

## Dungeon S 451

### Chapter 451 'Emergency' Surgery - Part 2

"Why is Jin's pulse suddenly going all haywire again?" Peppers wondered as she tried to maintain the mana output in Jin's body. They had reached a critical period during the surgery where his brain was consuming more mana than he should be able to produce on his own.

Peppers could only keep up with it to maintain his link between the body and spirit but when she decided to reported that anomaly to Pei, Jin's vitals went off the charts.

"Peppers, maintain the brain's mana consumption, we mustn't allow the spirit to leave the body at all cost especially during the infusion of the inscription charm. " Pei ordered while hastily asked for a surgical stapler.

"Milk, proceed with the final chanting for insertion of the inscription charm as soon as possible, we need to close his body up. Nurse, get the AED machine in case of sudden cardiac arrest." Pei calmly gave her orders to the people on this medical battlefield.

The repairs to his body were done. Pei had already inserted the replacement parts for his bones and the inscription charm was attached to his sternum. Milk was starting the final chanting to make sure that it could remain in his body forever regardless of any severe attack in the future.

At the same time, the Panda Nurses were running around in that pocket dimension to prepare the worst case scenario. She acted calm, but Pei still did not have any idea what was really happening to him even with the help of the System. In her centuries of healing, the sudden spike in his charts was extremely abnormal.

"Au Voir Lait, Greg Gi A Hi!!" Milk barely completed the final chanting, before Pei sutured up the body. She had ensured that the inscription charm was meticulously fused in line with the body and it was also thanks to Octofussy who had rushed out the Rapid Regeneration of the Otherworld Parasite God Inscription charm for them.

Pei did the final touches quicker than any surgeon would be able to perform and told the Senior Panda Nurse who was handling the anaesthesia to dial down the amount as smooth as she could while the rest of the Panda Nurses cleared the remaining procedures of the surgery such as ensuring the surgical scar was bandaged properly.

"We have done everything in our power. Now only time can tell." Pei sighed as she fell to the ground, lying on it dead tired. Milk did the same but not Peppers who seemed unconvinced that Jin's spirit was stable. She decided to take a risk and increase the amount of Mana output she produced, and suddenly eight panda silhouettes appeared above him.

"Whew, Jin, you scared me back there." Peppers fell to the ground as well, unable to move a single inch but she had one more thing to do. Increase the speed of the temporal manipulation to hasten Jin's recovery. What seemed to be just five minutes, was pushed forward to five hours in that pocket dimension which allowed Jin to open his eyes as well as giving the entire surgical team to have some rest lying immobile on the ground.

"Where am I?" Jin asked as he saw bright lights shining onto him as he was still on the rough surgical bed.

"Sorry master, we cannot get you a hospital bed nor teleport you to the Luxury Instance, else we will risk you getting dismissed by Grandma Yuan." Pei answered as she lay on Milk's thigh.

"Master, you are a pain in the ass. I was so excited discovering the properties of the magical living armour plate, and here you are getting slaughtered by a Three Tailed Fox Demon fused with your own sludge." Peppers complained while enjoying the other thigh of Milk.

"It's glad to see you all well and healthy." Milk genuinely cared for Jin, but she suddenly got a knock from Peppers Staff to her mandible and a hit from Pei's paper fan to the head.

"OEI! YOU TWO!" Milk shouted, and Pei disappeared into Jin's bracelet while Peppers returned into her room post haste. Milk's temper finally simmered down as she got up and gave Jin another healing spell to fasten the recovery.

"We have made a few adjustments to you while you were out cold." Pei started explaining as she now was back in her comfy zone. "I have removed your broken bones and replaced them with bones from a more robust creature which have a similar body structure as humans in the wild."

"Eh? What?" Jin was surprised, but Pei did not allow him to continue.

"I have merged some monster muscle fibres into you as well, so you should be able to surpass human capabilities even without using too much chi."

"Wait, WHY did you-"

"Milk and Octofussy have produced a one of a kind inscription charm especially for you to make sure that whatever injuries you suffer in the future, will heal almost as instant as snapping a finger. We also ensured that it's compatible with your body." Pei interrupted Jin once again.

"WHAT?! How can you-"

"The only thing I regret is not fiddling with your brain, else I would have been able to increase your mental capacity and up your physic defences too, so I wouldn't have to work too hard all the time."

"STOP! PEI! STOP!" Jin finally shouted but realised the pain in his abdomen was stopping him from saying anything else. Pei was finally done talking and waited for Jin to catch his breath and ask what he wanted.

"I did not give you permission to do any of those to me! How could you?" Jin was overwhelmed by Pei for receiving such drastic news. They actually turned him into a ...'monster'. (Which seemed to be the most fitting phrase.)

