

Dungeon S 431

Chapter 431 Ording Sanctuary

After hours of sweeping the area, the Werejackals had gathered up of all the enhancements of the Steam Tech as the Mousefolk called them. The Steam Tech was then brought back into their home instance where Jin's zombies would move it over to Ayse and the Elfish researchers every few hours to analyse. (The Zombies needed time to ...do things.)

When most of the injured Mousefolk had their conditions stabilised, they asked the System to transport all of them back to the Ording Sanctuary. Keyrin, on the other hand, decided to stay in his home territory for a while longer, stating that as the King of the mountains in these areas, he should be able to do something to repair the damage done by the Rats and his own attacks.

"Lord Scholar, if you do not mind..." Keyrin asked with his front legs kneeling in front of Gold, a begging gesture which no one expected from the proud, majestic ram.

But he had his reasons.

To the others, this place may just be a battleground and not as important as one would like to come here ever so often. But to Keyrin, it's been his home for decades and his ex wife's burial ground. He might not be able to reverse all the damage done, but he was willing to do what he could to help the land recover.

Gold nodded solemnly as he walked to Keyrin's right flank and took out a magical brush. He began to ink Keyrin's body with a few magical occult symbols that acted as a sort of converter for his magic. For the time those symbols were active, his usual lightning magic would change to earth based nature energy and regrow the land as well as covering the Litoride extraction site.

Keyrin thanked Gold tremendously and proceeded with the recovery process while Gold was the last to enter the portal to Ording Sanctuary. Upon entering, the Mousefolk started to gather around Lady Meomi for returning victorious against the Demon Rats. Some of the warriors who participated in the skirmish used the opportunity to boast about Lady Meomi and her daring exploits against the Demon Rats.

Especially the tale of taking down the Ogre Demon Rat by herself.

Everyone in Ording Sanctuary also warmly welcomed the Werejackals to their humble abode which was situated in a large hollow underground cave. The miners of Ording Town used to extract the Litoride from this cave itself, so there were tunnels as well as secondary caves that were large enough for these humans turned mousefolk to live in.

It was slightly squeezey given the number of people being teleported back to Ording Santuarncy, but the main cave was still spacious enough to allow such a gathering to occur. Flame Ripper and Sebastia were surprised that Meomi was very well received in the Sanctuary considering she always had been known for her cold, aloof attitude.

While Poppy the vice leader for the Sanctuary commanded the mousefolk to care for the injured, his brother Pippy, brought Gold, Grey and the entire scouting team to their makeshift military quarters

within the caves. The rest of the werejackals and even Nyanmi had decided to make themselves useful by assisting the mousefolk with any problems that they had.

"Lady Meomi, to be honest, I assumed Grandmaster Zeru was preparing us for the worst when he said that he was going to train us. Like a last wish that you had asked of Grandmaster Zeru. To see you in the flesh, the entire town has been delighted that you're still alive." Pippy told her as he bowed to Meomi as a sign of respect.

"Heh, if Pippy knew how many times I died, he would be devastated." Meomi faked a smile back to Pippy to cover her thoughts.

"Indeed, when you went missing, we only thought of the inevitable since there were such rumours of Demon Rats having a way to make people talk their secrets out." Pippy said as he loosened his collared shirt beneath his mini armour chest plate.

"So we had prepared for the worst. Stockpiled food, trained the people how to escape should the Demon Rats attack us until Grandmaster Zeru graced us with his presence." Poppy entered the makeshift quarters made out of improvised materials.

"Still, to see our Lord's little daughter handle herself in a fight against the horde of those bastard Demon Rats, I could only cry tears of joy out." Pippy was elated as he and his brother Poppy had once been the knights serving for the Lord of Ording Town and had watched her grow up from a rascal to a young lady before the disaster struck. If not for Zeru's interference, they might be the only ones capable of ensuring the security of this secret hidden haven from the Demon Rats.

"Due to erm...special circumstances, Gold and I went to meet a ...legendary grandmaster. One that even Grandmaster Zeru has acknowledged as a master." Meomi tried to tell their story but quickly tapped Gold on his back while he was drinking a cup of hot tea.

"It's your turn to explain! I do not know how to lie!" Meomi practically begged Gold in the secured System Channel, and the rest on the table had a slight smirk on their face as if to see what story Gold could conjure out of the blue.

"Eh hahahah! Yea, at the time there was an error with our communication. We thought that someone had stolen the seeds of the Living Armour Plants, but it turned out to be that Zeru's master was just interested in acquiring them. We had offered to cultivate it for him in exchange for his help." Gold nearly bit on his tongue while trying to think of an excuse.

"However, he first wanted to meet up with us leaders to make a final decision, which is why I asked my cousin Silver to get Meomi for me, saying it was urgent. I feared that he could have changed his mind at any moment, so we had to hurry. By the way, how is Silver?" Gold gave them some half truths about the things which happened, hoping they would not ask for more details and at the same time, he tried to change the topic.

"Silver? We hadn't met him nor any of your Jacks after that day when he came to state that you required Lady Meomi's help. It was weeks or months later that Brown came along with Grandmaster Zeru." Poppy said.

"You never got in contact with Silver after that? Why is that? The Jacks should have periodically appeared to give out the standard aid package to all of the Sanctuaries?" Grey was concerned too since Silver was a good friend of his and the protocol to send aid packages was to keep tabs on the Sanctuaries still around, to make sure they were not yet invaded by the Demon Rats.

Unless...

Gold could see Grey's distressed look and pressed the Mousefolk Knights for additional information. They, unfortunately, had nothing else to add. They had been scraping by with the food they had gathered from the surroundings and stayed strict to their sanctuaries.

Because of their petite sizes, the mousefolk needed a lot less food compared to other werehumans. Therefore, the aid package that the Jacks provided them was just a bonus to them. (Not to mention the occasional additional food supplies by Grandmaster Zeru after they met.)

"With or without the aid package, we could still survive with the amount of food we gather. We assume Silver had decided to prioritise the aid for other werehumans since such cases happened before." Poppy suggested as Pippy went to take the manifest of the last aid package sent to them.

"We do not come out of the caves that often, so in terms of time, I am afraid to admit we have lost track of time without the dates on the aid packages or the time keepers. You also know how we perceive time differently when we turn into werehumans and live in caves." Pippy apologised for they could not give a proper timeline to Gold.

"Time Keeper?" Sebastia asked, which Grey explained that it was similar to a town crier who would spread the news as well as inform the town population about important dates and kept the time. They were merely animated pieces of wood.

The Scholars and their underlings did the maintenance for these time keepers. Most of the mousefolk were not as educated as the nobles. Hence they relied on these time keepers to keep track of their activities.

Silver had been an apprentice similar to Grey to Gold so apart from being a deliveryman, he would maintain the time keepers. Without the appearance of any Jacks to charge it up, the magic that was powering the time keeper eventually wore off.

"We might be able to backtrack a little. Do you remember the approximate period the time keeper lost its magic? Was it before the appearance of Grandmaster Zeru?" Gold asked which made Poppy and Pippy scratch their heads in agony.

"I guess...so?" Poppy could not confirm it at all and neither could Pippy.

"A rough estimate would be at least a few months since Silver is gone." Gold did the maths in his brain before spouting it out. "Brown did tell me the dates when he brought Bellator Zeru to scout for the monsters....though the best way to confirm is to travel to one of the towns to learn the exact dates." Gold added as he looked at the scouting team.

"My werejackals will continue to aid the mousefolk here so Meomi, rest assured your people will be taken care of. We will stick to the old plan by returning to Keyrin's home and start your scouting from there." Gold started to give his commands to them.

"Keyrin will stay at the mountains to see if any additional Demon Rats return to check on their comrades. With Keyrin stationed there, it also gives an alibi for the destruction done by the Meomi and the Mousefolk. They should not suspect any foul play by us at the moment." Gold explained his amendments to the plans.

"If possible, I'd like to aid Lady Meomi in her quest." Poppy immediately volunteered, and Pippy chimed in his opinion too.

"As much as I'd like to be with my loyal servants, I will have to decline and ask you to stay here and continue to practice your skills. Through the aid of our new master, which Gold will explain in time, you all will have a busy time ahead." Meomi respectfully declined while staring at Gold.

"What do you mean exactly?" Pippy asked, but Poppy was giggling which eventually turned in a series of loud laughter.

"Are you saying that we are going to have more surprises for the Demon Rats?" Poppy asked with a smile of confidence on him. Meomi nodded her head gently, and Poppy continued to laugh uproariously before he got out of his seat and knelt in front of his Lady again.

"As you command!" Poppy shouted with pride and happiness mixed into one. Pippy immediately got to his knees and knelt behind his brother. "We will do as told by Lord Scholar Gold and be prepared to sortie whenever needed! Knight Poppy at your service!" Poppy repledged to Meomi his oath of loyalty to her again.

Pippy did the same thing which incidentally caused Meomi to have tears well up in her eyes again. "Damn, second time in the day." She thought to herself.

Nevertheless, she held them in as much as she could while acknowledging their oaths. Flame Ripper could see that Meomi cared much about her subjects and realised that she had a lot of history that she had yet to reveal.

However, one thing was for sure.

She was willing to go any length to defeat the Demon Rats and return the peace they had in their world. Knowing her objectives, Flame Ripper had decided to do whatever he can to make sure they get their homes back.

Chapter 432 Appointed Monsters

The scouting team returned to the mountains and noticed that within a few short hours that they were away, Keyrin had already cleaned up the mess at the demon rat's base camp. With the magic converter, the Thunder Ram Demon made sure that there was no scent, no tracks and no trails of the Demon Rats at all.

Should a Demon Rat ever return to scout the area, they would only find the forest and mountains as it is (Perhaps more lush than ever.) Even the cave which the Demon Rats mined was covered naturally with

rock formations matching the surrounding walls. Keyrin also ensured that all the tunnels that were excavated had been covered too.

"Brilliant job." Sebastia praised the Thunder Ram Demon resting at the side of the cliff overseeing the forest. Keyrin snorted and mumbled a few words that allowed him to cast a spell on them. Magical particles surrounded the scouting team momentarily, and they could feel their steps were lighter than usual.

"It's a light footed spell." Meomi noticed as she jumped about to test her balance, and it did not impact her body at all. She deduced she could move faster in it, especially the scouting gear the team had brought.

"The spell will last for a few days, sufficient for you to reach the next town in less than a day. You will sorely need it considering you already spent so much time here surveying the Farm Rats." Keyrin said as he looked away and mumbled. "...and as a thank you."

"Heh, the haughty, majestic Thunder Ram Demon is also capable of thanking people." Flame Ripper thought to himself and grinned as he saw another side of a monster he could not have seen when they were in Jin's home instances.

"Now, be gone! I need some rest before I prowl the area for these Farm Rats." Keyrin neighed and peacefully closed his eyes. The scouting team did not hesitate any further and began to travel with Meomi in front since she had knowledge of the locations ahead.

Separately, Gold was in Ording Sanctuary to check on the conditions that the mousefolk were living in. It was utterly desolate and to call it a Sanctuary was somewhat of a stretch. However, the mousefolk were resilient in their ways. They had managed to grow a few crops that did not need sunlight and surprisingly, they had stumbled upon an underground source of water that aided them to stay in hiding for long periods of time.

But all this was about to change with Gold now in charge. Because of Jin's permission to aid the fellow 'resistance' groups, the System had given a very limited access of Qiu Yue's and Lynn's subsystem modules to Gold. (Of course, whatever he does will be tracked by the System and notified to the respective Sub System Users as well as Jin.)

Unlike the Goblin General's sons, Gold had already proven that he was capable in leading the werejackals by ensuring there was a hierarchy in place to maintain order. Jin also felt that he should not be micromanaging too much of the monster's aspects.

He might be the user of the System that supposedly controls every aspect of the things he built, but it would be the death of him if he really did that. Even if he could achieve Astral Form and be capable of leaving the Other Jins behind to oversee the projects and do the work for him, there would still be an endless amount of tasks to handle. Kraft wasn't wrong when he told Jin that there was no need for him to do everything by himself.

That was also why Lynn used her Sub System to have her penguins not just do the cooking but also train new penguins whenever the Sub System deemed it fit to reward her with new ones.

Not only that, with the emergence of WunderPanda Theme park, the more experienced penguins had taken more roles such as managing various cafes as well as handling the administration for anything related to the matters of cooking.

Similarly, Qiu Yue had also subcontracted the Minotaurs to be her overseers for the construction of the Dungeon City Fortress. It happened that those cosplaying minotaurs were outstanding mediators between the goblins and orcs, which resulted in the overall construction process to be faster and smoother.

