and Mari as they saw the rest of the fight unfold. "You guys won't be that lucky next time if you ever play Supa Robot Wars again," Furi said as he ordered Mari to drive back to base.

For the rest, a voice activation by Furi allowed the Core Units to enter back into autopilot mode as they walked back to base. A statistics summary tab was shown along the way back to the base to let the cultivators see how well (or badly) they had done for this mini game.

There was even a best action scene replay, best shot replay and Furi's 'That's a dumbass stupid thing to do' of the day replay too. (Thankfully, Jia Ying was not in the cockpit to see that, but some of the Pandawans were giggling at it.

Else, the communication channel was open, and they talked about their experience of the mini game while resting in the cockpit during the autopilot mode.

"Erm...guys, anyone going to rescue me? I am still stuck! Guys! Help!" Deng Long groaned loudly through his intercom for being the one to be ignored again.

Chapter 426 Extra: Hangar Control

Deng Long finally returned to the base Hangar after the EMC crew (Engineering and Maintenance) had managed to pull his Core Unit out of the desert with the aid of multiple quad rotors helicopters and transported it back via air.

Only then did he find the group still in their Combat G suits resting and eating delicious looking Western food from one of the stalls in the Hangar's canteen. They were manned by a penguin chef too! But on closer inspection, it seemed as if that one penguin chef was manning all the stalls in the Hangar's

Canteen. (They could see him running from one stall to another to cook the food and very agile at it too.)

"Ah Deng Long, I already ordered for you. Mushroom Chicken Chop Burger...ehh but your fries seem to have been seized by Furi." Se Lang informed him as Furi entered proudly behind him with a packet of fries on his paws and acknowledged the entire group's presence.

"Continue eating. It will be a casual debrief." Furi said as he shamelessly consumed Deng Long's fries. "What are you looking at Smelly?"

"Se Lang told me that packet you are holding belongs to me...?" Deng Long did not speak in an accusing manner in case Se Lang played a prank on him, but Furi who was enjoying his fries did not look pissed at all. Instead, he was delighted that Deng Long mentioned it.

"So? You want them back? Do you prefer to pay for the transport expenses for carrying your Core Unit from the desert and back to Hangar instead?" Furi threatened Deng Long with a lofty stare while the latter looked at him blankly, speechless.

"Then, you should be glad I am just taking these instead of your burger." Furi looked him dead in the eyes while grabbing more fries from the packet to stuff into his mouth.

"Nope, nope. It's my treat." Deng Long replied in an unwilling tone before he sat down with the rest of the group to enjoy his burger before Furi changed his mind. The food that the entire group received were complimentary with the ticket they had paid before entering this particular game.

After the last of the fries vanished into his mouth, Furi started to commence the debrief. At the same time, Mari came in holding a suitcase, and the Pandawans knew it had something to do with the debrief. All of them had their eyes at Furi to give him the attention he needed while munching away their food.

"All of you succeeded in completing the tutorial mission. You are now promoted to... 'Still a Smelly'."

Cough "What he meant to say. Every one of you has now reached the Rank of Private as accordance to Star Cross Heavy Industries standards." Mari interjected as she opened the suitcase. Inside were eight formation badge patches with a picture of half a Panda Head and half a robot head. The robot head resembled the Core Units they used.

"From this point on, all of you are official Test Pilots for the Star Cross Heavy Industries!" Furi commanded Shi Hui, who was the nearest person to him to come forward.

"Congrats." Furi shook her hand and slapped his paw on the right side of her shoulder. The Shadowy Swan cultivator gave a little groan at the pain of the slap but noticed that Furi had placed a formation badge patch on it.

"...For reaching the rank of Private. NEXT!" Furi commented and did the same for the rest of them. The other Pandas in the EMC crew and administration staff observed them for a while before continuing to return to their own business in the canteen. After the informal ceremony was done, the Pandawans continued to partake their food as Furi left Mari to explain the rest of the debrief since he had more pressing matters to attend.

"This is the most important part of the debrief, so listen carefully. You all have been rewarded Star Cross Points for the completion of your mission. While Master Jin did once say that less is more, he felt a need for this game station to have its own currencies. Previously, the Pandamonium App wallet only showed the amount of Panda Medals you had acquired, but this had changed." Mari said as she turned the suitcase she was carrying into a virtual console as picture presentation was the easiest to understand.

"We temporarily added Raid Points to retest the market's reaction to it and it returned with positive results. Therefore, we figured this is the right time to introduce currencies to the three major games that we have in WunderPanda. The Pet Card Arena, The Orc's Spinning Top Blades, and Niu Lang's Supa Robot Wars." Mari explained as the rest took their phone out to check the wallet.

As usual, with every new dungeon or service instance, there would be an upgrade to the Pandamonium App. The Pandawans knew the update for this service instance was one of the largest ones due to the update size when they were waiting for the release of WunderPanda instance. (Thank goodness for free and fast wifi in Jin's instances.)

The cultivators noticed the three new currencies, as stated by Mari. Card Points, Spinning Points and Star Cross Points as well as a symbol next to them, which turned out to be a currency converter. For example, converting Panda Medals into a certain number of Star Cross Points. When Bu Dong tried pressing on it, he was brought into a new screen where there was something like a graphical data to show the fluctuations of the amount of conversion.

"It's a bit of a demand and supply kind of thing," Mari informed them, stating that if a lot of people tried to convert Panda Medals into Star Cross Points, the amount of Star Cross Points they get in return would be reduced drastically.

Should the masses, however, do the opposite at such a time, by converting Star Cross Points into Panda Medals, they would receive a significantly higher amount of Panda Medals. As if that was not enough, Jin had placed 'measures' to let the cultivators spend more money to obtain more points in the various games but never Panda Medals.

They had to earn those medals as they remained the main currency. Jin cleverly did not implement a method to convert Card Points into Spinning Points, or anything of the sort. If they want other points, they have to buy them or use Panda Medals for their source of conversion (It's all a ploy to earn more money by Jin!!)

"You all have received 10,000 Star Cross Points for completing the objectives. Jing Ru and Deng Long have received an extra 5000 Robot Points for killing the two Core Units." Mari said, and the group immediately chattered among themselves loudly.

"See! I told you they would get rewarded for destroying those two enemy core units!" Se Lang grumbled with a bit of regret in his voice. It was apparent Jia Ying and Bu Dong were also quite unsatisfied with the results.

"Yeah yeah, fine! You win your bet." Yue Wen reluctantly took out a five yuan change and slammed it on Se Lang's hand. Seeing how the commotion interrupted her debriefing, Mari cleared her throat loudly to get the attention of the rest again.

"Now, if you are done chatting, follow me. I will send you to Man Man, the Head of EMC. He will tell you more about how you can customise your Core Units." Mari said, and that immediately made Bu Dong and Deng Long extremely excited. They were the first to stand up to follow Mari and Deng Long brought his food along since there was no much time to eat.

Man Man was directing a few of his crew members at the centre of Hangar when he was interrupted by Mari and the group of newly promoted privates. He sighed momentarily before he thanked Mari for the handover.