"You lost your rights, the moment you signed up with the System." Pei stuck her tongue out. "After your 'training' you were as good as crippled. It would have taken you months maybe years to fully heal from that. I did what I could to help you recover and saw the chance to help you survive in this cruel world out there. And this is the thanks I get?!"

"No! I did not mean that way, I mean...sigh... Thank you Pei. I've seen the shagged faces on all the bellators, including you when I woke up. I believe it was stressful for you and the rest of the surgical team. I am grateful for your actions. It's just well erm...I will just have to get used to my new body, I guess?" Jin apologised and Pei could sense that those were words coming from his heart.

"Hmmp! I will forgive you this once!" Pei replied with a bit of arrogance. She couldn't be too mad at him. The fox lady had access to his thoughts, so she understood how he felt. And he had every right to feel wronged.

After all, they did just perform a highly complicated surgery and turned him into something which wasn't 100% human anymore without any consent, even if it was all for his own sake. Focusing her attention on him she asked a very peculiar question.

"I was not able to make the connection during the surgery but now thinking about it, you seem to have reacted just as earlier. Your vitals spiked in a similar way as when you had the bad dream during the taxi trip. Was that it? Did you have bad dreams again? " Pei questioned.

"Yeah, you can call it a bad dream... I guess? I don't know and felt unsure about that. It seemed too real to be a dream. As if what I saw, actually happened." Jin replied while he stayed idle on the bed.

"Heh, don't think too much into it. Sometimes the ancestors in the System might accidentally form a link with you, resulting in you catching a glimpse of their memories, causing you to have such dreams. " Pei deduced that his spirit might have contacted something in this Isolation Ward, which she could sense it was filled with past horrors and lingering essence of past souls. That was also why she emphasised to Peppers to keep Jin's mental spirit intact.

"Or sometimes, it's just your imagination running wild. You know the kind of dream, where you get the feeling that you fall and jump out of bed? Whatever it was you probably shouldn't worry too much about it." Pei consoled Jin as she and the System could not understand what had happened. "But just to be sure. Do you still remember anything about your dreams? What it was about, what you saw or what you did maybe?"

"Ehh...blue hair? Does any of our ancestors or past Users have blue hair?" Jin asked, and the System instantly gave a quick No. Jin then figured it could not hurt to give Ryuli's name out and see if the System could cross reference to anybody in the national database system which had that name.

"No, a two tier cross reference check brought up a negative search for the person you called Ryuli. Similar pronunciations were also used without any matching results." The System stated, and Jin was a tad disappointed.

"Guess, it was really just a dream," Jin mumbled. Suddenly he remembered about the palm imprint, he made on the wall. Jin was able to get up from the surgical bed and started to feel the inscription within him already working its charms.

The sense of pain lessened more and more until disappearing completely and Pei started to second guess if it was the right choice to give him such an immortal level inscription. Still, that had been Octofussy's choice, not hers.

"Where are you going Jin?" Pei asked as he walked out to the western wall of Isolation ward and ignited his Black Panda Fire to illuminate the place up even further. It was useless, the walls were already cracked and dented from past attacks, and the battle with the Three Tailed Fox Demon just made the place even worse.

On a separate note, the System had not been completely frank with Jin. There had indeed been a match for the name Ryuli, but no picture was found in the database. Instead, a high level tier SSS executive clearance was required to access the file.

The attempt to search for this person had resulted in an alert being sent out informing the officials that someone was looking at something that should be top secret.

Kraft, who had been bored because everyone shunned him, had checked out what the System was doing at the same time. Seeing what was happening, he managed to respond by retracing the alert to an isolated remote router that was off the grid.

"Wow, this Master really pulls out some pretty unpleasant sucker punches every once in a while." Kraft quickly went into action and began to analyse the ping and the data it was sending, it was unfortunate, but the ping had already reached the router in record time preventing him from intercepting it properly.

Hence, he did the only thing possible for him before the signal went through all his other proxy servers. The sly old fox changed the location of the IP address and blamed the search on a criminal who he randomly found in the police database that had almost the same data address as what the ping was sending with the help of the System.

It was merely a difference of just a digit, and that was all it took to keep whoever was managing this highly sophisticated database to be unable to trace it back to the dungeon supplier's store. "Looks like I've been too inactive for some time. It may be time to upgrade my cyber skills." Kraft spoke as he (metaphorically) eyed the System.

"You know what I am getting at, don't you? Or do you need me to spell it out?"