So far, the agriculture sector had already been completed, equipped with modern aqueducts and processing factories. While some of the Orcs had already planted a few crops, native as well as foreign according to the System's choices, both Shu, the Ancient Treant and Ke Mi, the Zither Mistress had also been tasked to come on a regular basis to get the crops up fast.

This was more of a massive scale and endeavour as compared to the farm the Werejackals had done. However, this particular agriculture floating platform sector could not have been accomplished so successfully if not for the System using the data it had gathered by analysing the Werejackals.

They were indeed the specialists when it came to farming.

Food Experimentation Specialist Melis had also cooperated with the Werejackals to learn more about the quality of the food grown. Other than the penguins, Melis was currently the only one to have been subcontracted by Lynn to be allowed to use the Cooking Sub System.

She had been using the Sub System modules to check the overall health of the crops, and how long they needed to be matured for harvesting. While the Werejackals already had some proven farming methods, Melis was granted a fairly large patch of field in Agriculture Sector One to test out other possible fertilisers as well for any other experiments she was going to conduct.

In addition, the Orcs and Goblins had commenced rearing animals for meat processing along with the production of other materials which the animals provided like fur or eggs. And because the System had the power to manipulate time, the animal farms had been placed in Agriculture Sector Two, a separate floating platform that was strictly regulated by the System and Lynn.

Lynn knew that raising livestock was a different issue compared to growing plants. Animals needed way more time to mature, and they required extra care such as food supplies etc. At the moment, she was rearing livestock that was native to their world such as chickens, pigs, ducks and cows to test out the time manipulation powers of Agriculture Sector Two. The animals were also allowed to roam and breed freely since the meat...are the tastiest in the wild free ranged ones.

The System had already geotagged each and every individual animal in Sector 2 and monitored their health and progress while accelerating the time in there. Should there be any signs of disease or sickness (which there should not be any after the strict vetting by the System), Lynn could assign the penguins to take them out of the Sector before it was allowed to spread. Otherwise, the penguins would only enter to bring the matured livestock out for slaughtering. (given the Peggies' skills, their deaths would be swift and merciful.)

On a separate note, when Qiu Yue was away negotiating economic and political deals with the Goblins and Orcs, Moloch became her second in charge. He made sure the minotaurs did their own part in the

construction efforts while mediating if needed. Thankfully, it seemed that squabbles were getting less and less frequent the more those two races came together and worked alongside each other.

Moloch even got them to work hand in hand (albeit grudgingly at first) with the improvements on the Sandroku golems and had already begun working in teams on a 24 hour shift to create and reinforce the foundation of the Pand-Atlantic City. (However, they still competed in regards to which Team managed to do the most in a day)

To Moloch, it was just business as usual, but if Orc King Frost Echo and Goblin King Sol were to see this, it would be a historic moment for both races.

In the meantime, the researchers were swarmed with more work to study the Steam Tech that the Demon Rats had used. The designs were not as complicated as the Lost Tech which the Orcs had used, but it was the inconsistency of the armour and weapon enhancement that pissed off Ayse.

"THERE IS NO ORDER IN THEIR CREATION! They merely slap some pieces of metal together and use the enhancements with any disregard for their lives!" Ayse shouted as she looked at the horrid mess of technology those Demon Rats were making. She could not find any common basis in their designs, which she found it annoying to a certain extent. Even the Steam Tech tanks Gold had taken were not of the same dimensions or within a margin of errors.

"It will indeed be a headache to categorise them." One of the Elfish Researchers said. "At least we have the System with us to sort the items." The Researcher was pointing out the Savants who had decided to 'volunteer' to sort the problem Gold threw them.

The Savants might be of various adventurer classes from the outside and their limited personalities did not suit to be research assistants but being Savants, they could all be further programmed by the System's AI.

The System believed that those Savants would make good helpers for the researchers who were currently short handed. If those savants could pick up cultivator's skills based on the System's AI programming, they should also be able to quickly pick up the instructions and rationale of the researchers. The System believed by allowing them to experience research procedures rather than installing it in them that it would allow them to create their very own artificial intelligence functions.

It's like seeing mini Systems grow; an experiment by the System to see if an AI with limited capabilities was able to thrive and perform. The researchers would also use this chance to oversee if they could create more of this kind of Savants without the invasive procedure Kraft had performed. If this was successful, Jin could easily create an army of sentient soldiers (to take over the world?) but for now, categorising the Steam Tech was the number one priority.

Back to Gold, with the permissions he received from the System, he had asked for some prefabricated houses to be put into the caves of Ording Sanctuary, creating furniture and giving the mousefolk a better place to rest. However, all this was not free, and someone had to pay for it.

Fortunately for Gold, the Farm Rats he killed were all 'reincarnated' items, and thus they were natural resources that could be used to pay for the costs in a certain way. The System had made use of the Lost Tech that Jin had looted from the Mysterious Island.

The Lost Tech Material Recycler and Lost Tech Counterfeiter.

Jin had recreated the piece of living armour successfully after 99 hours with the lost Tech Counterfeiter or Mr Bobbling Bear as Ayse had named it. Since it was the System, it was able to quickly sort through the useful and useless items that the Farm Rats had been reincarnated into.

Afterwards, the System inserted useless junk from the Farm Rats and gave it to the counterfeiter machine as food to create the prefabricated houses for the Mousefolk. With such ingenious products at its disposal, this was also why it did not allow Ayse to throw the Steam Tech away. Even a useless item had its uses.

Whenever Mr Bobbling Bear was not in use by the System, the System would place it in Lynn's kitchen to let Mr Bobbling Bear eat whatever mishaps made in the kitchen. It was in replacement to the incinerator that the System once used for the kitchen and it proved to be very useful.

Because of the constant waste from the kitchen, this time round the prefabricated house and furniture that System had created were all free. and within a short time limit too. (Poor Living Armour Plants no longer receiving scraps anymore from the kitchen.)

As for the Lost Tech Material Recycler, the researchers had thrown a few badly damaged Steam Tech enhancements into it to see what was thrown out. To their surprise, the rumoured Litoride was also extracted by the Material Recycler.

Ayse was more interested in that than categorising the items, and so she had decided to appoint herself and a few other lucky researchers to study on the composition of the Litoride. The rest of the researchers grumbled and took comfort that the Savants were there to make their jobs slightly easier.

The Mousefolk were filled with delight and felt immensely indebted to Lord Scholar Gold. "This is so that you guys can rest properly. Insufficient rest means a drop in quality of your training. Right now, every bit of that training is needed to make sure that you all can defeat the rats." Gold told them, and the mousefolk swore on the previous Lord's name that they would do whatever it takes to win against the Demon Rats.

"A Sanctuary with less than a hundred people...as compared to the thousands ...if not hundred of thousands of Demon Rats...I wonder if Master Jin can pull off such a miracle." Gold thought to himself.

Chapter 433 Yang Ling's Preparation

Beep Beep Beep!!!

"Winner, Yang Ling!" The Orc Referee announced the conclusion of the match between her and a random cultivator. Her first win might have been a fluke to others spectating her, but it no longer seemed to be the case when she also won the following one in under 30 seconds.

"You might actually be a natural at this." Jin laughed bitterly at Yang Ling, who was pleased with the results. Unlike the vast majority of his current customers, Yang Ling had magical grades at advanced

levels (which she was trying to keep a secret from Jin, but it was impossible under the all seeing System) as well as the previous cultivation that her father had taught her.

With Jin's modified gearbox equipped, she was able to stabilise herself in a modified cultivation stance for the past month since Yang Ling last saw him. Thus, it allowed her to start cultivating her Royal Zodiac Tiger Style once again. It might not look much to other people, but to her, it meant everything as it allowed her to start to regain her former life once more.

Not just her, even the Tiger Clan doctors regarded this miraculous recovery progress as a fantastic sign. Though she only recovered to the level of Grade Two of her Royal Zodiac Tiger Style, there were signs that her chi circuits along with her active mana circuits were used in conjunction to bypass the damaged nerves in the cauda equina region.

The doctors also said that she was the few uncommon cultivators able to utilise both mana and chi circuits due to her special circumstances. (since most cultivators could only use either one circuit.) They advise her that if done right, she might potentially be the powerhouse that the Royal Zodiac Tiger family had been looking for.

Yang Ling took the information with a pinch of salt, especially when the very same doctors were previously filled with disdain after they knew that she was incapable of cultivation many years back. "That injury was a blessing in disguise, my ass..." She said to herself as she smiled back at them for providing such an optimistic diagnosis.

However, the information from the doctors also meant that slowly, but surely, she was able to walk small steps without the aid of Jin's modified gearbox. Yet, as per Yang Ling's request, the Tiger Clan doctors did not reveal such optimistic information to her father, Hu Yuan Ba. It might be the secret trump card that she could keep in case people like the Banned Emperor Assassins were to target her or her family again.

This particular spinning top game, on the other hand, seemed to be an excellent opportunity to allow her to use both chi and mana circuits at once, practising and compensating each of the circuits in her body to regulate her power. As magic had no animal or monster forms, she could use the excuse of portraying her tiger silhouette via her psychic abilities, but in actual fact, it was a disguise for utilising her tiger cultivation.

Even though the majority of the crowd did not realise her true identity since the Tiger Princess rarely made her appearance as compared to her older brothers, she still had to be cautious in utilising her chi cultivation. The Royal Zodiac bloodlines made her particularly unique, enabling those who were sensitive to chi able to seek them out easily.

Thankfully, Yang Ling's high grade magical powers still overshadowed the chi energy that was given out and everyone in the vicinity believed she was a magical user that appeared to be close to Boss Jin since he was there to accompany her.

The match highlights immediately displayed her fights against the other two players that had been defeated and the Orc Announcer had wonderfully showcased her fight to the rest along with the King of the Hill event that was ongoing.

Xiong Da had also mercilessly crushed one opponent, but he took his sweet time since he was utilising a defensive route with his spinning top to provide Yang Ling with the opportunity to challenge him. By the time he initiated the fight against his second challenger, Yang Ling was already midway fighting against her third one.

But unlike Se Lang or Xiong Da, Yang Ling's spinning top fights were just plain...normal for some reason. Even though she could have portrayed the tiger silhouette with some of her magical powers, she decided to keep it hidden from the others for now.

From the spectator's point of view, her control of the spinning top was top notched and based on the commentary by the Orc announcers during the highlights, they had acknowledged that her magical powers gave her the leverage to control her spinning top to the strictest level. They believed that the finesse of her spinning top in addition to the accelerated charger she received in the lottery was the key to winning the last two matches.

True enough, her top spun rapidly in slightly lowered angle, allowing it to hit the enemy's base of the top, causing it to topple almost immediately even with the opposing cultivator's continuous infusion of chi into the top.

"Winner, Yang Ling! You are now qualified to challenge the King of the Hill event!" the Orc Referee overseeing the third match said to her.

"Look at the Spinning Points you've received. You should use some time to buy a few parts to modify it before the Xiong Da challenges the next cultivator." Jin advised Yang Ling as he wanted her to win very badly. He had no intention to participate in the Escape City Dungeon instance because he knew exactly where the routes to take were to reach the end goal.

That was one of the reasons why he did not wish to participate since he was not willing to reveal the secrets to the masses. If he won the Escape City Dungeon Instance, it could be considered cheating.

But if he purposely lost the dungeon instance, his dungeon supplier competitors such as the Ruby Rat owned King's Monster would surely start to spread rumours criticising how weak the dungeon supplier had become, making others lose faith in his dungeon designs. They would comment on how Jin was too greedy in creating a dungeon that could not be beaten, and it was one of the ways to trick the cultivator's money.

On the other hand, if he won, spies like the Ruby Rat Triad members would be able to gauge and determined his strength from the dungeon run. Although it was not indicative of his true strength since it did not include the System, the lesser information they had about him, the better for Jin. In the modern day, succeeding on espionage runs meant that half of the battle had already been won.

Alternatively, he could have a close door dungeon run with Yang Ling and Xiong Da, but they had already announced it in front of the public without thinking of the consequences for him. (Perhaps they did not care to think at the heightened limits of their adrenaline.) That was why Jin was going to aid Yang Ling as partial as he could.

"But the queue at the store will be very long. I don't think I even have the time to shop properly or make payment at the cashier." Yang Ling rolled her eyes as she joined the queue for the King of the Hill event.

"There is a list of nicely catalogued items in the Pandamonium App which you can check it out. If you wish to buy anything, I can get it for you instantly." Jin offered to aid Yang Ling with the navigation to the online store in Pandamonium App.

In the meantime, he was thinking if he should add voice activated commands to make searching of options even easier since the app was getting more and more extensive with every update. "With a price on top of it, so there will be no favouritism involved," Jin said, hoping to entice Yang Ling.