"Alright chumps. See that central block of concrete hanging at the top of the hangar? We are going there. AND NO JUMPING!" Man Man shouted before any of them had any wise ideas to jump up to their new destination. They quietly followed Man Man up the elevator reaching the central block, which was dubbed the Hangar Control where the EMC Boss later introduced it as an area for the pilots to redesign their core units.

He booted the computers in front of them via a central terminal and the concrete walls around them retracted upwards, revealing a continuous glass panel that showed the workings of the hangar around them. It gave them a good clear view of their Core Units from Hangar Control as compared to them looking upwards from the ground up.

"The interface for reconstructing your Core Units is simple and intuitive. The AI that you encountered in the Core Unit's cockpit is the same as the one that will assist you in designing your robots." Man Man explained while giving them a short tour of the stuff they have in the Hangar Control. But both Bu Dong and Deng Long had already dashed to their individual work stations and placed their phones as instructed by the terminal workstation.

Instantly, a rotating hologram of their Core Unit was visualised in colour with various options for them to select. Since both of them were sitting side by side, Man Man used them as an example. He asked the rest to gather round and used Bu Dong's terminal as the teaching console.

"You can see here. We have a few parts for you to change into for free. Call it a free service for reaching the rank of Private. There is no way you can win any battles if you just use the Core Unit. Now that you have reached Private rank, the queuing times affect you guys as well. The previous mission was instant for you guys because it was a tutorial." Man Man said as he clicked on a console option and it revealed the parts available for them to choose.

There were only a few parts unlocked, but Man Man told them that there were daily and weekly missions which allowed the cultivators to earn more Star Cross Points as well as a chance to get new parts for free. "Call it part of the reward. You clear a mess for us, we supply a fresh new part for free." Man Man explained.

"Does that mean if my right arm is destroyed, I have to buy a new part again?" Deng Long asked, and Man Man laughed loudly.

"We are not that evil, we will repair the part for you for free, but should you wish to sortie out fast, you will need to either pay us Star Cross Points to expedite the repairs or use an entirely new arm as we repair that old arm." Man Man said as he leaned its body on Bu Dong's chair when he explained the intricacies of the Supa Robot Wars.

"Speaking about sortie, the AI will guide you but standard ammunition would be provided for your missions. Should you wish to purchase nonstandard ammunition like incendiary rounds, there will be cost of that too. I can only say that the higher your rank, there will be discounts for repairs, parts and anything that cost Star Cross Points." Man Man added in his explanation to show that Supa Robot Wars had many hidden mechanics to be discovered.

"Alternatively, you are allowed to sortie without the arm, but you will be impaired offensively. I am not saying you cannot do that, but it is not recommended to do that. And before any of you have that crazy thought, there are no achievements coupled with going out with less than 100%. Unless you want to brag about you being crazy and stupid enough to fight with only one arm, I guess then, by all means. Go fucking ahead." Man Man answered Deng Long and showed them that there were durability levels on each particular part.

"Let's assume that your unit got obliterated by the enemy and you're left with nothing. We can replicate the entire unit again for a fee. Consider it something like your resurrection procedure in your world and it might not be cheap depending on the type of parts you were using. Worst case, we do offer some level of ...'accommodations', especially for you Pandawans."

"Can you also use a new Core Unit and start over again instead?" Bu Dong interjected his thoughts aloud and Man Man nodded his head.

"This is not a very fantasy based game like the Pet Card Arena. This is meant for serious gamers, and a certain level of realism is applied to ensure that Newtonian Physics remained relevant. Although here's a tip since you guys are cultivators. You can get out of your cockpit and make a ruckus to destroy the enemy robot. Use that information however you like. It's free of charge." Man Man chuckled with a low voice and let them be for a while.

"I guess this is not my type of game at all." Shi Hui shrugged her shoulders and sadly, Jia Ying nodded in agreement. Yue Han thought it was a lot of fun and something he could get immersed by it but lamented that the cost was immensely prohibitive.

"Ah, cost. Yes. Technically, you can play this game by just spending the ticket price with your Panda medals because you will receive a Gacha box each time you buy a ticket. That Gacha box will give you two parts of various rarity. That means you have a chance to obtain a rare part which will help you." Man Man added.

"The ticket also allows you to play three missions before you need to get another ticket to continue playing. Unless, you wish to get the premium ticket..." Man Man seemed to be whistling when he said that to attract both attention and ire from the entire group.

"And there will be limited event missions like cooperative raids and perhaps even battle royales for this. Of course, those have yet to be implemented in the game. Consider this as version 1.0 " Mari who happened to enter the Hangar Control to hand over the physical license which Bu Dong and Deng Long applied for at the start of the game.

It was a rather sleek looking green metallic card with their rank imprinted as well as the squad they were currently in.

Squad #167.

"Even if you cultivators decide never to play Supa Robot Wars ever again, the Squad number is a way to say thank you for being part of Star Cross Heavy Industries. You all will always be remembered as Squad #167." Mari smiled at them. Out of the blue, Jing Ru decided to get a physical license too, and so did Yue Han.

"I suppose you will be sponsoring some of the game tickets if you want me to carry you." Jing Ru tapped on Bu Dong's shoulder and winked at him. He sighed and smiled gently, which prompted Deng Long to look at him shamelessly.

"Dare to prey on a kid to finance your gaming addictions? You are a police officer, you should be better than that!" Se Lang folded his arms and stared at Deng Long.

"ARGGGH FINE! I guess that means more overtime!" Deng Long sighed as he pressed on a button that caused a series of glass walls to rise up, surrounding his terminal workstation. "Now Please! Excuse me! Let me enjoy my robot making!"

With that being said, Jing Ru and Yue Han joined them at the terminal workstations while the remaining four decided to leave the area and try out the other rides.

Chapter 427 Mousefolk

As Jin's monsters mobbed up the Demon Rat horde with their surprise attack, there were a few casualties on their side. Mainly the Mousefolk as they tried to assassinate the retreating Demon Rats.

While those sentient looking mice were nimble and agile, most of them could not handle more than a hit or two from the enhanced demon rats with their steampunk technology. However, it was also thanks to their small build, providing them with great speed and agility that allowed them to crawl to their weak points, their tails. (Most of them were only thirty centimetres tall!)

Cutting a demon rat's tail was similar to cutting the carotid artery of a human being. Slash that part away, and the farm rats would go into a nervous breakdown which eventually paralysed them, making them unable to breathe. Thus, they would die from suffocating.

It was a newly made discovery, which the mousefolk had paid for to learn about it with a lot of blood. They didn't have the time to share this with Meomi yet, though seeing how she was able to kill them without cutting their tails off proved that their Lady had become even more formidable than the last time they had seen her.

"All the rats are accounted for. None survived, but I will move further into the forest to make sure that they are all truly dead." Peppers reported her findings to the secured System channel before flying on her magical wooden staff to the centre of the forest. With a flick of her finger, Shu appeared at a small clearing which she asked the Ancient Treant to enhance her search magic.

Shu acknowledged the commands of the Demonic Sage Queen as he dug his roots deep into the forest grounds and connected them with the trees in the vicinity. After which, he let Peppers plunge her magic staff into him via one of his branches. In an instant, the forest lit up with a light greenish aura.