"Original Bellator Kraft, by releasing the last of the ex bellators to you, you are entirely liable for the future consequences of such an action. Are you completely sure? At your current strength, you will not be able to handle them as you used to." The System warned Kraft in a serious tone. (As serious as a bodiless entity sounding like a computer could be)

"You saw how advanced that piece of technology was. The speed it reached wasn't normal and seemed better than any supercomputer. I haven't seen such advanced tech in ages. Unless you release him, we won't know whether the existence of this Ryuli is a threat to Jin or a potential ally." Kraft tried to contend with the System to get the last ex bellator out.

"If we don't do anything to cover our tracks quickly, the people out there might eventually learn that we have meddled with their database. It will only be a matter of time, for them to realise that our sacrificial lamb isn't the one they are after." Kraft argued while writing additional codes to their existing firewall.

"Let's not put Jin in unnecessary trouble, well erm... any more unnecessary trouble that is... at least we should be able to control this one to a certain extent rather than having government agents which might consist of Royal Zodiac Clans to come after us." Kraft hoped he managed to persuade the System.

"Agreed. Changing Original Bellator's previously won visitation rights to a temporary loan of that person. Limited to this period when User is still confined to the Isolation Ward. Return him after usage. The deal will remain as it is, for User's safety." The System replied and Kraft agreed.

"At least you are coming out for your cage for a bit," Kraft replied with a wide grin.

Meanwhile, Zeru appeared right in front of Jin and threw his Bam back at him. "It's time to train, no time to waste. I have been waiting for your Astral Form awakening to teach you the things that you need. And thank you Pei, you have my sincere gratitude for providing Jin with an immortal body. I can finally teach him the full extent of my abilities." Zeru said as he brandished his usual wooden sword in front of Jin.

With a soft wooden click, a red metallic sword was unveiled from inside the wooden one. It looked like Zeru had been fighting with his sword undrawn the whole time.

"Lotus Sword Saint, Thousand Lotus of Hell Cultivation Style. Zeru. Coming forth." Zeru finally revealed his true cultivation name as he dashed towards Jin with pure murder intent.

## **Chapter 452 Magpies And Gold**

While Jin was battling in the Isolation Ward, the Farming World was getting heated up with the intervention of his monsters. The Dark Templars who were killed by Sebastia eventually met up with the Silver Mage as they were acquainted with each other.

Silver explained that Sebastia was killing them to gain favour with the Demon Rats while secretly allowing the resistance members to meet up by resurrecting them for her own master. The Dark Templar Leader who went by the name of Zieg also realised there was a higher power at work and came to understand that Sebastia was a demon herself, just that she was from another world.

"I know, I was also shocked to learn that there were other worlds out there apart from ours." Gold came to greet Zieg who immediately knelt upon seeing the Lord Scholar of the East.

"Lord Scholar Gold! It is an honour to meet again! We feared the worst when we saw that the Heavenly Windmill had slowed down to a crawl. However a few weeks ago, we received reports that for a slight moment it turned just like in the past. We all hoped that you were still around, still fighting for dear life. To see you all healthy brings me great joy!" Zieg spoke with elation.

"Same to you and thank you for listening to my little cousin. Sorry about the killing. Perhaps it will appease you, knowing that at the very least you and your squad will be able to experiment with your dark arts to the fullest without needing to worry about losing your life." Gold jested, and Zieg laughed with him

"Yes, yes! However it's already our honour to learn that it was a demon who bested us instead of a regular human. Maybe, we shall worship her and get her to be in a covenant with us." Zieg suggested, and the other templars also agreed.

"Erm...you might be surprised that even a 'minion' or you could call them footsoldier, in their standards, can beat your Dark Templars the same way Sebastia did." Gold while patting Zieg on his shoulders to comfort him.

"Anyways, we have understood the situation, and since you granted my entire squad immortality, we shall henceforth be in your debt. Those lands and loot issue do not matter compared to this absolute precious gift that was bestowed upon us. We will be at your disposal. Do you need us to share our headquarter's location so that Lady Sebastia may proceed to bless our brethren with this very same gift?" Zieg asked politely as he wanted to share this great piece of news with his other Dark Templars.

"Ehh, Silver what did you tell them exactly?" Gold brought Silver one side and queried him.

"Basically the same that you told me, you did say that this master of yours is busy, so that is why he put you in charge right?" Silver whispered back and Gold shook his head.

"We ALL serve for that Master you speak so lowly of." Gold emphasised that Jin was their ultimate ruler of them all.

"But right now the master is not here, so you ARE the one in charge." Silver could not comprehend why Gold could not understand the absence of command.

"Whatever, I will explain to them properly." Gold returned to the Dark Templars and told them that their immortality was not without any conditions and listing what he and Jin's other monsters were doing. Zieg looked at him and laughed, stating that it was a small price to pay.