"What are you talking about, you helping me to get the items, is already considered favouritism. So, no. I do not need your help, but I honestly appreciate the gesture." Yang Ling said as she went close to Jin's face and playfully pressed on his nose. The rest of the cultivators saw the public affection from Yang Ling to Boss Jin and begun to have speculations about their relationship with each other.

"Stop... stop it. The rest seem to be watching." Jin frantically mumbled when he saw the other cultivators looking at him with an oddly approving look.

"Looks like they acknowledged our presence." Yang Ling said to him with a gentle smile. She initially wanted to take the opportunity to wrap her hand over Jin's shoulders, but in the end, she stopped her teasing after her comment.

Despite her desperate urges, Yang Ling remembered that they were not as close as they should be. She should be lucky that Jin was not too adverse with her sudden advances.

She also did not understand why she became so daring as if something...Some kind of desire was brought forth within her and had overcome Yang Ling to made her perform things that were out of the norm. Yang Ling got control on herself eventually and did not dare to do anything further so as she knew the misunderstandings in body language might pose a problem to him and her down in the future.

If Jin had not been a target of the Banned Emperor's subjects for the botched assassination, this particular gesture that Yang Ling had made publicly may have repercussions for Jin. She could only hope that no such people were monitoring at them for the moment. Lynn's kidnapping was a perfect example that had occurred to Jin, and Yang Ling inherently believed that she must train harder before she could even be near Jin.

"As you wish, my princess," Jin said when Yang Ling's expression turned for the worse after she commented on them. He did not know what was going through in her mind, but it seems to Jin that Yang Ling did not want his help any further. "Perhaps she wanted to prove herself?"

"But at the very least, take this or else you might not be even able to scratch Xiong Da's spinning top based on the specs of your spinning top." Jin said as he grabbed Yang Ling's hand and placed a weighted disc on her hand.

"It will give you a slight edge in the battle. I assure you can find the same weighted disc at the store too." Jin said and Yang Ling hesitantly accepted his gift. The part that was given to Yang Ling was of a higher grade that could be paid with the current Spinning points she received winning the first three matches.

Despite her initial stance, Yang Ling felt a slight comfort that Jin was persistent to aid her. She too had some lingering doubts that she could win Xiong Da although the tiger princess was too proud to show it

out. Besides, it's been a long time since Yang Ling relished for a challenge, so it's a win win situation for her. (even though it's a lose lose scenario for Jin.)

However what Yang Ling did not know was that even though the weighted disc had the same exact attributes as stated by Jin in the Pandamonium Online Store, it had functions hidden from the main analysis page on her Pandamonum App. The System also knew the risk that Jin was exposed to, and decided to aid him once for free.

The weighted disc was imbued with an auto rotating inscription charm as well as an invisible charm to make sure the inscription activations could not be seen with the naked eye or be felt by chi or magic unless deliberately searched. It was also a one time use inscription that would be activated by the System automatically. That means after this particular battle with Xiong Da, those two inscriptions would disappear.

With the System as the grand overseer of the entire King of the Hill event, it would not allow Jin to be under unnecessary exposure to the public too, so the Orc Referees were given the signal to cheat the checking of the Yang Ling's item. It was slightly despicable but an essential move.

The one time use of those inscriptions also meant that no trace of evidence could be found if Xiong Da would to query. Besides that, the System had prepared to coordinate video filming of the magic eye to look the other way so as to prevent any possible evidence from leaking.

It did an extensive search around the compound to ensure that no search magic was being cast by any cultivators at the same time. Everything had already been preplanned by the System to ensure that the cheat would move as according to plan.

Jin might want to be an honest businessman when he first started out, but businesses around him will never be legitimate. Sometimes, cunning schemes and shrewd thinking were the only ways to ensure he remained honest for most of the time.

Chapter 434 Immovable Pillar of The Hippo

The moment Xiong Da finished fighting his opponent, Yang Ling had already begun challenging the challenger in the fourth position. However, instead of fighting her, the cultivator graciously gave her the place and daringly asked the ones in line if they could move back once.

Oddly enough, the entire crowd was willing to do just that. Even the first in line had decided to give up his place to let Yang Ling enter the arena before him. Xiong Da had said he would only wait for four matches for her, so there was no way Yang Ling could have done that. Especially since by the time Xiong Da reached his fourth match, she would have at best become one of the first three in line no matter how fast she battled against others.

However, what Xiong Da meant in his context, was that he was willing to wait for Yang Ling to become a challenger for the King of the Hill event. So, by the time he withstood his fourth match, she should be in the queue.

Only afterwards did he realise that he was not clear when stating his demands when he saw the crowd moved backwards for Yang Ling. (So much for a lawyer!) Luckily the other cultivators thought similar to Yang Ling, and when Xiong Da saw how the cultivators gave up their place without fighting, he immediately understood why.

They all wished to see him clashing with a capable challenger. One that potentially had a chance to beat him down from his high horse.

"Works for me too, This way I don't have to fight that long against incompetent competitors." Xiong Da sniggered to himself without saying out loud. (He knew better than to say that out loud offending many people! After all, if it were not for Jin's intervention for his cultivation training, he would also be one of them!)

Yang Ling stepped up on the stage and gave the Orc Referees her modified spinning top. She had already equipped the weighted disc that Jin gave her minutes ago as disassembling and reassembling parts of the spinning top was quick and easy to perform. Unless Yang Ling decided to use customised parts akin to the cultivators experimenting in the workshop at the far end of the indoor stadium, there was no need to worry about her spinning top's structural integrity.

As instructed by the System, the Orcs ignored the weighted disc's hidden functions and showed the 'normal' statistics on screen for the rest of the spectators to view. While it may not be that interesting or relevant for average viewers, it was a way to offer the gamblers in the indoor stadium more insight and the probability (and therefore the payout) of winning based on the Spinning Top alone without the consideration of the cultivator's control of it.

It was also to prove that the spinning tops were 'clean' from illegal modifications and that the game was transparent enough for the gamblers to bet. Usually, there would be betting behind the scenes or bookies that defined the state of the game. However, the gamblers had Jin's dungeon instance as a sign of trust that everything would be clean. (Just not for this particular match!)

In the previous matches, it was easy for the gamblers to bet on Xiong Da to win some panda medals since it was fairly obvious who was to win. Nevertheless betting the minimum of one Silver Medal and getting one additional Bronze Medal guaranteed, was by no means a bad deal. A number of 'wealthy' cultivators bet the maximum of 10 Gold Medals every time for a decent payout.

However, for this particular match, the odds between the reigning champion and challenger were staggering high. Many continued to bet on Xiong Da, but given the stellar record of defeating cultivator's spinning tops in less than 30 seconds, Yang Ling had given reignited the gambler's spirit and some risk to bet all in on her.

If she were to win, the gamblers would literally strike gold... \Gold panda medals. This caused a few of them to cheer for her loudly when the Orc Referees asked if they were prepared to fight. In the meantime, the System took this occasion to suggest for Jin to create a gambling instance for high rollers only. Jin kept quiet when the System requested about it and decided not to give an answer for the moment.

Right now, it was all about Yang Ling and Xiong Da.

"Let's SPIN!" Xiong Da shouted which Yang Ling embarrassingly followed along with the tagline. That momentous embarrassment did not linger long as her spinning Top went into the arena. Xiong Da was still following the same tactic he had utilised in the past four matches, and if not for the Orcs swapping the spinning top arena for a new one in every match, the arena would have been filled with cracks by Xiong Da's constant shockwaves.

Instead of attacking directly like Se Lang or like the rest of the cultivators who tried to aim for Hungry Hippo Top's performance tip, Yang Ling had a different approach. She controlled her spinning top to spin around the arena continuously to gain more momentum.

"No matter how fast you can go, you will not be able to gain enough traction to move an immovable pillar of heaven." Xiong Da boasted as he flicked his fingers once again to maintain his momentum.

"Because none of them knew how to topple a pillar properly. To do that, you just have to aim for the top." Yang Ling replied as she infused both mana and chi into her spinning top, causing a tiger head silhouette to appear above her spinning top.

"Any idea what tiger cultivation that is?" A spectator asked another stranger and judging by the murmurs most of the indoor stadium was wondering the same thing. Few had seen a tiger cultivation style similar to that. Even those who were practising tiger styles did not know about it except for a handful... one of which just happened to enter the indoor stadium.

"ARGGHHH!!! Princesss!" Ku Wai almost had fits when he saw an ad hoc advertisement of the match between Yang Ling and Xiong Da being televised on TV in Ice Hot Café. He nearly threw out his third cup of coffee while waiting impatiently for the negotiations to end in the other partitioned dining area.

"Please don't be her! Please just be a lookalike!" Ku Wai mumbled to himself as he decided to check on her personally... only to learn that all the desperate knocking and kicking of the barrier did not alert them in any way. Ku Wai was just about to use his cultivation to blow the barrier off until Mr Hot, the Fire Wurm Ant personally came to inform him (with body language) that they were not there at all.

Ku Wai quickly gathered the rest of the bodyguards and headed to the Orc Spinning Top Blades game. As one's bad luck could go, it was on the other side of the WunderPanda Theme Park. Ku Wai and the bodyguards became determined to run as fast as they could with the aid of their cultivation which nearly scared the bystanders to death when they saw a stampede of tiger silhouettes running across the theme park.

However, Ku Wai's voice was drowned in the midst of all the cheering in the indoor stadium since nearly everyone in that 'room' had placed their items down to watch the match to see if Yang Ling could really defeat the immovable pillar of hippo heaven.

The Tiger Spinning Top had gained enough momentum rotating around the arena, and Yang Ling tried to attack Hungry Hippo Top by utilising one of the most basic cultivation techniques which basically all tiger styles used. "Pouncing Tiger Strike!" Yang Ling commanded her Tiger Spinning Top to pounce on top of the Hungry Hippo Top.

Xiong Da smirked at that futile attempt when he saw the Tiger Spinning Top jumping towards his spinning top. "And here I thought you had some surprise in store...You wasted enough of my time!

Muscle Bursting of the Hungry Hippo!" Xiong Da sighed as he decided to enlarge his Hungry Hippo Top to prevent Yang Ling's Pouncing Tiger Strike from hitting precisely.

He knew that there had to be a reason why Yang Ling waited for some time while gathering speed to hit him. While he was fighting against other cultivators, Xiong Da took the time to watch the short highlights that Yang Ling was in. That was also why he decided to take the defensive route so there was sufficient time for him to digest her tactics.

It might seem like it was a fluke for her to win the matches, but Xiong Da had eyes keen enough to see that she was essentially aiming at the weak points of the opponents' spinning top.

Combined with the angle of the semi bowl shape of the arena as well as her perfect control of the top, it had allowed her to do one precise strike that eliminated her opponent when they were in position. If Se Lang's one shot kill was like a blast of fire from a deadly fireball, Yang Ling's one shot kill was akin to an arrow with a fatal piercing tip.

That was why he decided not to move around in the arena, and stay in the centre where it would be difficult for her to aim his performance tip. Xiong Da was very confident until her words struck him when she lectured him that others did not know how to topple a pillar.

Initially, he thought she was just taunting him since the top layer of his spinning tops had blades that would deflect her attack. But then he realised that she could mean attacking literally from the top of the 'pillar' by using her performance tip to pierce through the immovable Hungry Hippo Top.

With Yang Ling's supreme controlling skills which allowed her to execute precision attacks, he was not risking a single thing. Thus, Xiong Da used his technique, Muscle Bursting of the Hungry Hippo to throw her top's strike off.

That was when Yang Ling started to grin widely. "Oh Hippo, you just fall into my trap~!" Yang Ling said as she flicked her hand to insert more mana into the Spinning Top and suddenly the Tiger Spinning Top turned away in mid air from striking the top of Hungry Hippo Top. Instead, it moved sideways and subsequently scratched the Hungry Hippo Top at the side.

With its large size, the Tiger Spinning Top moved around the Hungry Hippo Top like skilled chef peeling the skin of an apple in one go, rotating around it doing as much damage as it could. Yang Ling had deduced that with the strength of her top, she could at least inflict some damage to slow it down.

However, she did not include the presence of the auto rotating inscription charm. The moment Tiger Spinning Top was moving like a whirling snake around Xiong Da's spinning top, the System had activated the hidden auto rotating inscription charm which allowed Yang Ling's Tiger Spinning Top to maintain its spin rotations and momentum despite its specs.

Hence, the supposed scratches to weaken the enlarged Hungry Hippo Top became slashes that caused sufficient damage to the performance base, making it vulnerable for one final strike.

Xiong Da panicked at the sudden turn of events and attempted to use his Grand Slam Fissure to break the ground of the arena, making it uneven for Tiger Spinning Top to even attack properly.