"Huh, so my hunch was right, there are some sneaky rats too. Guess the information about Demon Rats possessing certain attributes of crops or animals is really true." Peppers scribbled something down in her own notebook before she found a signal moving slowly, trying to avoid any detection.

But too bad for that rat.

With Peppers connected into the forest's 'network', masking their presence did nothing to avoid her search magic. Every step any animal or living creature made were all known to Peppers with her enhanced magic.

"Kraft, I need to borrow a few foxes from you." Peppers typed on the new phone she just bought with the System points. (It had a cosmetic magical staff key chain and an anti dust plug as a shape of a hat in the audio jack. Without saying, her phone cover had a picture of her new favourite anime character from Konnosoba.)

"That will be 15 System points!" Kraft gave a sly looking emoticon with a "Just Joking!" sticker before he sent out Ixel, Ixa, Itori to Peppers when he felt a phantom burning sensation behind his ears in the WundaPanda Theme Park. The three foxes popped out in front of Peppers and immediately knew their objective. They ran like quieter than a shadow through the forest in search of their prey.

"Instead of System Points, I can only offer you a toy. Get as much information from it as you can. Have fun~!"

Speaking of captured Demon Rats, the System was initially happy to receive more minions to assist with the construction of the Dungeon City Fortress. It already made some calculations as to what task they would be assigned first. But to the System's dismay, it's plan encountered an unexpected error.

The Demon Rats did not spawn back as living breathing monsters... but instead as the original item that was once mutated by the viral plague.

Hence, the System received an assortment of crops, weapons, armour, plants, or animals and other weird junk. And the list continued to increase the more Jin's monsters killed them. (The ones assassinated or shot by the Mousefolk remained as dead Demon Rats.)

If it could only sigh at the disappointment for the anticipation of the war it had harboured, the System would have already done so. (It briefly even calculated whether to discourage Jin from participating in a full scale war against the Demon Rats) However, the death of those Demon Rats was essential to reopen the Farming World markets up again for trade. Lynn also needed crops from it, and for its future expansion. Thus, it was still a war with merits to fight

On a separate note, the werejackals gathered the injured mousefolk and began assisting them with whatever treatment they could manage without the help of Peppers or Milk. There were some crops they grew, which had healing properties and were useful for increasing the regeneration factor of the werhumans. (Since the mousefolk were therianthropic in nature.)

In the meantime, Flame Ripper had decided to scout a little more. Peppers informed them that the coast was clear, yet he did not feel safe at all and had that premonition that someone might be watching them. Besides, it was a good time to practice what his father had taught him during the trip to the Orc capital.

Most of his time had been spent listening while waiting to initiate their backup plan of assassinating Orc King Hamu, which never came to be. (The portals they had used were currently used by Frost Echo the current Orc King for travel and trade between the orcs and goblins.)

Meomi subsequently met up with Gold who was commanding the rest of the werejackals to salvage any possible equipment that was not burnt to be analysed by the researchers or Grey who was now the overall in charge of equipment and tactics for the werejackal.

That responsibility was previously on Gold, but he decided to release some of his duties to the vice leaders so that he could focus more time doing research on the therianthropy spell his friend had left behind. Despite Gold's orders, Grey had decided that the equipment should be sent to the researchers for an initial assessment before he tinkered with it. Gold eventually agreed with him and told his vice leader to proceed with the plan.

Meanwhile, for Gold, he imparted his responsibilities away to have more time for himself. Gold wanted to find out if the therianthropy spell could be improved to entirely isolate the viral plague or perhaps even kill the plague and reverse the effects of partially infected beings.

Unfortunately, it was hard to do purely in theory. The fact that the composition of the spell was a mess to begin with, did not help at all. The Scholar of the West seemed to have done it in a haste, unless, there was some underlying meaning to that messy composition which Gold had yet to discover.

"I am sorry, Gold." Meomi apologised as she knelt in front of him instead of being all high and haughty. "I've disobeyed orders to get in touch with my subjects." She admitted her wrong doings with her head down. Upon seeing that scene, the other mousefolk who were in the vicinity knelt immediately too to ask for forgiveness their Lady.

"How did you even get in touch with them? I thought there were at least 15 days worth of travelling – Wait a minute, did you use the System's portals?" Gold furrowed his eyebrows, and she nodded her head lightly.

"Jin said to use the System's portals as much as possible. When Flame Ripper and Sebastia concluded that there was no sight of any magical users, I immediately opened a portal to that place." She replied.

"But there is one thing I do not understand. Even if you have the System's portal to transport them, how did you know where to open the portal? Don't you need details like the map coordinates? We do not even have a proper map of the Farming world for our debriefing."

"Remember when Brown was previously scouting for the demons you suggested Jin slay? I asked for a favour from Bellator Zeru to give me the coordinates of that place when he went scouting with Brown." Meomi replied. The place they were mentioning was nicknamed the Ordning's Sanctuary. It was one of the places which the Jacks were in control of but similar to the name, it was mainly filled with victims from the Ordning Town incident.

"Great Master Zeru trained us hard for this very day, Lord Scholar." Poppy, one of the vice leaders that commanded the Mousefolk warriors suddenly spoke out which made Gold and Meomi surprised. Seeing the look of the Lord Scholar Gold and Lady Meomi, he grinned a little before explaining.

"It was very sudden, Great Master Zeru came to visit Ording's Sanctuary saying he was with Sir Brown," Poppy said as he unsheathed his weapon, presenting his katana and there was a Z imprinted on the crossguard. It was something that does not exist in this world and Poppy showed it to them to prove he were not lying. Gold and Meomi for once, did not even doubt him the moment Poppy said the word Zeru.

"He said that a day will come where we might need to fight aside our Lady. We had been worried that the Lady died fighting against the Demon Rats after she disappeared with the Lord Scholar who asked for her assistance. So, we did not believe him until he used some magical screen to show us Lady fighting against living humans as part of her training." Poppy explained.

"When we saw our Lady train herself to come back to us, how could we, as her subjects, not do the same? From that day on, we learned from Great Master Zeru at least an hour each day on a daily basis before he left us alone to train ourselves. Sometimes, he would even bring stockpile of food and weapons as an act of encouragement for seeing improvements in our training." Poppy added which allowed Gold to understand why the mousefolk were that capable of annihilating the Demon Rats. (He knew that most of them were just miners and civilians at the start.)

"I see...no wonder." A tear uncontrollably rolled down from her eyes as she now understood why Zeru out of the blue had told her to search for her hometown people the moment she joined the scouting team. "So...it was for this reason. I did not know there was so much going on behind the scenes. Thank you all for your efforts." Meomi said as she stood up and gave a noble bow as courteous as she could towards the mousefolk.

"There is no need to thank us! We are your subjects and will always be your subjects. Ever since the day you rescued and protected us from the relentless attacks of the Demon Rats with Lady Scholar of the West." Poppy graciously lowered his head once more to give his gratitude.

"Okay enough of all the mushy stuff." Brown interrupted the moment and told the abled body Mousefolk to aid the werejackals to pick up any usable items possible from the dead Demon Rats. Even though a number of the farm rats disappeared into the System's inventory, they left behind the steampunk enhancement armour and weapons all over the places.