"You provide us with worthy opponents to fight and kill. Not to mention space for us to research our dark arts? You sure it's still a fair trade for our new master? Given these conditions, I say, we shall set out post haste to massacre my remaining brethren, so that I can bring them into this place!" Zieg seemed a little too eager to slaughter his people.

"Well, yes but don't you think that they have a right of choice to choose whether to die for you or not? Or whether your Commander has a say in things? After all, if I am remembered correctly, he was still in charge." Gold questioned his moral ethics and his position as the vice commander of the Dark Templars

"About that, my father Sieg had decided to allow me to hold the reins of the Dark Templar's organisation." Zieg refused to call his group as a cult. "Thus they now all sworn their fealty to me at the price of their own life. If I demand that they die by my sword, they shall. Those who do not will be killed regardless, as you said, this was a high level secret that cannot be passed around like cheap booze." Zieg countered, and Gold nodded slowly at the poor analogy.

In the meantime, Flame Ripper and Meomi had met up with their individual organisations, and they were successful in their exchange. The Western Skies Guild was easily influenced by Flame Ripper's introduction of gold...and something else.

"More bags of gold if you join our resistance. We have retrieved this from the rats so you can definitely see more if you kill those bastards. And Captain? Try to learn not to discriminate against people." Flame Ripper lectured as he had proven not to be trifled with by initiating a duel of confidence against their captain.

All of the adventurers laughed hysterically at first, seeing their captain who was nearly twice as tall and older was challenged by the small innocent boy that they were 'negotiating' with.

The outcome, however, had stopped their laughter. Especially the moment Flame Ripper took his dagger out. The captain who was swinging his blade as if he was performing some swordplay, already had the dagger by his throat before he could do anything else.

Any movement from that poor fellow would have cost his life. Usually, Flame Ripper would let things go but that captain had insulted him so much that he decided to play a prank on him.

By ripping his pants off.

The rest of his adventurer crew could not help but giggle at the choice of underwear their captain was wearing, but that embarrassment also proved that Flame Ripper could take his life away and it would not cost him any effort.

"That was a terrible lie, that gold came from the System and from my coffers!" Gold complained to Flame Ripper once he reported the transaction to him even though the dagger goblin told Gold that it was a small price to pay.

"Stupid small boy! You will get your just punishment!" The Captain of the Western Skies Guild grumbled, but the rest of the adventurers told him off. He of all people should have learned his lesson not to underestimate people.

"We will contact you again on where to strike. Take this little bird. It will tell you where to go next. Till then, stay frosty...and windy, especially you, Mr Pink Kisses." Flame Ripper giggled as he threw a magpie at them for communication purposes.

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In a separate location, Meomi met up with the spies from the Southern Stars Organisation and a person from the opposing side was nearly shocked to see the face of the Lord of Ordning Town to be meeting them.

"Sire, I thought you were dead?" A lady with masked scarf came forward to speak, but she was held by another agent, who was supposedly the leader for the negotiation group.

"State who you are. We have received evidence that Lord of Ordning Town was dead." The leader demanded while brandishing his sword out.

"The Lord may have died, but before you stands the New Lady of Ordning Town. I can still recognise your voice, sweet little Nightingale." Meomi said as she disabled the bald figure disguise that she was wearing and showed her human form to Nightingale.

"Mistress Meomi?!" Nightingale ignored her leader's actions and went towards Meomi trusting her fully. The rest of the Southern Stars agents continued to watch them with their guard up since they did not trust any contacts until their leader told them to stand down.

"I heard you disappeared with Lord Scholar Gold when he asked for your help?" Nightingale questioned as she pressed onto Meomi's neck as if to check something.

"Touch all you want, only you know the secret," Meomi whispered as she relaxed herself and let Nightingale to caress her neck.

"She's real. I can vouch for it." Nightingale said to the others, and the leader decided to give them some space.

"Since she was your past acquaintance, you conduct the negotiations. I have faith in you. The rest, fall back for now. Keep a sharp eye for any Demon Rats." The leader ordered his agents, and they all proceeded to their assigned duties.

"They have so much faith in you?" Meomi asked with a tinge of sarcasm which made Nightingale lightly punch Meomi on her shoulder.

"Hey! So rude! They trust me because I worked hard, alright?! Before you stands the vice leader for this negotiation team! Especially since I grew up here." Nightingale became more friendly and casual in her tone. "And with you."

"Thank goodness, we sent you to the Southern Stars for your spy training even though we northerners hate the tricks the southerners always use. At least you were one of the only few from Ording Town that escaped the Demon Rats outbreak." Meomi hugged Nightingale by the waist as they both swayed their bodies together in delight.