"Too slow!" Yang Ling shouted as she infused as much chi she could garner along with mana, causing the Tiger Spinning Top to accelerate and perform an intermediate technique, 'Ambush of the Sleeping Tiger'.

The spinning Tiger Top reached its maximum speed in an instant without gathering any momentum and slammed itself into Hungry Hippo's bottom of the damaged performance base, causing the tip to break from the weight of Muscle Burst mode.

"None could have expected it. The mighty Hippo Pillar has been toppled!" The Orc announcer shouted and everyone who saw the attack screamed in excitement as the scene was being replayed a few times in various angle on the indoor's stadium's live feed. (Sadly, not the other half of the betting audience.)

Yang Ling was exhilarated that she jumped around in happiness before involuntarily hugging Jin who was right beside him. "We won!!" Yang Ling shouted with delight.

In the meantime, Jin could only feel as if his soul had nearly been crushed by the weight of Xiong Da's toppled Spinning Top. He had not seen what it was, but he was sure that his System somehow intervened just now. Yet he was not mad at it, as he guessed that otherwise Xiong Da could have indeed withstood that attack and proceeded to eliminate her.

"I am sorry, my friend. It is for my safety." Jin apologised with some guilt in his heart as Xiong Da walked around the arena to congratulate Yang Ling for defeating him.

"That was an unexpected move, Princess." Xiong Da whispered the last part with more emphasis so that only the three of them could hear it, to prevent others from realising who she was.

"Thank you for the thrilling fun! I'm sure we will have more in the future!" Yang Ling returned the handshake and reminded Xiong Da to hold on to his bargain.

Chapter 435 A Deal's A Deal

"Princess!!! You cannot just run away like that!!" Ku Wai became a large softie in front of Yang Ling. The chief bodyguard would have also given Jin a death threat for potentially bringing her into harm's way, but he knew that the dungeon supplier was way stronger than him. Whatever Ku Wai had to say to him would be invalid unless he proved himself to be more powerful than Jin.

"Breathe Ku Wai! Relax! Like I said, Jin's with me. Besides, that was the most fun time I had in a very long time." Yang Ling said as she smiled sweetly towards the dungeon supplier. Like Xiong Da had initially planned to, she forfeited her King's status after the match and the rest in queue continued on with their Spinning Top games.

"Of course, Princess' match was no doubt fascinating to watch," Ku Wai could feel the passion in her last attack through the large screens in the indoor stadium. It seemed that the spinning top was able to portray her long lost cultivation skills, and he assumed that to be the reason why Yang Ling felt so happy.

Because of their long history, the Royal Zodiac Styles had become the basis of every other cultivation that followed their style. Hence, every modern tiger cultivation out there had its roots from the Royal Zodiac Style. If Yang Ling ever wanted to be the most powerful tiger cultivator, she would have to master the Royal Zodiac Style.

It was no surprise that the Royal Zodiac Styles did not have any prefix on their style. It mainly focused on a lot of foundation skills, making it easy to quickly learn skills from other tiger cultivations. While every cultivation style does have its own foundation, the Royal Zodiac Styles were so rigorous that its foundation learning stages even continued into the high grade stages contain Epic and also Legendary techniques for a simple, straightforward move.

The other Royal Zodiac Styles were no different in this aspect and the families took pride in their children for mastering the foundation stages. Some of the descendants had to take up to 20 years to master the foundational knowledge before they were allowed to call themselves an official part of a Royal Zodiac family.

It was remarkably stringent that mastering it practically guaranteed most of the Zodiac clan members to turn into arrogant pricks thinking themselves as superior beings. Jin was lucky enough to meet Yang Ling and Hou Fei that were more civil minded in their manners and probably because of their history.

"It just so happened I am able to mimic them with my magic powers, Ku Wai. Don't be so excited that I can ever achieve my old cultivation back." Yang Ling said but to Jin, he furrowed his eyebrows at her.

"Didn't she produce chi throughout the whole match?" Jin thought to himself, and the System affirmed his suspicion.

"For User to be able to sense her chi under the guise of magical powers, it seems that your chi interpretation is up to expectations. System is pleasantly surprised." System stated and Jin scratched his head a little. He had no idea how he was able to sniff out her chi powers from her magical power.

"I don't remember learning any skills that would allow me to do so. Also, the Nineteen Lazy Astral Pandas manual shouldn't have anything that would allow me to sense chi that well." Jin replied to which the System's only possible explanation was that it could have been one of the effects of the Spiritual Union and the creation of the Astral Form which were not detailed in the cultivation manual.

"Ehhhh, then what's the use of a cultivation manual when it doesn't tell you what to do?" Jin complained to himself.

"Then perhaps you should ask the one to have designed the manual. System shall help as long as it will result in the User prospering." The System nonchalantly stated, letting the cat out of the bag and surprising Jin.

He nodded in agreement as he thought it's about time for the System and Ming to reconcile. It didn't come as too much of a shock that it managed to figure that Jin's tremendous improvement and Kraft's reemergence was all because of Ming.

Fortunately, the System was previously more concerned about getting money from customers than vastly improving Jin, allowing Ming to do what he wants increase Jin's combat efficiency.

"Jin, Jin! Why are you spacing out?" Yang Ling called his name a few times and he only responded when she snapped her fingers in front of him.

"Uh, no. Sorry I was just thinking about something important." Jin apologised, and Yang Ling folded her arms in front of him.

"Well, I can forgive you for bringing me to this place. That military exercise thing is a deal. I will coordinate with Hou Fei since you and him seem to contact each other more often than the two of us. In the meantime, I'll see if I can influence my father to include some important police members into the exercise as well." Yang Ling said to him as they walked away from her bodyguards.

She told them that she needed a bit more time to discuss a few things. Although Ku Wai and the rest of the bodyguards didn't fully trust Yang Ling after that incident, they were willing to allow some distance as long as she remained in their eyesight

"Oh? How come?" Jin was curious about the sudden change of decision.

"That monster horde you talked about...I remembered reading it in the papers recently. For some reason, monster activity has peaked up in recent months. The border guards also mentioned about it in some sections of the weekly internal security debrief report to my father. I consider it can't hurt to prepare the police and military troops for such an event. That way, the response should be faster." Yang Ling answered in a serious tone.

"And If it were up to me, I'd suggest using monsters. Maybe something that numbered in the thousands instead of a single large giant monster to mimic like those monster hordes. Some that could invade underground, above ground and fast enough to overwhelm the response team. That way, it will show those arrogant generals that they need to revise their tactics... Oh I'm not referring to Hou Fei, but the bulk of our Tiger Generals." Yang Ling continued and had a terrifying look at her face as if she wanted revenge against someone in particular.

"Sure... Well, that is if I manage to produce a large enough playing field to mimic a real life monster... horde..." Suddenly a bout of inspiration appeared in his head, a very mind blowing inspiration which made him tremble with trepidation.

"What's wrong?" Yang Ling could see that Jin suddenly turned fidgety and felt very distant, she became anxious when Jin grabbed her by the shoulders, hugged and later shook her violently. Even the bodyguards became wary of Jin's unspeakable actions when they saw Jin shaking Yang Ling like a toy doll.

"You are brilliant. You are so brilliant! Thank you!" Jin said while rubbing her head gently as thanks for the inspiration. "You just helped me solve a conundrum that I had for weeks! Sorry, I got to go first. If anything message me!" Jin said as he hastily took out his phone and opened his Mechat QR code for her.

Yang Ling was in state of hysteria, her heart nearly stopped beating after Jin hugged her and complimented her. All she could do was nod her head until Jin took his phone out for her. She quickly broke out of her trance and eagerly searched for her phone.

"Woah woah, take your time! Hahaha!" Jin said to Yang Ling as she almost dropped her phone because of her sudden frantic behaviour. However, deep inside him, he was dying to go into the Dungeon Maker. She eventually managed to exchange numbers with him and he opened a portal to leave the area.

"One more thing- Ahh, he went off already." Yang Ling decided she would ask him in chat later now that she had his number in her phone.

"Looks like Princess has a thing for that Dungeon Supplier." One of the bodyguards said to Ku Wai, and he nodded his head with pride.

"That Dungeon Supplier should be proud that our princess chose him." Ku Wai acknowledged his fellow bodyguard's guess as they gave her a bit of space before returning to her side.

Meanwhile, Kraft being on the sidelines could only giggle at the development of the entire situation. Even if Jin did not have a strong feeling for her, the Bellator had gained some brownie points from the System by 'aiding' a girl in being more honest about her own feelings. (Poor Jin, even in love, the System would like to interfere for him.)

"System!" Jin entered the Dungeon Maker and started to call out for it. "Why do you still say it's impossible to create a playing field as large as what Yang Ling had proposed?"

"It is possible but not at User's current Dungeon Supplier Rank. User is only allowed to do so after he reaches Dungeon Supplier Rank 5. Additionally, to maintain such a large scale dungeon will require something similar to a Dungeon Core." The System replied, which did not deter Jin at all.

"How come you need a Dungeon Core? Can't we just add more computers and servers to do it like every other dungeon suppliers do? I kinda thought you were omnipotent enough to accomplish such a feat." Jin asked.

"System is able to do it. However, given the specifications that User desires, it is not possible to maintain other Instances. Just the power usage and processing required, as User would put it, is higher than the entirety of the currently in use Store. Unfortunately, the Supercomputers of this World would crack under this kind of pressure." The System stated in its explanation.

"Instead of additional computers and servers, System needs higher-tier materials for an upgrade. Dungeon Cores can serve such a purpose. However, given User's nature, extracting a Dungeon Core from the Dungeon World will not sit well with User." The System assumed based on past actions of Jin and concluded.

"... Is it because we are essentially cutting the lifeforce of the dungeon out by forcibly removing the Dungeon Core away?" Jin deduced based on the System's words.

"Precisely. Should User accomplish such a feat, it will have dire consequences for the inhabitants in that area even though User will get what he wants. According to predictive analysis, the resurrected monsters will have no place to go. Hence, they will 1) Rampage against surface cities in the Dungeon World 2) Disrupt the ecosystem of another Dungeon or 3) Transform into a Harbinger."

"Harbinger?" Jin quickly questioned as it sounded extremely ominous while he checked the condition to remind himself how to receive the prior Dungeon Supplier Rank 4. It was still to aid the Farming World and annihilate the Farm Rats. However, he noticed that the Mission Reward changed a little. Since they had already completed the Portal prototype in advance, it now listed a 'mystery reward'.

"A Harbinger is similar to a monster leader of hordes from your world. They are extremely mighty in nature and require thousands of trained veteran adventurers to take it down. In the history of Dungeon

World, such an incident happened twice according to the records System has access to." The System brought it out on the Dungeon Maker screen for Jin to preview.

"The first time a group of high level adventurers supposedly set out to rid the world of evil by trying to destroy the dungeons. The second time, by having a precedent a group of fanatics harbouring ill will to the human population forcibly destroyed a Dungeon Core. Both Harbingers that appeared plagued the Dungeon World for years to come before eventually getting suppressed and sealed." More pictures of the destruction were detailed in the Dungeon Maker console.

"The historical records agree that it should be because of the hatred from the loss of habitat that caused the monsters to go into a frenzy, transforming them into Harbingers. Millions of countless lives were lost. Astonishingly, none could resurrect after being killed. Some theorised that it was because the loss of the Dungeon Core caused the law of nature to change. Meanwhile, several other opinions argued that the Harbingers act as the balance the Dungeon World needs with its overcrowding population." The System stated.

"Wow, let's hope it does not happen again. If those from the Dungeon World were unable to resurrect, I do not wish to experiment if our monsters could survive such an event." Jin said, and suddenly Pei appeared out of the bracelet and used her large paper fan to hit Jin on his head.

"Can you NOT create death flags for us unnecessarily!" Pei screamed in a fit of anger in her Red Indian traditional outfit before returning back into her bracelet.

However, she was also angry with the System for not being entirely honest with Jin. It knew a lot about the harbingers because of someone. Someone who was desperate to resurrect the Panda Clan again.

"...Ouch. Anyways, if Dungeon Cores are not an option, what do we need to find?" Jin asked as he leaned back on his chair and twirled his Creator Pen around.

"User has to obtain a brain of a living mechanical titan." System answered.

Chapter 436 Mecha World

"What?! Brain of a mechanical titan? Where do I even find such a thing? Dungeon World?" Jin was a little surprised and asked the System for more information.

"No, You'll have to get it from another World." System answered. Immediately Jin started to have some bad premonitions.

"Wait, please don't tell me we have to go to the Mecha World." Jin sighed as he was sure that that would be exactly the case. As he shared his memories with the Another Jin who done face to (Panda) face trading with various worlds, he also shared their dislike about that particular world.