If there was one thing that could be reused, it was definitely the equipment which Gold and the rest of Jin's minion knew that the System would find a way to make them reusable again. (or perhaps make them even stronger.)

"Let me help out too." Meomi said in a gentle voice as she assisted along with the mousefolk and caught up with them about what had been happening when she went 'missing'.

Chapter 428 General Xie

Even though the partition was covered with the System's protection, the unknowing Yang Ling was paranoid enough to place some of her self designed inscription charms to make sure that no one else was listening to their conversation.

Jin could not recognise any of them, but Kraft including Pei easily penetrated through the inscription's abilities. The counterintelligence agent identified them to be mainly strengthened Illusion and Veiling charms to prevent the Jin and Yang Ling from being spied on.

"I heard from a little snake that you're considering the idea to conduct military exercises." Yang Ling said as she stirred her coffee a little before taking a sip. The mild acidity and rich coffee flavour from the Blue Mountain beans permeated her taste buds and almost immediately giving her a feeling of instant rush.

"Don't you mean old hagged snake?" Jin questioned her with a slight chuckle which made her giggled along as well.

"Yes, yes that's the one. Still, I cannot believe you have been able to get in touch with someone directly from the Royal Zodiac Snake family." Yang Ling commented.

"Oh? He is part of the Royal Zodiac Snake family? You mean like you? I didn't know that. No wonder that snake kept avoiding me and told me to get the information from you instead." Jin initially wanted to comment with a tinge of sarcasm, but he realised acting ignorant might lead to some information which he might not be privy about otherwise.

And he was right.

"Yea well erm no not exactly, his father had married one of the daughters of the main Snake family. Sigh...let's just put it this way. Their relations are a tad more complicated than the rest of the Royal Zodiac family. The important point is, you have built up a relationship with one of the big shots from the Royal Zodiac Snake Clan. And if you are wondering, the way he talked about you when he was discussing matters with me, I could sense it was not on the level of mere acquaintances... Neither was it a face value friendship. There was more to it than that." Yang Ling explained while trying to deduce his exact relationship with Hou Fei in her head.

"Oh I forgot, you can read minds," Jin said while he playfully tried to cover his head with his hands as if to signal that he was trying his best to protect himself from being read telepathically.

"Nah, his subtle body language gave it away. Whenever he talked about you, he had a small smile on his face. Hmmm, kind of like a grandpa boasting about his favourite grandchild. Even though it's near impossible to find stuff out from someone that important from their clan, I also don't seem to be able to read you..." Yang Ling then paused for a while and stared at Jin.

"But I'd love to get into your head." Yang Ling replied with a slightly sexual inclination in her tone, seeing how relaxed Jin had become compared to the last few meetings. She was genuinely enjoying her time right now, even though she always put a straight face when it comes to business dealings.

There was something about Jin that made her put her guard down. She was aware that it was dangerous in the long run, yet Yang Ling couldn't contain herself.

"Well, well, well! If you cannot read my mind, then it looks like my evil masterplan can proceed without any hitches!" Jin played along with Yang Ling as he took another scoop of ice cream and waffles.

"Seriously, how big is he a shot in that clan? Hou Fei purposely did not reveal too much to me when I spoke to him about the military exercises. He only mentioned that he could make it happen after I have your permission. That sly old snake!"

"Perhaps, he just wanted to keep this as a surprise. Fine, I can tell you, but you didn't hear it from me okay?" Yang Ling felt it was okay to trust Jin. No, she wanted Jin to trust her more. More than that. She wanted Jin to know that she could be trusted.

Yang Ling desired to have the same closeness as how she perceived Hou Fei. She yearned for that badly. Given her circumstances, especially the current political clout that Yang Ling wields, she was not able to find anyone trustworthy. She would be lying if she said that she was able to trust her bodyguard Ku Wai completely.

But Jin was an exception.

Jin had done the impossible for her. He had protected her, aided her, as well as giving her a second chance to walk again when she herself had already abandoned that fantasy.

Yang Ling understood the odds when she created the Gearbox. Even the most optimistic prognosis from her engineers revealed that without some miracle improvement to the Gearbox, it would be impossible to completely give her a 100% range of movements such as bending, crouching or kicking.

But the miracle happened. Jin somehow managed to improve on the design in an incredibly short amount of time and most importantly, Yang Ling was able to walk again. Even better, she was able to run and jump after getting used to it.

"You sure no strings attached?" Jin questioned her with an evil grin, but he could see a quick change in Yang Ling's expression. She was solemn before showing a wide smile towards him.

"No strings attached. It's just general information of the Royal Zodiac Clans. You may acquire it from any black market information broker, but in our inner circles, it's just considered gossip." Yang Ling answered before continuing.

"He has served under Xie Ming, one of the few but very accomplished generals I had ever known. However, General Xie was never publicly acknowledged or given the recognition that he'd deserve for his deeds because he was not affiliated with any of the Royal Zodiac Clans. It's a shame our country is as biased as that, but that's the reality." Yang Ling went on, which made Jin very surprised. He tried his best to keep his emotions under the wraps as he continued to listen to what the tiger princess had to say.

"Though General Xie was not recognised publicly, at the peak of his career, Xie held major influences over nearly every possible corner of military politics because of his prowess and renowned wisdom in tactics. You could say the modern Chinese military wouldn't be in its current state if not for him." Yang Ling recalled whatever information she had in her head.

"If you remember the history text on counterterrorism that we were taught in high school? He was the one that led the infamous 666th Special Forces into Somalia to thwarted the attempted hijacking of two Iranian tankers and one Chinese war frigate. It was a pretty complex situation which resulted in zero casualties except for many dead terrorists." Yang Ling gave an example about General Xie's heroics.

"But they did not mention his name in the textbooks. Instead, they cited the Dragons and Horses." Jin vaguely remembered what she was talking about.

"Exactly, he gave them the credit which allowed them to be terrific friends with the Iranians after that incident. Russian literally became VERY VERY good buddies with us." Yang Ling stressed a lot on the last part.

"Because of that and many other achievements, General wielded his a large influence in the military that he was able to overrule the decisions of the other 'less military oriented' Zodiac families, and he often made use of this. Sometimes it even appeared as if he did it arbitrarily, just to mess with them, but there were always 'good reasons' which lead to his ideas being incorporated most of the time instead." Yang Ling continued and she noticed that Jin was listening very intently to her conversation. With him at all ears, she continued her story to keep his attention.

"Eventually General Xie retired for personal matters. I heard rumours that it was because he could not tolerate the incompetence in our police and military counterparts, including the intelligence agencies for the death of his daughter. Nastier rumours claim that investigation had been slowed down intentionally by those he had butted heads with..."

"So when General Xie retired, Hou Fei, which had been considered his most trusted aide, was asked to take up his mantle. To the surprise of everyone he actually refused the offer, stating that he shared the same sentiments as General Xie, even going so far as to express the wish to follow him in retirement. Naturally, the Chinese Military could not take the blow of losing two of their most competent high level military officials. Through some negotiations, most likely directly with the Main Branch Clan of the Royal Snake Zodiac, they ultimately decided to compromise and promoted Hou Fei by making him a General in title, while also allowing him to conduct his personal business."