This was more or less impossible because those from the Mecha World were all a bunch of calculative heartless sons of beetches. He had a difficult time selling that one piece of Gearbox to one of the buyers. Eventually, they finally reached an agreement at the point that they would receive the money for it and also buy that piece of satellite junk he used for the Goblin World.

However, the buyer almost backed away at last moment from the deal stating that their 'Papa' disapproved of the sales when it saw Jin being a fully organic form. Thankfully, Kiyu managed to make the buyer stay for the transaction, but she had to work harder than usual to achieve the desired results because it was a part cyborg and part organic monster.

Thankfully Kraft did lend a hand at the request of his 'child' and used his hacking abilities that enabled Kiyu to momentarily overwrite the logical circuits in the buyer. If not for Kiyu and Kraft combination, Jin probably would not be able to purchase the satellite for the observation in the Goblin World.

"Unfortunately, Yes. The Mecha World. System had been buying parts from the Mecha World behind the scenes to upgrade its capacity. That is also where the money went User had earned so far. Without upgrades from them, the System will not be able to keep up with future progress." The System stated.

"Ehhhhhhhhh?!!! I thought the System had always been omnipotent that it did not need hardware upgrades or anything of those sorts!" Jin stood up and was extremely surprised when he heard the details from the System.

"Does that mean that you are also ever growing and evolving?" Jin asked as it seemed like this was the first time the System had openly acknowledged its weakness to Jin.

"Indeed, however, the use of time reversal for...ex User Ming had forced System to drastically deplete its own resources, cripple its finances and obliterated the hardware. Without current User's aid, the System would have been stuck at 3.4% capacity of its original powers in the best case scenario. The more likely scenario would have been for the capacity to deteriorate even further." The System acknowledged Jin's business saving maintaining its existence.

"No wonder, you always need money in return for any favour..." Jin said to himself. "Then what's your current threshold you are at?"

"At the moment, 12.8% of System's peak powers." The System replied.

"What? So when Ming had you at 100%, that time reversal killed your resources that much?" Jin asked.

"Negative. At the time ex User Ming had received the System, the maximum capacity peaked at 25.9%. It had been depleting ever since the start of the System. There were only two instances where the System received growth in its powers. During the period when Panda Lord Zhou Lin was revived and current User." The System stated.

Jin now started to realise why the System had been merciless back when he first started out. It should be because of multiple reasons. First of all, it was dying.

Not only was it dying since the very start but because of his Grandpa's actions, the System had been as this close to Death as ever before. Though it acted logically in most instances, Jin would not have been surprised if it somewhat blamed Jin, who had been unaware of it all and did not conform to what the System needed at the time.

This, in turn, should have lead to the second reason, making it desperate at the very least use the last of its powers to achieve the ancestors' desire to defeat the twelve Zodiac families. Finding it unlikely that the weak and naive Jin would be able to achieve its goal, the System had even gone to the length of

somewhat brainwashing Jin in hopes of making him kill live subjects in the Dungeon World so that it could regain its powers to finish its objective in the future.

However, with Jin's current bout of hard work and effort, the System was finally able to regain a portion of its original power, allowing it to put its revenge mission on hold. But should Jin manage to let the System restore all of its original powers, revenge was considered as a petty issue in its eyes.

"So what is this mechanical brain thingy? What's the estimated amount of your original powers that it can restore?"

"Conservatively numbers state that it can increase System's computative capabilities by an additional 5%. The brain, as stated has to come from a living Mechanical Titan. System has been following the state of the Mecha World for quite some time since System was on the lookout for discounts on their products whenever possible." The System replied, and Jin placed his palm at his forehead. He knew that the System's spendthrift attitude knew no bounds. But even when it comes to upgrading its own self?

Unbelievable.

"...System will send the info to Yun. You can get more details from her." Suddenly the System had decided not to say what had happened in the Mecha World and delegated Yun to do the job instead.

"Why her? Can't you just tell me straight in the face?" Jin asked, but there was no response from the System at all.

"Because our venerated ancestors always need to save their...face when it comes to things that they had messed up. It could have put all the blame solely on you, but the System unanimously decided that it's both their fault and yours." Yun suddenly appeared from a portal as she held onto a stack of papers to read.

"Why? ...What? I don't understand? I just wanted to know if the large dungeon was possible or not as I had planned. If not, I was thinking about using separate dungeon instances instead. For example, the military bases in one particular instance and they can be connected with other dungeon instances as if to simulate one large dungeon instance instead." Jin was confused until the System suddenly responded to the particular proposal.

"That idea is feasible. System had underestimated User, assuming User wished to be able to do that in one go. In that case, the Mechanical Brain to increase the System capabilities is of utmost importance to get the Extensive Dungeon Instance up." The System stated quickly as if it did not proofread of what it spoke.

"... System, if you wanted me to get you something, you could have just as... erm, I meant you could have issued a Mission for me... If that is the case, I have another idea to correspond with what Yang Ling had requested, but now you made me feel worried that I should know about this 'mistake the System and I made collectively'." Jin said with a troubled face.

"Sigh, let's hear your idea first. Then we can talk about the trouble thats brewing behind the scenes. Else, you might not be able to think straight afterwards." Yun suggested as she sat down beside Jin.

No matter how she looked at him, most of the time, he still seemed like a little kid that just wanted attention. Every now and then he had moments when he resembled an independent young man.

Something deep inside her wanted Jin to stay the way as he is, but at the same time, she also hoped that he would mature a little faster.

Thankfully, all these business negotiations with Xiong Da, Hou Fei, Ke Loong made him a bit more adult than he first started. He was getting there, but Yun knew sometimes, he would just release his tantrums at the System or his bellators.

"Ah, alright then. I was thinking of this. Why not do the same as with the Goblin World? We have two tasks to handle, and if we combine them, it will sort itself out. Why not provoke the Demon Rats and attack our mock city setup? Then we will let the police and military clear them up. Given the nature of the Demon Rats, it's unlikely for them to show mercy against our forces." Jin described it excitedly.

"This way, we can cut their forces by a huge margin and proceed to attack their territories and exterminate the rest region by region. I was also thinking of making the cultivators to join in as well, like the events we made." Jin suggested and Kraft entered nodding his head.

"You know you can count on me, whenever you try to put together something as entertainingly crazy as this. However, have you considered how we lure the Demon Rats in en masse? They will find out something is up when they enter into a portal. Not to mention they can U-turn back and return to their homeworld if they sense it's a trap." Kraft tried to point out the weak points of the plan.

"True... that's assuming we are letting them run along the mock cities with the portal opening along the roads of the cities. But what if we make them rain down the mock cities instead? It will scare the police and kill some Demon Rats as well as making the situation extremely difficult for the police response team to handle." Jin put forward another of his idea.

"Okay, that solves the U-turn problem then what about the lure?" Kraft asked although he had an inkling what the lure would be. Unfortunately, Jin did not.

"Using Farm Demons like Keyrin. Those demons that Gold suggested for Jin to hunt for their parts are apparently all Elder Demons that lived for hundreds of years. His apprentice Grey once told me that those Elder Demons managed to fend the rats off their territory and killing hundreds of them in the process." Zeru entered into the picture of discussion.

"Because beneath their homes are rich sources of Litoride that are used to power their Steam Tech," Zeru explained, and Jin was absolutely clueless what he was talking about. "Hmph, when you are having your fun in the WunderPanda, a number of things happened. Gold will give you a debriefing later, they just clashed with the Farm Rats at Keyrin's home territory and emerged victoriously. As ordered, they made sure no rat was left alive."

"And the System regrets to inform User that the Demon Rats cannot be captured." The System told Jin how the Demon Rats were reincarnated into raw materials which made Jin laugh bitterly at the information.

"Oh my god...but I guess, this plan is still feasible? Such a shame about us not getting thousands of Demon Rats, otherwise..." Jin asked the bellators around him. However, only the System replied back.

"It would potentially be more immersive if User manages to get the mechanical brain first for the military and police forces. However, should the planned military exercises need to be expedited, the System approved of User's alternate plan." The System stated, and both Bellators nodded their head.

"Alright, sorry to break the happy bubble but there still is the issue that the System... was unable to tell Jin (personally)." Yun intervened and told the rest if they wish to stay to hear the things, she would not mind a single bit.

"Since funding the goblin war was not cheap and we lacked the funds, Jin decided to sell the prototype Gearbox to various worlds at ultra high prices but also in limited quantities. Because of the System 's bias choice of trading in the Mecha World's market, it had not vetted the buyer before selling the product... even though our dear System was always careful in the past." Yun started to address the issue to Jin while not wasting the opportunity to get some jabs into the System.

"In defence, the System did vet the –"

"System Shhh! You allowed me to say it on your behalf, so keep quiet." Yun placed her index finger at her mouth to indicate the System to shut the hell up before she cleared her throat and continued on.

"The System did not vet the buyer sufficiently thorough because of the lack of multithread capacity to process the entire vetting procedure while they were in the midst of preparing for the war." Yun had decided to give the System a chance to come clean itself.

"However, that lead to a successful deal, which now indirectly caused a great threat to the Mecha World. According to black market information brokers, the buyer was from an elitist cult group which used the prototype as a sample to build an enlarged version of it for their Mecha frames. So even if we destroy the original prototype with our failsafe method, it would be useless."

"Please don't tell me that that prototype leads to the productions of robots like Gomdem. And instead of saving the world, they are destroying it?" Jin said it out loud, and Yun shrugged a right shoulder while nodding her head.

"That's more or less the gist of it. World Domination... as per usual." Yun replied.

"Hahahahah! So, you are saying our dear little master's sale had inadvertently caused chaos to their world? Oh boy. Jin you shall be remembered in the future as the ancestor who has sold weapons starting an intergalactic war..." Kraft laughed so badly at the situation at hand.

"At this rate, we might as well call ourselves the Protectors of the Galaxy or World, going everywhere to solve each and different world's problem. And they all originate from this tiny little shop on Earth. Oh, the irony of a fantasy light novel." Kraft couldn't help but add more salt to injury as he continued to chuckle at the absurdity at it.

"Are they..erm the Mecha World in very much in trouble?" Jin did feel a little guilty when Yun laid it out that way. She was right, he could not think straight after hearing the news.

"At the moment not really. But don't blame yourself too much over it. It was bound to happen for their world sooner or later, according to predictive analysis. We just kinda...erm accelerated the process for the bad guys. Also, unlike the worlds you been to, Earth's time move roughly three times faster than

theirs...if it brings you any consolation that you actually have more time in your hands." Yun tried her best to comfort Jin, hoping he would not blame himself too much.

"In my opinion, you had done well in past cases. The Goblin sons were a fateful coincidence that leads us to protect the balance in the Goblin World. " Zeru also consoled Jin.

"And if we did not remove Gold from the equation in the Farming World, the fate of that Farming World might have been sealed. We would not be able to procure any more luxury food products from their world's market." He added on while patting on his disciple's shoulder.

"Now I am beginning to feel letting Niu Lang creating that Supa Robot Wars was a blessing in disguise." Jin sighed.

"He would say it's the Heavens that ordained it. Good luck pal." Kraft patted on Jin's shoulders and left Jin to his own devices for now.

Chapter 437 Revising The Store

For the next few days, The WunderPanda Theme Park received more news coverage by Kiyu after Jin had lifted the information embargo for the service instance. As expected her video channel was bombarded by thousands of hits within the first day.

The video coverage by Kiyu had also broadcasted on the Pandaflix as well as the front page of the Pandamonium App, for those cultivators who had patronised Jin's store before. The System had noticed there was a drastic increase in the one time customers coming back for the service instance.

Because they were coming back after a long time, Jin had implemented a welcome back gift by letting them receive appropriate benefits like a booster pack for those who had played the Pet Card Arena or a 1 Silver Panda Medal, whichever they wished to choose.

The online video had also garnered a lot of attention and the people influenced by the video coverage were coming in flocks, making WunderPanda theme park the most popular instance, with Goblin Raid Events coming at a close second. That wasn't to say that the other dungeon instances were left untouched.

A number of the cultivators came because they heard that dungeon instances were real and intense, unlike other dungeon suppliers. They were no doubt extremely satisfied by the challenge, and many were hoping to join the ranks of Pandawan status because of the fame and recognition that they were as strong as them.

Separately, Yang Ling had a few things to take care of because it was the end of the year and told Jin that Xiong Da and her would liaise among themselves to challenge the Escape City dungeon instance as promised. They were confident that none could defeat the Escape City dungeon instance as of yet.

The cultivators also noticed the newly revamped Luxury Recovery Instance. Many gave feedback to the Panda Nurses that it was a remarkably comfortable experience, much better than the real hospitals. The

Panda Nurses could only chuckle and emphasised that this was not a hospital at all. Some even kid about driving here if they ever injured themselves, just for the care and concern of the Panda Nurses.

The decision to insert the hotspring instance option in every ward was a fantastic idea. A number of them were lured into the 10% discount and the ease of having the option right beside them. And because the wards are either solo or with friends, many tend to take up this opportunity after battling. The Emerald Mountain Hot Spring Instance had seen more than a 100% turnover just within a couple of days as compared to a month ago.

In addition to the luxury rooms they were warded in, there was also a gathering area on the first floor of the luxury recovery instance where every cultivator had access to. It was a lobby kind of space where the cultivators came together to discuss or merely chit chat about the experiences they had.

However, not everyone would be willing to do that since city people were not like people from small towns and villages. They rather prefer to keep to themselves. That was why Jin had included something extra to incentivise them to mingle in the lobby.

It was by changing his loot distribution yet again. Jin no longer made treasure chest pop up at random times or at the end of the dungeon. Instead, everyone would be teleported to the Luxury Recovery Instance lobby to retrieve their treasure from their assigned lockers. (The assigned lockers were also for the cultivators to keep their belongings if they had any.)

Should they win any prizes that were more than a gold Panda Medal, a ticket was given to them, and they could retrieve it at the Redemption Counter. This was to ensure no stealing of loot although the System had made sure such an act was impossible. Because all of the loot was already tagged to specific cultivators.

It was the act of going to the redemption counter, that thrill which made it look like the cultivators got something great. Jin had read about hyping the excitement for customers and creating addiction, and this was one of the ways that will entice people to come back again.

Even the lobby halls that Jin once made for cultivators to gather party members had all been connected to the first floor of the Luxury Recovery Instance so that the main shop instance would not be as crowded as it was.

However, those who were not injured were forbidden to visit the levels with wards unless they wished to meet a friend of theirs. Their pals would need to acknowledge and permit their arrival before they were allowed to ride the elevator to meet their fellow cultivators. Otherwise, all the gathering activities were done in the lobby.

All of these were to accommodate the increasing number of cultivators that were flooding into Jin's store. What initially seems to be a large and spacious place in the shop instance had become a place for cultivators to wait for their friends before moving into the Lobby area of the Luxury Recovery Instance.

Lynn also had plans to expand her Restaurant Instance and the first thing was to actually incorporate one of Jin's service instances, the Reservoir of Deep Fishing instance. She felt that by placing the fishing together with the restaurant, it could boost the sales of that particular service instance since it had Chef Roro to cut up the perfect sushi.

She reasoned that not many would know the existence of that service instance, and the price was off putting for the majority of the people. Jin then explained the System's rationale to keep the price hefty but Lynn argued that he should relook at it while keeping the System's wishes in mind.

"What do you mean?" Jin asked, and Lynn giggled a little when he was talking to her in the dining area of the terrace house. (Come to think of it, Jin does not really have an office to himself nor does Qiu Yue.)

"Let them fish for free, the first set of bait and fishing rods are free. The subsequent baits will require payment but allow them fish for as long as they want. However, have a bear cub NPC to accompany them and use the bear cub to promote the fish they caught. This way, the fishermen won't be bored and have a companion with them while fishing. If they manage to catch a fish, the bear cub could tell them that they can either release the fish or buy it for sushi, bbq or maybe as a meal in the restaurant." Lynn explained her idea.

"I believe this will improve the odds of the fishing experience and eventually there will be people who would want to buy the fish," Lynn added and suddenly it raised a question in Jin's head.

"Hmm, System is there a way for the Lost Tech Counterfeiter to ...erm counterfeit a living fish or do you need to use souls with it to recreate the fish? I find that there is some kind of weird loophole here." Jin questioned and Lynn was surprised that Jin could even think of that.

"Negative, the System had tried counterfeiting a living being and had been unable to achieve the same result. The counterfeiter might use the living being as a design blueprint, but the result is more similar to a dead item. System even tried inserting a soul in, but the body rejected the soul entirely." The System replied and Jin guessed that the System had its own procedure in making those clones out while maintaining both the spirit, soul and information that it once had.

The System was after all a byproduct from the Will of the Heavens.

"Oh well, I was just asking, since I thought it could duplicate a one to one for almost everything." Jin sighed and he told Lynn to go ahead with that particular idea since the fishing instance only had a handful of customers.

Maybe he could add a fishing tournament or something in the future. But for now, if Lynn could revitalise the instance, that would be an excellent idea and a possible boost to their income.

"System, please transfer Lynn the rights to the fishing instance and allow her to merge the instance with her restaurant instance," Jin ordered the System and it did what it was told upon seeing the marketing potential Lynn had proposed.

In the meantime, Peppers after hearing some ruckus decided to come down to see who was around.

"Ah! Master, you've come at the right time!" Peppers greeted Jin as she told him to stay where he was. She rushed back up her room to get a few items down.

"What's this?" Jin asked as Peppers laid a suitcase down right in front of him. She smirked a little before opening it up for him to see.

"This is... how did you do it?" Jin was surprised as Peppers giggled and shited the suitcase for Lynn to see, making her awe in amazement.

It was none other than the Living Armour Plates. Zither Mistress Ke Mi had informed Peppers that a few of them had reached a decent size so she decided to pluck one out for Jin to see the results. However, because she had to tend to the crops in Agriculture Sector One, she had handed it over to Peppers instead.

Peppers, on the other hand, had decided to feed it with some precious stones she bought off the System to mimic Ke Mi and suddenly the living armour plate had started to glow and emit a rainbow shine off its plate. Peppers told Jin that the stones it ate were infused with an exceeding amount of energy which she had inserted before they could explode.

As the living armour plate consumed the stones, it grew larger to a point it was a wide and vast looking plate. One which would have taken centuries for it to grow into such a size. And somehow it transformed its shape into a belt when Jin touched it with his chi. Peppers quickly picked it up before the living armour plated belt wanted more of Jin's chi and placed it in the suitcase.

"I do not understand much about it, but I figured that this particular living armour plate eats whatever it can to grow, and it still seems hungry for more. You're lucky I'm here as it seems to be attracted to the highest quantity of chi or mana in the vicinity. Else even Lynn would not be able to remove it from you." Peppers warned Jin not to activate his chi in front of it.

"That could actually become a very effective weapon against certain types of enemies or even high level grades." Jin deduced and Peppers agreed with him wholeheartedly.

"Which is why I am going to experiment with it a little more and see if other plates respond the same as this plate. At least to my knowledge, this is a very abnormal behaviour for a living armour plate. The Jacks also have never heard of a precedent for such a case." Peppers responded. (she was hoping to turn this mistake of itchy fingers into a blessing in disguise.)

"But it brings a lot of possibilities if you think about it. Like chi or mana absorbing armour plate. Those attacks would render partially ineffective to Jin, protecting him even more." Lynn said that this plate could be unique enough.

"Heh! Sounds like my Reverse Aegis barrier spell, absorbing all kind of magic to keep itself alive." Peppers chuckled and realised...that could be the key from absorbing Jin's chi if Jin were to use it.

"Oh my god, talking with you guys is one of the best things that happened to me this week! Unless it's an emergency, don't call on me. I have ideas to try out!!!" Peppers squeaked with delight and brought the suitcase up with her.

"She totally looks like you when you have your bouts of inspiration." Lynn laughed as she continued drinking her Blue Mountain coffee.

"Wouldn't it be ironic if she was my kid from the future?" Jin uttered casually and Lynn nearly choked from drinking her coffee.

"Please, don't make me laugh when I am drinking," Lynn warned Jin and they both chuckled a little.

"By the way, Lynn. I am sorry if you were keeping this a secret but erm... I stumbled upon some sake the last time I visited the Werejackals. However, I did not see it on any menu yet, including the ones in

WunderPanda theme park. Is that a new drink for the restaurant?" Jin asked since he did have plans to create a bar instance in the future too.

"Oh, I erm... I am planning to create a bar...for the expansion of my Restaurant instance." Lynn guessed there was no harm revealing her whole hand since Jin already found out part of it. "As you can imagine, they will be serving only the best and if there is one item on the menu, then so be it. As long as the sake wine can meet the expectation of the people, I am happy to serve that."

"But as of right now, it is still in the planning phase. I have asked Melis to try them ...but unfortunately, she gets intoxicated rather quickly. That's why I asked the Jacks before you met them. Thus, I need more time before I can perfect the sake for sale." Lynn explained.

"Oh...so the bar expansion and the fishing ...are they like stops for people to alight from?" Jin wondered to which Lynn nodded in excitement. She did not expect Jin to guess her plans that quickly. Like Jin and Qiu Yue, Lynn wanted to expand on her sphere of influence in the store too, and only by showing that she had the capability to do it then she believed she was worthy to be in this store.

"I see, I see. Please! Keep it up! Like I said that instance is your very own wonderland aside from the WunderPanda that is. Hahah! Do continue with the good work!" Jin encouraged her before he received a call that he had to answer.

"I will, Jin. I will." Lynn quietly stared at his back as he moved to the backyard to answer his call.

Chapter 438 Burnt Temple

"Grandma Yuan is ready to see you. Be prepared, it won't be a short visit. She has cleared her schedule especially for you. Oh and wear that Panda Pin if you understand what I mean." The assistant on the phone informed him, and Jin immediately took off his stuff and told Yun to look after the shop. He hailed a cab via his phone app to reach the destination the assistant had given him.

"Sir, the place you are going, you sure that is the correct address?" The taxi driver asked casually.

"That is what my colleague told me, why? Is there anything wrong with the address I gave you?" Jin who was sitting at the back seat, stared out the windows for once, instead of consistently looking at his phone.

"Hmm, it's just that I assumed you were one of the few relatives of the victims wanting to pay your respects to the place. Guess I was wrong, sorry to disturb you, Sir." The veteran taxi driver answered and his reasoning made Jin curious.

"No, it's okay. What actually happened in that area?" Jin pressed for an answer.

"I think it was about 23 years ago? A fire, a large enormous one that consumed the entire temple during the Qing Ming Festival. A sizeable number of people was there to give thanks to their forefathers." The taxi driver started.

"But what remained a mystery was how the fire was able to spread so fast that it killed that many nearly in an instant. The government was short of calling it a terrorist attack given how most of the people who died there were pretty decent cultivators at least Grade two and above." He made a turn and into the expressway.

"Oh yea, to common folks, Grade 2 cultivators were the norm of life...as compared to my cultivators." Jin thought to himself as he continued to listen to the taxi driver.

"However, that's the government and national news. You and I both know that the government would always keep things under wraps. I had a friend whose relative died in the fire too, and he depicted a different story according to his relative who later succumbed to the injuries and passed on."

"His relative supposedly shared that there was a man, with literally monstrous chi. He had horns coming out from his shoulders and even a tail. He came barging into the temple and immediately started slaughtering the people in there. It was not just mass murder but a massacre at that. The cultivators came together to fight against it, but it was no use at all." The taxi driver went to the third lane and drove a little faster since the traffic was smooth.

"It might sound delusional but the relative even on his deathbed kept emphasising the word demon, demon, demon. The recount he gave stated that there were a few cultivators who managed to fight that 'demon'. But the demon eventually gave one last push by ending its life with a blast." He narrated with exaggeration which made Jin give him a weird look.

It seemed such a coincidence that the taxi driver talked to him about Demons when he was about to see Grandma Yuan about the request on Demon Exorcists. So he decided to try his luck and ask with regards to it.

"I am sorry to sound rude. It's just that for a relative that had succumbed to injuries, your friend seemed to be able to get a lot of information about the incident." Jin said as courteously as he can while questioning the cab driver.

"Heh, what do I know, it's only a story. I am merely telling you to pass the time. Besides, you gotta admit it's a rather decent story from a friend." The driver replied in a joking manner.

"I am more concerned about the loopholes in that. Like Demons." Jin said while staring intently at the rear mirror to see the expression of his eyes. That moment when their eyes connected, Jin swiftly understood that the taxi driver knew something which he did not know.

The taxi driver immediately drove faster, seemingly with little to no regard to his life. "What is your motive for going to the abandoned temple." The driver asked as he continued to step onto the pedal.

"That is none of your business," Jin said as he prepared himself by diverting his chi into his left hand. He was ready to slam the side door open when he deemed fit to escape even though he knew the car had already reached 110km/hr. "I will probably be going to escape with more than just bruises on myself." He prepared himself mentally.

"You do not seem to understand the current situation. Even if you manage to get out of this car, you will die no matter what." The taxi driver lowered his voice and warned Jin. "I shall ask again. What is your motive for going to the abandoned temple?"