"And his personal business of selling weapons is all thanks to his military influence?" Jin questioned which Yang Ling nodded with acknowledgement.

"Most importantly to this day, he has retained the title of Major General. Therefore, he technically has control of a few military bases, which are very loyal to him because of his stint with General Xie. While his position inside the clan is fairly complicated, he is the one enabling the Snakes to have a major say in military matters despite the clout the Dragons and Horses had. " Yang Ling commented, and Jin grinned widely.

"Looks like I have some dirt on him and can perhaps play that to my advantage instead of him controlling me. Hahahah!" Jin laughed as Yang Ling could not help wondering on a particular issue.

"So...is that mysteriously supplier you have...Hou Fei?" Yang Ling questioned in a very formal and courteously tone. Jin stared at her eyes seriously for a moment while swallowing his saliva in as if to pretend that he had been caught until Jin broke into another bout of laughter. He then told her that it was not the case. Some purchases did come from Hou Fei's weapons company, but not everything.

For Yang Ling, it was a different matter entirely. That momentous stare felt like an eternity to the tiger princess. It made her desire for Jin grow to the point that she felt like confessing to him there and then. As she felt powerless trying to keep her urges together, Jin was the one that broke the tension with his bout of laughter, and she secretly thanked him for saving her sanity.

"What's going on with me? Why did I..." Yang Ling had those thoughts in her head but little did she know that it was the System as well as some nudging from Kraft himself. Yang Ling might be a high level psychic, except she did not expect her opponent to be way beyond her grade.

"Krafty, didn't you just say to let the youngsters do their own thing? You seem to have learned some new tricks while I was away. How did you do that? Subtle hypnotic suggestions?" Kiyu guessed as she noticed the sudden changes Yang Ling exhibited.

It was slightly exaggerated with her expressions and body language, but their dear Master Jin really was too dense to even notice though Kraft knew he cared more for his grandfather's history than anything else. (But Kraft still felt proud that Ming's achievements were still recognised in history. Not to mention, he had much to play in that aspect. Fun times for him.)

"Her inscriptions prevent things from coming in and information from going out. It's a good idea, with only one slight problem. What if whoever is spying, is already there? Too bad, she did not take the time to check out where she was. Every partition seating area has an air freshener which can be used as a catalyst if you have access to it." Kraft stared lazily at Kiyu for a moment before he continued.

"The System offered me a deal. My 'suggestions' coupled with some of Evon's pheromones, to make a person of the opposite sex appear more likeable... in exchange for the right to visit our friend. I'm guessing you want to tag along?" Kraft then answered with a slow big grin as he enjoyed the show every bit.

"In any case, we seem to have gotten off-topic. Let's resume what you came for." Jin said as he pushed the dishes aside while he took out a few pieces of drafts he had already done beforehand. "Ah sorry. Seems the blueprint draft is a little too big for the table." Jin was a bit embarrassed as he fiddled to rotate the draft. As he moved the blueprint, Jin slowly realised, that it would be hard for her to see upside down, but seeing him stop in his tracks, it made Yang Ling take the initiative.

"It's okay. I can just go over to your side and it will be easier for you to explain." She said with confidence, but inside her slender body, her heart was beating crazily.

"So you see, I was planning to have the Zodiac Tiger pit against the Zodiac Snake Army in this particular terrain. That way we can do some Urban Warfare training as well as monster horde attacks simulations....." Jin rumbled on as he enthusiastically pointed and explained his ideas to Yang Ling, who sat right beside him. (Whenever he looked down to point at something she tried to take advantage of the moment to inch her butt closer to him.)

"But what if we want to simulate a surprise attack from external forces. How fast they react etc?" Yang Ling had her body turned towards him as she involuntarily curled her hair behind the ears.

"It will be tough to simulate that since bases and cities are quite far away from each other. The response team will generally be from the police first. And I'm not sure if I can create a dungeon instance that far reaching." Jin sighed as Yang Ling playfully pouted.

"I received a few reports from my clan mates that the Goblin Raid Event you did in the beginning was able to do that! Don't you dare trick me!" Yang Ling accused him as she playfully jabbed Jin's shoulder which he laughed bitterly in response.

"That one wasn't a dungeon. It's a freaking new world!!" Jin shouted in his thoughts as he had a bit of cold sweat. He was trying his best to impress her, but the more he presented to Yang Ling, the more she felt unsatisfied with his answers. It felt like she expected things beyond what he presented.

"While I love how everyone thinks, that I can do anything, let me tell you a little secret. You know, how the current Goblin Raid Instance, is more akin to my standard dungeon, unlike how it was in the beginning? Truth is, some things happened, and we are currently unable to use that giant instance for the things that you want. To be more honest, it was more like a fluke of luck, that I even managed to do as I did in the first place. I will look into it." Jin tried to defend himself, but at the back of his mind, he wondered if he could do the same for the offensive against Demon Rats.

"But in the meantime, this is the proposal. You can take it back for further study. I've already sent a piece of the drafted blueprints to Hou Fei." Jin concluded, giving her some half truths, hoping that there were no qualms to it.

"Mhmm, will definitely look into it but in return, you have to do something with me." Yang Ling decided to use the situation to her advantage.

"If it is within my powers, I will do it." Jin was beginning to feel there was some cold sweat rolling down his back.

"This is a theme park, right? Bring me to play a game or a ride, then I will consider your proposal." Yang Ling answered and Jin suddenly felt burdened that he had to continue entertaining his...investor. Meanwhile, both Kraft and Kiyu cheered when they heard Yang Ling practically asking Jin out for a date. Their yelling attracted a few unwanted stares before they cowered back to what they were doing.

"I love where this is going. The pheromones may be one thing, but she has guts!" Kiyu praised as she now began to cheer for her secretly. Separately, Jin was wrecking his head to think of a suitable and then he realised... there was one station which might be able to impress her as well as help her rehabilitation.

"Alright deal, I will bring you there now." Jin decided as he used his Pandamonium App to pay the bill they incurred in the Hot Ice Café, but before Jin could do anything else, Yang Ling was already pulling his hand out of his seat.

"C'mon what are you waiting for?" Yang Ling portrayed the friendliest and most beautiful smile which Jin had ever seen on her. (Kraft definitely took a picture! That sneaky fox!)

Chapter 429 Orc's Spinning Tops Blade

"But before we leave...is there any way to do so without Ku Wai finding out?" Yang Ling asked as she peeked out of the partition walls momentarily to see if the coast was clear. Jin guessed that she just wanted to enjoy some personal freedom.

"Could you let go of my hand first?" Jin asked politely, which made Yang Ling quite disappointed. Perhaps she took things a bit too far and quickly released his hand while apologising to him.

"No, I... appreciate your gesture. Guess having a date every once in a while can't be considered a bad thing." Jin stated bluntly causing her cheeks suddenly flushed with redness. "But I need both hands to configure a few things with my phone to make sure we can get away without your guards seeing us."

"...I... You...D..D..date?" Yang Ling never expected Jin to reciprocate her feelings that quickly. She merely grabbed his hand based on her impulse and now she was unsure on what to do next. Should she reject his perception even though it was true?