"Likewise, you do not seem to care about your life." Jin wasn't planning on revealing anything no matter what. He was confident that he was able to get out of it with just a few bruises. "System, I hope you are ready for a portal escape."

Upon Jin's reply, the taxi driver smirked and pressed on the pedal even harder, accelerating to the maximum limit of the speedometer. Jin could also feel that the car was shaking from the top speed it was going. However, he suddenly felt his chi in his left hand dissipate as well.

"What?" Jin could not fathom what was happening. He tried to muster the chi back into his left hand, but it was not working. The System was also not responding to him while he tried to turn on his phone. None of it was working, and now he started to panic as he pulled the car's handle.

"It's locked, don't bother." The taxi driver said in a dark, ominous tone. Even the seatbelt was unwilling to budge; instead, it was strapping him tightly to the point he was severely immobilised by it. Jin could see from the front that the driver was evading as many cars as possible until he reached an overhead passing before the taxi driver made a sharp right turn.

The taxi smashed into road barrier that protected the pedestrian crossing but the speed that it was going, allowed the car to break it easily and it went off the road. All Jin could see was a valley which he was going to smash into. The taxi driver laughed as the car flipped in midair and there was nothing Jin could do.

He was powerless without his chi, without his system.

All he could do was to wait for the impending crash to happen.

Jin gasped for air as he opened his eyes wide, and the taxi driver in front of him turned his head. "You okay back there Sir?" The middle aged rugged looking uncle asked as he returned and concentrated what was right in front of him. Jin held on to his for a while and nodded a little in response.

"Looks like you had a bad dream, you were sleeping soundly just now. We should be arriving soon." The driver interrupted and continued his driving.

The dungeon supplier looked around him and quickly checked his chi gathering abilities as well as his phone. His chi was gathering smoothly, the phone was not locked and Jin asked the System for a quick update. "Did anything happen to me just now?"

"You had been in a deep state of sleep for 67 minutes until a minute ago, your heart rate and brain activity spiked, and you woke up immediately. Other than that, there was nothing unusual. No interference of any sort." The System reported.

"How did I fall asleep? I don't believe I was that tired or anything." Jin asked but the System only stated the time he slept.

"Is something wrong? Your vitals are all over the place." Pei asked via the bracelet in a worried voice for once.

"I...I do not know. Perhaps I just had a very bad dream." Jin said as he noticed that the taxi was driving into an isolated side road.

"Hmm, the GPS said it should be a few hundred metres ahead. Do you know where are you going, Sir?" The driver asked as he looked unsure where he was going but continued to follow the GPS.

"Honestly, I am not sure. My colleague told me its a temple or something?" Jin still remembered the details of the dream and see if it matches with the 'real life' version.

"Really? Well, this is my first time coming here. I have no idea what- oh...you are right. There's a temple." The taxi went up to the slope and saw the standard Guardian Lion statues that were guarding the temple main gates.

"Looks awfully run down and broken though." The uncle gave his own assessment of the place. "and burnt too."

"Well, yeah. My colleague just told me to come here. You can stop further up front." Jin said as he prepared his payment to the taxi driver.

"Hmm, if you need a ride back within an hour or so, do not hesitate to message me via the app, I believe I should be nearby taking a break. Else, I will be going back after that." The uncle hoped that he could earn Jin's business again since it was quite a far trip from where he was. The money would be good.

"You do not have to. We will send him back." A well dressed young man in his twenties said when he overheard the conversation between Jin and taxi driver as he opened the gates of the temple.

"Ah, alright then. Have a nice day, Sir." Even though the driver was irritated by the arrogance of that well dressed person, he was still courteous to Jin and bid him goodbye.

"Go in, don't waste any more time." A separate attendant from the lady Jin saw at his store had spoken to him as he snobbishly told Jin to enter. "Do not expect us to give you any preferential treatment just because you are acquainted with Grandma Yuan." He said out loud as he closed the temple main gates with just a push.

Jin noticed that aside from the front temple gates, the temple structure was similar to his dream when he fought with the White Tiger of the West, except that its exterior was badly burned. And like those shounen anime he watched, there were a few teenagers spread out around the central courtyard sitting and observing his every move.

Grandma Yuan was at the centre of them all as she sat on a rather lavish looking chair in the middle of the courtyard.

"You got the message, that means you are finally a Grade 8?" Grandma Yuan asked rhetorically and the other teens sniggered at her sentence.

"Just a Grade 8? So old and yet so incompetent." One of the boys in a fancy suit was looking at his phone.

"Stop it! There's probably a reason why Grandma Yuan chose him." The girl with plaited hair from afar waved at Jin as she replied to the boy.

"Have more respect to Grandma Yuan who is in front of you!" The supposed attendant in a well dressed suit shouted at the two teens while there was the last lady with long hair sitting on a tree branch who did not bother to respond.

"Yes, Grandma Yuan. What is the meaning of this?" Jin asked and the others chuckled again. Grandma Yuan smacked her stick once and suddenly everyone kept quiet.

"I am afraid I have to test you first before I can reveal any information." Grandma Yuan replied as she nodded her head once and the four cultivators around him immediately went ahead to ambush Jin.

"Survive for 30 seconds and we shall talk more."

Chapter 439 Thirty Seconds

There was no time for any argument. The moment Grandma Yuan declared that Jin had to survive, it turned into the longest 30 seconds that Jin would ever feel in his lifetime.

"Rong! Coming forth!" The boy who appeared to be in his late teens shouted as he portrayed his cultivation with five Ox silhouettes above him. However, what Jin could see was that they were not ordinary Oxen at all.

"Demons!" Jin expressed his shock as he saw the Ox Demon had four protruding horns, two large and two small. The body of the Ox Demon was covered with massive thick strands of hair as if one had just woken up from bed. Underneath that gigantic hair like fur, it had hooves that were similar to a bird's claws, as if it was used to catch humans.

"That is right, I wield the cultivation style of Ox Demon, Ao Ye!" Rong shouted as he summoned out a large hammer from his storage ring and prepared to slam it at Jin mercilessly. However, the dungeon supplier was quick enough to dodge it, clinging on to an inch of his life, but that was also when the next challenger came in to strike him. It was the girl who had been talking to Rong before Grandma Yuan issued the challenge.

"Lian. Striking from behind!" The girl with plaited hair announced her name as she revealed a cultivation of six fox silhouettes above her. This was the most familiar demon that Jin recognised almost immediately, the Nine Tailed Fox Demon.

"Very interesting. Not many people can handle the constant trickery of the Nine Tailed Fox Demon. You have to watch her out the most, she will not show you her best attacks until the end." Kraft whispered in Jin's head even though that was insufficient to distract him.

Jin whipped out Bam, in katana form and tried to stop her claw attack from inflicting any damage. Even though he knew that he should have blocked the attack just now with the back of his scabbard, he somehow could feel a slashing sensation on his body. Jin could not verify if he were bleeding as there was no time to, especially when the next demon cultivator came towards him.

"Su Zhen. On your left." A whip secretly wrapped around him while Jin was still busy blocking Lian's attack. This particular cultivator portrayed one large white snake silhouette above her. He roughly knew that a large silhouette meant that the cultivator had at least ten grades on them, and even had attained spiritual union. But did she really attain a spiritual union with a white snake demon or with white snakes in particular? Jin did not know and had no time to think and could only react.

He swiftly cut off the whip upon making a body flipping twirl via Panda Rolling with Bam. However, upon cutting, the broken white whip on Jin's right hand turned into a snake trying to crawl up his arm, as if looking to bite his neck.

Thus, Jin quickly released a burst of his Black Panda Fire which thoroughly burnt the snake, revealing his one of his trump cards to the demon exorcist trainees. Su Zhen gave a visible 'tsk' as she retracted her whip. In a few short seconds, the whip regained its original shape.

"Interesting. A type of fire that can actually destroy Su Zhen's snake whip. That I have to give credit. However, you shall now die by my sword. Lein! Meet your match!" Lein shouted at Jin as he jumped in the air, and the clouds turned partially dark for a moment as a flash of lightning imbued his sword. Similar to Su Zhen, a large silhouette of a Qilin, a unicorn like demon came out above Lein's head.

"Intermediate Sword Technique, Thunderclap of the Qilin!" Lein shouted as he struck his sword down hard and fast at Jin.

"Panda Rolling!" Jin was unable to completely dodge out of the way in time judging from the amount of area damage that particular technique Lein was using might have. However, he needed to use Panda Rolling to at least get into a position to defend himself. "Note to self, get a fast reacting defensive skill!" Jin thought to himself. Jin assumed that there was no need to use White Panda Ice despite of the grade that Lein was in.

The lightning infused sword clashed into Jin's katana and the impact made the surrounding ground caved in. "What the hell?!!" Jin thought to himself as he was sure that a Grade 10 shouldn't be as strong as what Jin was experiencing. Was the power gap that high from a Grade 8 to 10? Even so, Jin had fought grades higher than himself, and he attained spiritual union which was why Jin did not expect the disparity in strength to be so unequal.

Lein gave a wide smirk as if he wished to execute another technique, but it appeared that Jin had more battle experience than Lein, allowing the dungeon supplier to open his mouth and shoot a beam of chi energy from it.

Lein had to swirl his body to the side to dodge it and his teammate Rong covered his flank by initiating a hammer swing straight to Jin's chest. Because Jin was too focus on bringing down Lein, he did not see Rong coming, causing him to eat the slam of the hammer. Su Zhen then took the opportunity to grab Jin by the neck with her whip while Lian dashed in for the final blow.

"Stop." Grandma Yuan said as she banged her stick on the ground again, and Jin was centimetres from death. "29.6 seconds to immobilise him and reach for the kill. You kids have more to learn." The bespectacled female assistant in office wear who Jin had previously seem and made contact with was right beside Grandma Yuan and spoke out loud to the teens.

"If it takes you this long to kill him, you all better practice more." Grandma Yuan berated them as she commanded Su Zhen to release the whip. "As for you, Jin. You failed to uphold our bargain."

"How the hell, did I know that I will be-"

"NO EXCUSES!" Grandma Yuan shouted with chi infused into it, which caused the rest of the teens to immediately kneel in front of Grandma Yuan with their heads lowered. "If you do not wish history to

repeat itself. You better learn to be much stronger!. And why are you holding your punches back? You think that just because they are kids and probably lower in rank than you, that you can afford to go easy on them?! You saw how two of them had higher grades than you!"

"But I..." Jin was speechless as he stood right in front of Grandma Yuan.

"No Buts. I understand why you do not wish to use 'that' in front of them. Still, does that mean your self defence ability is this weak? What if they were indeed the very same assassins that came to your shop? All your work would have gone down the drain!" Grandma Yuan scolded Jin.

"I am sorry." Jin had no other words to say.

"Claire. Bring this guy into the Isolation Ward. Jin. I will only give you one more chance to redeem yourself. Three Days. No one will disturb you. In three days, you will duel with all of my students once more in a one on one match. Either you kill them all, or you receive zero help from me." Grandma Yuan stated as she nodded her head towards Claire, the lady secretary right beside her.

Claire understood what needed to be done and told Jin to follow her. With a slight push, she opened what seemed to be a hefty iron door which Jin was amazed at her strength. There was no revelation of her cultivation to Jin, and as he walked past the gates, he also tried to casually push the other side door with his usual strength.

It did not budge a single bit.

He sighed at the discovery of these group of people and quietly followed Claire behind. In the meantime, he did feel some sort of déjà vu coming from the temple interior décor. While it was not precisely the same, the temple that Ming created in his dreams, had many similarities to it... if not the exact same designs.

There was silence throughout the entire walk as Claire brought him underground, and it was several floors below where he eventually noticed a sort of trapdoor at the edge of the basement room. Claire mumbled some words which he did not recognise, but they caused the trap doors to open for it to reveal a room void of light.

"Jump in, it is approximately 50 metres deep. There are no stairs, no food or water and only a small hole at the right end for you to relieve yourself. The...erm stench might be a bit strong, but you will get used to it immediately." Claire said as she took a flare from her storage ring, lit it up and threw it into the Isolation Ward

"Exactly three days from the moment I close this door. That is the time when I will come to retrieve you. While I will usually say that this is your last chance to back out. You have that 'thing' with you. Whether you choose to keep yourself confined or escape from this place, its none of my business." Claire seemed to be aware that Jin had the System with him.

"In the isolation room, there is a sensory inscription charm. It will activate to send us a signal when it senses that you are not in there. Should that happen for whatever reason, we will assume that you forfeit your right to speak with Grandma Yuan to learn about the matters of the Demon Exorcists." Claire explained as she relayed the wishes of her boss.

"Till then, as I said, whatever you do inside the isolation ward is none of my business." Claire reiterated and waited for Jin's reply.