"It's not? I am sorry, but when it comes to romance, I can be quite dense (two spying foxes would 100% agree)." Jin replied while checking his phone. If not for Pei scolding him privately like a mad fox the moment Yang Ling took his hand for not noticing the visible signs, Jin would have overlooked that Yang Ling was trying her best to hit on him.

Truth be told... he found it annoying when he realised it. There were so many things to do at the moment which made Jin feel that this was really not the right time to dabble with romance. However, his current predicament reminded him of something his grandpa Ming once said. A particular quote that rang true for him and had forever stayed on Jin's mind.

~There is no such thing as 'What If's'. It's either you missed the opportunity or you grabbed it by the throat and move on to the future.~

"At least you notice it." Yang Ling voice became meek as she shyly stared at Jin's eyes, and they were filled with determination that made him understand that she was not joking at all. He thought that she was fooling around, but right now, he did not need a psychic to tell him that her feelings were genuine.

"Man, why does she have to do this to me?" Jin scratched his head a little as he continued to double check on Ku Wai via the System. "System, please make a holograph of us chatting with each other so in case he comes up to us, he won't have to worry." Jin addressed it in his thoughts, and in a blink of an eye, it was like he saw his own reflection. (He guessed the System would do what it takes to make sure Jin get a baby out from somewhere...)

"Ah, clever. A decoy and it's even speaking the same lines that we said just now." Yang Ling became all excited seeing that Jin was prepared for such a situation. Maybe, he secretly wanted to go on such dates too himself!

"Though my hair is not that straight." She teased him a little for creating the hologram. Jin knew that she was joking except he felt a tinge of annoyance because the System did create an exact replica of her.

"Yeah, hopefully, I can fix that hair problem in the future," Jin responded back with a forced smile as he summoned a portal within the partition walls. Without further ado, he took the lead to grab her hand and pulled her into the portal as quickly as possible in order to avoid suspicion. (Although he knew that the System and Yang Ling inscription charms would have prevented any possible view from outside.)

"Oh my! Is that the portal that Ke Loong was talking about?!" Yang Ling asked with enthusiasm when she came out from the other side of the portal and Jin gave her a peculiar look of astonishment.

"It's the same teleportation that can be done from an instance to another instance, not to mention within the same instance. It's part of my admin rights." Jin said which Yang Ling giggled in response.

"Exactly! I hear only a select few can perform such a feat easily even with technology. Less said about the amateurs out there." Yang Ling readily acknowledged that for a young age, Jin was competent in the art of Dungeon Dimensions.

"Hahahaha! You think too highly of me!" Jin continued to hold her hand and brought her to the place he had in mind. "System, please inform me of this kind of stuff in the future...I will not be able to answer true, erm...authentic dungeon suppliers if they ask me such a question about portals." Jin reminded the System.

"System will provide you answers should such an occasion arise again." The System assured Jin as he proceeded to the game station where Yang Ling should feel excited watching and perhaps, she might even join in.

"Orcs' Spinning Tops Blade?" Yang Ling looked at the building for a moment. There were two orc statues at the top of the building as if they were preparing to throw their spinning tops in into a small arena. She thought Jin would be more romantic and bring her to the Qixi Festival theme ride that Yang Ling saw when she came to spy on the dungeon supplier.

"Ehhh, we can spectate the matches that are happening right now. I doubt you will have seen something quite like it. If it's not to your liking, you may choose our next destination. I will allow it." Jin could sense her dislike the moment she spoke out.

"Alright." Yang Ling smiled back and decided to give it a try since Jin purposely brought her here. His promise of letting her choose where to go next also helped make her happy again. That meant a longer date too! (Ku Wai will cry if he knew that she was missing for a long time.)

The Orc Spinning Tops Blade was indeed more than what it seemed at first. When Yang Ling first entered the building, it was a storefront selling various spinning top blade parts that came in many designs. What's more was that the store was bustling with people browsing and buying the top's pieces, causing the two of them to squeeze in order to reach the store's exit furthermore to the Spinning top game entrance. Meanwhile, Jin wondered if it was the first day effect or whether it was really that popular to the cultivators.

This was because Jin usually had a storefront right beside the building like he had done for the Pet Card Arena. But he was worried that this game would not be as popular since it was not as flashy as the other two. So to boost the number of people surveying it, Jin had chosen to merge the store with the game's building. Never did he imagine that it would become so crowded to the point people had to queue outside of the store with Wunder Pandits guiding them to pay for their goods. The System even had to employ a few additional Wunder Pandits as mobile cashiers to deal with the long queue.

"Compared to the Card Pet Arena and Niu Lang's Supa Robot Wars, the Orc's Spinning Top Blades so far has garnered the highest popularity. Likewise, System admits that it did not expect such a phenomenon to happen."

"Ehhh perhaps we have underestimated the nostalgia factor. It should have been a childhood game for most of us? I used that idea when I saw the Orcs did the same thing during their downtime." Jin conjured his reasons which the System still found it hard to accept.

"It's fine, all that matters that we hope the popularity maintains," Jin said to the System in his mind as he saw Yang Ling peer through the entrance doors to see an entire stadium of cultivators playing the spinning top blades.

"Hi, it will be two Panda Silver to enter the Spinning Top Blade Indoor Stadium. It's a one-time fee and you can revisit us whenever you want within 24 hours of paying the fee. You two seem to be newcomers. If you would like to purchase a Spinning Top Blade starter set, that will be an additional three Panda Silvers." The Wunder Pandit guarding the Indoor Stadium entrance reception informed to Yang Ling. She paid for the ticket and the starter set almost instantly. Jin was surprised as he was sure she would use cash to pay instead of medals.

"Don't forget, I was the first one to correctly finish your Musical Theatre Instance. I got the first clear rewards even though I was not stated on the wall of fame." Yang Ling pouted for a while before grinning as she waved her handphone at him.

"Thank you for patronage. Now please pick a ball from this box." The Wunder Pandit acknowledged her payment and took a lottery box out with numbered balls in it. Yang Ling proceeded to put her hand into the lottery box and started to fiddle the balls around before she decided to pick one up.

"Number 27." The Wunder Pandit confirmed the number by showing it to the Tiger Princess before he showed her the piece of the brochure that listed the things that could be won from the lottery box.

"You have received a Standard Spinning Top with an accelerated spinning pull charger." The Wunder Pandit presented two small boxes to Yang Ling. As stated, it was a basic spinning top in one of the boxes and the other had a picture of a pull charger. She immediately gave a blank look at Jin and that expression was easy to understand. She had no idea what to do with it.

"Hahah don't you worry. I can help you with this. For now, let's watch the matches that are happening." Jin smiled as the Wunder Pandit subsequently opened the doors to the indoor stadium for them to enter. It was rather gigantic, and if Yang Ling was not mistaken, it should be as large as the Beijing Stadium that they had once experimented with their Gearbox.

But unlike the Beijing Stadium, this particular indoor stadium had been partitioned into tens of areas to allocate competitive Spinning Top matches. That way hundreds of cultivators got the chance to play simultaneously while the people in the spectator's stands waited for their turn.

When both Jin and Yang Ling randomly took a seat in the spectator's stand, she began to observe the surroundings of the indoor stadium. The first thing that attracted her attention was a small sized tablet looking TV at the front of her seat. It allowed her to choose one of the live matches to watch. There was also a set of four display screens at the hanging at the centre of the indoor stadium which replayed the highlights of fascinating matches.

They noticed that some of the cultivators were just here to enjoy the matches, while others were either learning or waiting their turn. Jin told her that there was even an open concept workshop that allowed cultivators to refine or rebuild their Spinning Tops. "If the parts were too damaged, they have to replace them and that is also a place for them to test their spinning tops. There are computer AI's to calculate and measure each Spinning Top strength, speed and durability if the cultivators needed more information."

Yang Ling acknowledged Jin's explanation, but what they were most interested was apparently the centre stage, the one Jin told Yang Ling to be the Champion's Arena.

"I've designed it in such a way that a reigning champion stays in that ring as long as possible," Jin commented and Yang Ling realised that it was something similar to the King of the Hill.

"Yeap, befitting to that name, that cultivator who stays at the top has to compete with every competitor that comes forth to challenge him. Beating the reigning champion will yield you a number of Spinning points and some panda medals according to the number of matches he stayed on." Jin explained.

"So that entrance ticket that I bought, do I still need to pay more to play or something?" Yang Ling asked as a Wunder Pandit came to them, offering to sell beverages and snacks. Jin decided to get a small packet of chips while Yang Ling asked for a beer. (He chose to pay for the snacks on their first date and not because of Yang Ling's question.)

"Nah, paying that two silver is all that's needed. You can play here as long as you want if you got the spinning tops...but if you want to place bets...that is another story." Jin answered as he pointed to the betting section on the King of the Hill game. All they had to do was to access the tablet right in front of them to notify the System how much they were willing to bet for either the king or the challenger.

"No wonder they're so many people here, hoping to earn a quick buck." Yang Ling concluded as they can see old folks came just to try their luck. "Somehow, with this WunderPanda theme park, you managed to create a mini ecosystem for your Panda Medals to be circulated around."

"Hmm, maybe that is why it is so popular... Maybe I should copy the concept for Pet Card Instance when I start the mini tournaments." Jin mumbled to himself and Yang Ling was able to catch wind of it.

"Hahaha, always thinking about how to earn more money even on a supposed date. You truly have the workings of a true businessman." Yang Ling giggled.

"Heh, anyways a challenger is coming. You might understand why this is not your regular spinning top game." Jin said as he brought the two tablets in front of him nearer. The two tablets connected together and became a wider screen for both Yang Ling and Jin to watch. The spectators nearby did not know they could do that and began to imitate that trick.

It subsequently spread throughout the spectator stands in the indoor stadium awaiting the match of the day — reigning champion Se Lang who had been holding his title for six matches and challenger Xiong Da.

"Did not expect to see my Pandawans compete against each other on the very first day." Jin sniggered to himself.

"It should be a fairly interesting match to watch."

Chapter 430 The Wolf And The Hippo

"Hippo, I thought you're busy working your ass off for some new case?" Se Lang taunted his new challenger seeing how he had been able to hold the fort for six consecutive times.

"My little Egret told me that I had to put someone in place. Some arrogant wolf thinking that he could sit at the throne so comfortably because he had a taste of power. That is why I decided to come." Xiong Da took his formal coat out and rolled his sleeves up. He meant business fighting against the reigning champion.

To gain the right to be a challenger, you had to win at least three consecutive matches against anyone in the indoor stadium of Orc's Spinning Top Blades. Only then would you be placed in a queue to fight against the champion along with other challengers. However, each challenger had the right to ask for a duel against someone before him in the queue time, to get their place.

Xiong Da was previously Number 44 in line to fight against Se Lang, but he did not wish to wait that long. For every new challenger that Se Lang fought, the participants in the queue were allowed to challenge someone to get the queue number except for the first three in line. Therefore, Xiong Da instantly confronted against the one in position four.

That particular cultivator was cursing his luck madly for being pushed back at the back of the line since he had lost so terribly against Xiong Da in the issued challenge.

When the crowd realised that two Pandawans were fighting against each other, everyone became more interested in the fight. They knew the Pandawans as sort of mini celebrities in Jin's dungeon and were bound to show a decent fight of the tops. Some of the cultivators even began to be envious of such status and decided to strive hard to get that status in Jin's dungeons.

How does one do that? Previously, it was based on the first clears, but the System made the requirements simpler and at the same time harder for cultivators striving to be a Pandawan. Clear every single dungeon available to gain such a status.

So to become a Pandawan, the cultivators have to clear all the dungeons up to the latest dungeon instance which now is the Escape City Dungeon with all the Deep Ones. Even the current Pandawans had difficulties clearing it properly.

Those who did only received a partial clear but should any cultivators able win every dungeon and also receive a partial clear from the Deep One Dungeon before Jin released a new dungeon instance, they would attain the Pandawan Status.

Otherwise, the alternative available would be to fully accomplish the Deep One Dungeon instance objectives and obtain a true first clear as compared to the other Pandawans.

Back to the Champion Arena for the Spinning Top Blades, the Orc referees had issued the clearance that their spinning tops had no illegal modifications and were constructed using the store's original pieces. Jin intentionally made that compulsory because he knew that as a kid, he himself had illegally added ball bearings inside his spinning top to make them last longer in a fight.

Of course, the spinning tops could be modified to such a standard in Jin's new Spinning Top game because each spinning top consisted of a top layer, a weighted disc and a performance base tip. The

store also sold a variety of weighted discs which included mini ball bearings to increase the durability of the spin and maintaining balance.

They were the more defensive types, and there were offensives builds which enabled the top layer to have a thin layer of steel coated on the spinning top's top. That allowed the spinning top to hit even harder and cause damage to the opponent's top.

While all these spinning top modifications were vital for the arena battle, the most critical component was the control of those tops via the cultivator's chi. After the Supa Robot Wars, Se Lang had decided to participate in the Spinning Top game while the rest tried other rides and he realised his cultivation style had given life to his spinning top.

"Both of you ready?!" the Orc referees asked simultaneously after they returned the Pandawans their customised tops.

"LETS SPIN!" Se Lang and Xiong Da shouted together as they released the pulling string from their top charger which caused their spinning tops to fly furiously into the Spinning Top Arena in front of them.

Se Lang immediately inserted his chi into his spinning top the moment it entered the arena, and the plain white top quickly turned colour into a black menacing looking top. A wolf silhouette appeared right above the spinning top, as he controlled it to charge towards Xiong Da's spinning top.

Meanwhile, Xiong Da let his spinning top land properly into the arena first before infusing a small amount of his chi into the top. Unlike Se Lang's spinning top, Xiong Da's did not show any silhouette above his top yet. It was because the lawyer had already analysed the policeman's fighting strategy while waiting. Charge in fast and kill his opponent as swiftly as possible before he could even counter attack.

The Wacky Wolf cultivation was all about that one shot kills which Se Lang portrayed very clearly in his spinning top attacks. He also understood by looking at his opponent's top that Xiong Da had strong defence and endurance. Therefore Se Lang had inserted two times more chi than against other spinning tops he had faced.