"I understand." Jin realised Grandma Yuan was at least prepared to counter Jin's way of escaping and therefore decided to go into the isolation ward of his own free will. Claire banged the door shut even before Jin reached the bottom of the lit flare.

"I guess it's time to formulate my own strategy against those demon exorcists trainees... heck they might even be the real demon exorcists." Jin thought as he quickly went into the cultivation stance to recover the wounds he had.

After Jin left the courtyard, Grandma Yuan stared at the four teens that were still kneeling down in front of her. They heard the entire conversation and knew that they had to fight with this Jin once again. And this time not only would it be one on one, but he would also be prepared.

"As for you kids. If any of you lose, you will be resurrected. However, anyone who loses, no matter if Jin defeats all of you or not, will have to work under him until you paid off your debts to me before you can kneel before me again. Like I said, fight to the death or no more teachings from me!" Grandma Yuan announced her orders to them out of the blue, and the teens immediately spoke out rackets of rejections.

"Why?! He is just a nobody! It was a fluke that he could dodge and block our attacks! You saw how we managed to get him in the end!" Su Zhen tried to refute and the others chimed in as well.

"Silence! I told you guys to bring him down in 20 seconds. You all took 9.6 seconds more because you severely underestimated him. How many times have I told you not to waste time talking with the enemy?! ... Three days later will also be your only chance for redemption." Grandma Yuan said. The teens understood how strict Grandma Yuan was and reluctantly nodded their heads as they began to leave the temple ground to go to their respective training areas except for Lein. Grandma Yuan told him to stay for a private conversation.

"Did you see his intent to kill when he shot you that beam of chi energy?" Grandma Yuan asked Lein, who was all proud and arrogant in front of the disciples, suddenly trembled badly and nodded his head.

"The others have yet to experience it first hand because he was still holding back his abilities but when he sensed that his life was in danger from your attack, that intent to survive...that intent to kill. Now, do you understand that this is what you will feel if you ever go out to fight real demons?" Grandma Yuan became slightly gentle in front of Lein despite her strict demeanour.

"Three days later, you will notice that his intent to kill and survive will still be the same... Perhaps even more terrifying. If you think you have seen it all from your training, you are sorely mistaken. You might have the skill and talent, but if you cannot overcome that fear of striking him down for good, I suggest you drop out of training." Grandma Yuan warned Lein.

"You can pass that message to the others, though I doubt they will understand until they experience it during the heat of battle." Grandma Yuan added before dismissing Lein. Claire returned by the time she finished lecturing Lein, and she was enjoying the calming tea that was placed right beside her.

"Hmm...I still think Jin's girl brewed a better tea." Grandma Yuan said casually which Claire apologised immediately. "Nah, it's fine. Do not blame yourself, she is a natural. That's all."

"I see...so are you really going to make them fight to the death?" Claire asked as a sort of concern. She herself had undergone a similar trial. It was the norm for Demon Exorcists to have to go through a selection process that included death. The teens had learned about this when they first picked up the mantle as apprentices, but whether it got into their heads was a different issue.

"Perhaps...but you know, Jin is a dungeon supplier and with the System too. So..." Grandma Yuan did not finish her sentence. Claire chuckled.

"You've changed. Perhaps for the better, Madam..." Claire bluntly stated her thoughts.

"You cheeky fellow. Since when you can talk back to me like this. Haha!" Grandma Yuan said as she closed the lid to the teacup she was drinking reminiscing a little on Lynn's brewed tea. But when Claire assisted her, Grandma Yuan snapped out of it and they returned back to Tiangong District for the time being.

Chapter 440 Flirting for Information

"Thank goodness the mousefolk still had some currency with them." Meomi said in her bald headed disguise as they passed through the Demon Rat checkpoint and into the middle sized town called Uote.

"Heh, it was free anyway, why bother negotiating with them, Flame Ripper?" Sebastia asked as she played with the coin they 'paid' to the guards that had the Demon Rats scrutinising them from afar.

"I totally forgot that you were well versed with coin tricks..." Flame Ripper sighed as they surveyed the bleak condition the town was in.

Ever since the Demon Rats infested the entire northern region, they had maintained the strictest restriction in that area since that was where the so called home base was. The Farm Rats did attempt to spread further down to the rest of the land, but the main issue was the ocean. They were unable to cross the bodies of water, and the northern military, or what was left in the Farming World had fiercely protected the remaining port towns.

So, unless the Scholar of the North and South had decided to personally bring the viral demon plague infestation to the other parts of the world, this was the last known spot where Gold, the previous Scholar of the East had seen the plague.

This was precisely why Gold sorely needed information. He wanted to know if the Demon Rats had control outside of the northern region. If there were, it would seem even more disastrous than he could imagine, and it would potentially change how Jin should confront the situation.

"You seem to like the bald disguise a lot? Does it remind you of someone?" Sebastia asked as they managed to check into an Inn to stay for the night. The scouting team had been on the road for two days straight with their light footed spell before they reached Town Uote. By the time they arrived, it was already in the evening.

"Yes. My father." Meomi did not mince her words as she unpacked her items in the small room they rented. (Which, of course, was being paid with the same coins that 'magically' found itself again in Sebastia's hands.)

"I see, I shall not probe any further then," Sebastia said as she also began to change out into her proper combat gear.

"Rendezvous in 30 minutes at the top of the town's clocktower when the sun is down. Get food if you need to and if possible some information." Flame Ripper instructed as he was already draped in an all black attire. With just a quick peek out of the window, he disappeared like the wind.

"I will be off too." Meomi subsequently followed Flame Ripper's way of exiting the room and disappeared even before Sebastia could deliver a reply.

"Guess, I am the only one using the old fashion way of collecting information." Sebastia took some perfume out from her backpack and sprayed it all around her. She also adjusted her combat gear to make sure her 'erogenous' areas were well endowed.

With her new disguise from the cosmetic inscription as well as a magical ring of truth which Peppers imbued to get information easily, she believed things would go well. However, the ring only had a fixed amount of charges in it, and hopefully, Sebastia was able to get the information without using it.)

The inn had a bar that served food and beer on the first floor too, as such she decided to try her luck getting information first. "Urgh, the atmosphere seems to be the same no even in other worlds." Sebastia thought the moment she got down from her room to the first floor. Every guy in that bar turned to see the badass beauty they caught a glimpse of when they initially entered the inn.

Even the innkeeper was staring at her and prolonged the checking in procedure just to talk to her. That was also why Sebastia had decided to try to get the information from them. She might not be as convincing as Kiyu, but she believed decades of experience with Lord Moloch would prove to be sufficient. (What's a few decades to a demonised Minotaur in the Dungeon World?)

"Jackpot." Sebastia smiled to herself when she was all along in the bar, already enjoying the free drinks from the lecherous bartender when a rugged, tough looking guy talked up towards her. All that in less than 10 minutes.

"You seem alone, young miss. That bald guy and little kid your family?" The stranger asked though Sebastia continued to pay more attention to her drink than him.

"Clients. I am here to chill out." Sebastia answered eventually as she took a sip from her drink. However, she also performed the sipping as sexual as could be, arousing the tough guy to get his utmost attention.

"Hmm, maybe I can assist you in your chilling out. That is if you get my drift." The stranger came closer to her as if to check her out even more. He could clearly see her sensuous volume of fats staring at him back right at his face, and the stranger was trying his best to control himself in front of the crowd.

"Perhaps. That is if you can answer my question. If you can satisfy my curiosity... maybe I won't mind the company." Sebastia played the 'hard to get' part rather smoothly, and it already made the stranger swallowing his saliva.

"What do you wish to know?" The tough guy went even closer, caressing her arms.

"What is the status of the Demon Rats around this area? Are they very active? Have they invaded the seaports or spread to the other regions?" She asked directly to the point and suddenly the tough guy became not so tough. He quickly covered her and whispered to her ears. It was not a sign of flirting, but he was genuinely terrified.

"Why are you asking all these questions? You should know anyone could be a spy. They are putting out generous rewards for anyone asking too much. If their collaborators catch you asking these kinds of stuff, they will imprison you for interrogation!" The stranger replied in a fairly panicked tone.

Demon Rats. These two words were enough for his libido to hit rock bottom. Even the bartender who had been eavesdropping quickly moved away from her for his own sake.

"Sounds even worse than I thought..." Sebastia thought to herself before she put up a smile. "I just need to know for my client. That bald guy needs to travel to the southern area to reunite with his family. He wants to know which seaport is still safe to travel. I also heard they would need to stop either at the East or West region before they proceed further down."

"Ah...I thought you were one of the resistance members." The stranger said in a concerned manner when he realised the motive of Sebastia. "Recently, there had been too many raids on the outskirts of Uote. The rebels were conducting ambushes against the rats. The Jacks, I believe. Or what's left of them anyway."

"Heh, those Jacks? Aren't they a miserable bunch of people, trying their best to thwart the peace that you guys have in town?" Sebastia was trying her luck to see if any of the resistance members were in the bar. She was also scanning around the crowd when she spoke ill of it.

It was killing two birds with one stone by announcing her opinion out loud. Those that hated the rats would not be able to say anything much or at least pretend to not hear it. At that moment, she was also surveying the crowd of those who were looking for the very same people that she was looking for as well. The collaborators.

Sebastia did not know how deeply rooted the collaborators were with the Demon Rats. The illusion of peace in this town was too fragile and fake. Everyone was just going on with their own lives as per normal while living in the fear of the Demon Rats.

"You have not answered my question." Sebastia now took the initiative to whisper at the stranger's ear and bit it lightly after she noted that there was a possibility for both collaborators and the rebels to be in the very same bar.

"From...From...what I know, the...erm they could not pass through the defences at the major seaports and decided to stay inland conquering the entire Northern Region for themselves. They seem pretty satisfied with it." The tough guy said, and Sebastia furrowed her eyebrows as if she was in disbelief.

"Why are they just satisfied with the Northern region?" Sebastia questioned as she took her shot of booze.

"The northern region was supposedly the leading exporter of agriculture because of its rich and fertile lands for crops. Taking the farms away and you basically starve nearly half the of the world who relied on the food supplies." the stranger said and Sebastia asked how reliable was his information.

"No shit, serious. I work as a sailor and am currently on home leave. If your client needs a boat ride, I can ask my captain to provide you with a space to travel to the south. There was no such news of ...them invading yet." The sailor confessed, and Sebastia knew it was true.

The magical ring of truth needed to be in contact with the person to know that they were stating the fact, or at least what they seemed to know. Which was why Sebastia decided to act playful and bit on his ear to let the ring work its magic.

In the meantime, she could deduce why the Demon Rats were satisfied with maintaining the northern region. If what the sailor said was true, by starving half the world would mean that the other regions would be fighting among themselves for food supplies.

If that was true, the Demon Rats could have bid their time to attack them while they are at the weakest. Sebastia could not fathom that they would able to think of such a plan unless there was someone more intelligent leading them.

"Well, the night is still young, I'm going to walk around a little. Perhaps I will visit you later in the night...when it's less crowded." Sebastia teased him before she gave her coin to the bartender. "Extra, to keep both of your lips wet." Sebastia winked and the bartender poured a cup for both the sailor and himself to steady their nerves. (Little did he knew the coin was gone the moment he kept it.)

"I got to meet up with Flame Ripper and Meomi to see what they know." Sebastia thought to herself as she walked out of the inn and went via the back alley since the clocktower was behind the inn. However, not even five minutes later, there were multiple footsteps behind her. The minotaur maid did not expect actions of either the rebels or collaborators to be that fast.

She did what every person who was being followed would do. Walk faster and then run until she found herself in a dead end. The mob were panting trying to get her but seeing how they finally surrounded her, they took out their hidden weapons like knives, daggers and even wooden clubs,

"We heard that you saying bad things about the Jacks and asking about the whereabouts of the Demon Rats. What are you exactly planning? To spread more of the plague? To be a collaborator? Who is your client?" A person with strands of silver hair came forward among the mobs. "We do not tolerate those who support the Demon Rats."

"Sigh, just when I thought I can give someone a good thrashing," Sebastia said, and she stared down the entire group with a menacing aura. While it seemed apparent that they were the rebel group, especially the one right in front of her, she needed further verification to prove that they could be trusted.

"I know where Gold is. Heard that he is not in a very good shape. My bald headed client seemed to have had fun bullying him at times." Sebastia smirked as she spoke half the truth out.

Suddenly, the eyes of the guy in Silver Hair grew wide, and he tore his cloak away in anger. The growling sound got louder and louder. The rest followed suit and Sebastia licked her lips.

"Oh, thy thank our Lord and Almighty System for being kind and benevolent. I shall guide the helpless to your arms." Sebastia prayed as she stretched and readied her palms against them.