"Moon Divide of the Wacky Wolf!" Se Lang shouted an intermediate Art Technique but instead of applying it on himself, he visualised it on his spinning top. Xiong Da might be buff and tough, but Se Lang had more experience fighting with spinning tops than him. The reigning champion believed that those four previous players were just too weak against Xiong Da but was it the case?

The Wacky Wolf Top spun in high speed before it suddenly jumped upwards instead of crashing straight into Hungry Hippo Top. Like a scythe slicing things into half, Se Lang's spinning top turned 90 degrees upon reaching a certain height and slammed its top's blades straight to the stationary but sturdy top of Xiong Da.

"Se Lang, you have much to learn." Xiong Da flicked his finger which released a burst of chi into the Hungry Hippo Top. His spinning top hopped a little and discharged a shockwave around it which caused the Wacky Wolf Top to divert its striking path, barely missing the Hungry Hippo Top.

Everyone who was watching it cheered intensely loud and even Yang Ling wowed at the trick that Xiong Da performed. The strike caused the Wacky Wolf to hit the arena's floor, but Xiong Da seemed to have forgotten something vital.

Se Lang was the WACKY Wolf cultivator.

He took advantage of the incoming bounce and redirect his chi that made his spinning top change direction, aiming towards Hungry Hippo Top.

CLANG!

Sparks flew brightly in the air when the two spinning tops clashed against each other, and that was when the Hungry Hippo Top revealed its silhouette. It might not have the speed and agility but power and defence? The Hungry Hippo Top clearly knew who would emerge as champion.

Wacky Wolf Top got deflected once more which Se Lang quickly threw in some Chi to maintain its speed and balance before it got out of hand. Xiong Da saw the panicked face on Se Lang and started to smirk.

"Well, well, well. Did someone say he want to obliterate me? But all I can see is a shaky spinning top from afar." Xiong Da boasted in a proud, egoistic tone.

"Let's see who truly has the last laugh!" Se Lang shouted as he used something else. "Racing Bloody Top Inscription! Activate!" Se Lang had been unsure whether he stood a chance to win against Xiong Da so he decided to prepare something against him with the winnings he had gained in the past six matches to buy an inscription charm for his spinning top via his phone.

"What?! You can insert an inscription on your Top?!" Yang Ling couldn't believe her eyes. They were full with enthusiasm as Jin nodded with a smile. She could clearly understand why Jin brought her here. Even without the use of her Gearbox, she could participate freely by using her powers and techniques on her very own Top, acting as a proxy for her fights.

However to Jin, this was less of a game. Sure it was a supreme way of controlling their chi output to the point that if the cultivators could manage it well with their chi, it could be a backup ranged weapon which was easy to carry around. He was actually selling them another lethal weapon in the form of the spinning tops though that was for the cultivators to realise. And the most amazing thing? It was a weapon that required little to no training to use.

Hou Fei had seen the spinning tops and realised how potent it could be as an assassination weapon. He asked for a few of them when Jin showed him the game as Hou Fei said he knew of someone who might be able to bring out the potential of those spinning tops. If it works out, the sly snake might introduce that somebody to him.

The Racing Bloody inscription on the Wacky Wolf Top made its spin faster and more deadly. Each time it clashed with Hungry Hippo Top, the sparks were furiously bright as it caused damage to the Hippo Top. Similar to bleeding, Xiong Da's spinning top layers were breaking apart from its attack.

If Xiong Da did not do anything soon, it would cause his top to lose all of its attack power and the only way to win would be through brute show of chi which both were willing to expend it all to turn it into a battle of attrition.

Despite that inscription, Xiong Da decided to go to the offensive through a different method which would eventually make Se Lang open his jaws wide in disbelief. "Muscle Bursting of the Hungry Hippo!!!" Xiong Da shouted as the spectators nearby could see Xiong Da's arms visibly bulge up.

Same as Xiong Da, the Hungry Hippo Top suddenly increased in size and height, expanding sideways while shredding and spinning the damaged parts away. The All new Hungry Hippo Top was at least 2.5 times the size of Se Lang's spinning top. Even everyone in spectator stands was speechless by the turn of events.

"How is that possible!?" Se Lang questioned as he saw Xiong Da control his Top to chase after Wacky Wolf Top. With its large size, hitting the smooth speedy Top was not an issue, and within a moment, Se Lang's top was smacked out of the arena before the Hungry Hippo Top returned back to normal.

"Whew, that Top part sure was expensive but damned, it's worth it!" Xiong Da answered him as he raised his right finger, which he rubbed his thumb and index finger to indicate one thing to Se Lang.

'Money.'

Se Lang cursed under his breath. Nevertheless, he had managed to stay as the champion for six rounds, the amount of Spinning Points and the panda medals he earned was multiplied by six times too. Xiong Da did receive a hefty amount of Spinning points too for toppling the champion down, but he had achieved what he came here to do. He did not wish to continue standing in as the champion after that match.

"That means the #1 and #2 challengers in the queue will have the opportunity to fight for the crown, are you sure of that?" The Orc Referee asked Xiong Da to confirm his choice then suddenly a loud high pitch voice was heard from afar.

"Xiong Da! I wish to challenge you!!!" Yang Ling shouted, and though many people did not recognise her, Xiong Da very well knew who the Tiger Princess was. He also saw Jin sitting beside her and started to clap and laugh all by himself.

"Interesting, I like your attitude, young lady! For you, I shall wait for four rounds! If you are not here by the fourth round, I will take my leave!" Xiong Da decided to entertain the Tiger Princess a little and make a bit of a drama here. (Besides who does not like any drama and it advertently shook the betting stations which made the System equally happy too.)

"How about we increase the thrills a little more? If I win, you join me for the Deep One Dungeon and help me achieve a first clear? I plan to be a Pandawan just like you!" Yang Ling announced, and Jin suddenly had a premonition that he was about to be dragged into something terrible.

"It's okay! I can just give you your status as Pandawan. Remember, you actually snatched a first clear before!" Jin loudly whispered as if to stop her from making a ruckus. They were, after all, trying to hide the fact that they were away from their bodyguard. If she made such a statement, wasn't she basically asking for trouble?

"I agree, however in case I defeat you, Boss Jin will have to join me for the Deep One Dungeon! If I am feeling magnanimous, I could even let you join in too!" Xiong Da cunningly stated his demands, and that was Jin felt like he was about to lose it. Xiong Da had been dying to learn how Jin fights for the longest

time ever. Unfortunately, the dungeon supplier clearly did not want the world to know about his powers.

"Deal!" Yang Ling shouted with a thumbs up.

"No!" Jin stood up with crossed arms to refuse, but Xiong Da shook his index finger at him as if it was to tell the dungeon supplier that he was too late. (Jin swore he could feel someone laughing at him while holding his sides at the back of his head.)

"Oh god... you better win Yang Ling." Jin sighed heavily and Yang Ling smiled with a naughty expression on her.

"Hmm but I feel it wouldn't be such a bad idea to follow Xiong Da's lead and force you to come too. ... Luckily for you, I am hell bent on winning that monster hippo." Yang Ling teased him at first as she unboxed her spinning top.

"This Tiger wants some tender fresh hippo meat." Yang Ling smirked as she walked down the spectator stand to the multiple mini arenas set up around the indoor stadium.