It had been a long time for the two of them meet up with each other. One was supposedly just an ordinary maid while the other a noble's daughter. However, Lord Ording had a criteria for his team of maids. To be sufficiently strong during a fight because the Lords of small towns could only have that many knights under their disposal. In fact, only three were assigned to that small little town in the north.

Poppy, Pippy and their father, Porke had been the only three knights under Lord of Ording. However, the brotherly knights' father and mentor perished during the outbreak as he and Lord of Ording defended the town for the rest of the Townsfolk.

Meanwhile, the maids and knights assisted with the escape of the townfolks, causing many of those maids to lose their lives protecting them against the Demon Rats. This was because they were assigned to protect the back of the crowd as Poppy and Pippy were guarding the front. Thus, all of the maids of Ording Town perished, except for Nightingale who was a year older than Meomi, stayed with the Southern Stars for training.

Not many Northern Region Lords had such amicable relation with the Southern Stars, and those who had were only a handful since relations were strained due to a past war between the both of them. However, the Lord of Ording had been one with friendlier relations to the Southern Stars because he assisted to smuggle some Litoride for the Southern Stars as well as supplies that had proven to aid the spy organisation greatly.

Thus, they took in all of the Lord's maids as a sign of gratitude towards him (Some of those maids would also spy on the Lord, keeping him in check). This was also one of the reasons why out of all the organisations, the Southern Stars was the only one from the South who had decided to help the North. (in return for riches.)



"I did feel regret that I was not able to do anything for our Lord." Nightingale admitted, but at the same time, she also thanked him selfishly for sending her away from the town when the outbreak happened. Meomi appreciated her honest thoughts and subsequently started to discuss with her what the Southern Stars could provide for the resistance.

Through their conversation, both Nightingale and Meomi had noticed that they had changed rather drastically, in both appearance and the view of the situation. Nightingale was thinking about the benefits for her organisation since she had been graciously taken in by the Southern Stars after the Demon Rat outbreak. Meomi was thinking about the eradication of the Demon Rats and reinstating law and order again.

"Do you wish to be Queen of the Northern Region?" The short haired assassin asked, and Meomi laughed at that question.

"Assuming I could make such a choice? No. I have a master that I am grateful for having given me the opportunity to do some good in this land. After all of this is over, depending on the calls of the people, I will assist with the redevelopment and build the Northern Region up again. Else, I will follow where my master goes. I believe it's similar to how your Spymaster treats your organisation... I hope." Meomi answered, and Nightingale was able to relate her feelings to a certain extent though she was very curious who this master was that she talked about.

"He's just a human, to be honest. Alright, maybe that is a bit too far fetched right now. You could say he's a martial arts master, eh ...hmmm that's also not too fitting a description..." Meomi could not fully explain what Jin was unless her sister figure Nightingale sees it for herself.

"You know what? Just work with us for a while, and you might get to see him. We are currently running reconnaissance for him and gauging the amount of resistance this region has to offer before he makes a move."

"Sounds more like a general or tactician rather than a martial arts master," Nightingale replied, and Meomi felt that was also not the right way to call him that too. "In any case, I agree to your terms of negotiation. You provide us with bags of gold for now, and anything that we find, we will split half."

"One more thing. I do not wish to surprise you, but you have the right to know since the region is small enough for you to eventually bump into each other anyway. The Western Skies Guild is working for us too."

"Oh huh...that's fine. If there is no competition, it would not be fun anyways." The way Nightingale took it so casually seemed to indicate that she already knew that the Western Skies Guild were being called in too.

"Hahaha, I guess nothing can escape the ears of the Southern Stars. But let me introduce you something that might improve your way of communicating." Meomi offered as a portal opened and four blue Magpies landed on her shoulder before the portal closed up again. Nightingale was bewildered by the sudden show of magic though Meomi iterated that portal belonged to her master as she was merely borrowing it.

"Enough of that, this is more important. These birds can allow you to communicate far range. We will loan you these four birds to assist in your reconnaissance of the area. All we ask is to give us the most likely

locations of the various major bases of the Demon Rats be it overground or underground." Meomi demanded and told her how the birds worked.

Nightingale called her leader who was nearby through a series of sound signals, and when they both tried it, they were immediately amazed by these magical birds.

"How...where can we get more of these birds?! We are willing to negotiate more for this!" The leader asked excitedly, but Meomi said they belonged to a colleague of hers. She could only loan the birds to them for a period of time, unless they managed to prove worthy like the Goblin King Sol and Orc King Frost Echo who used it to keep in contact with Master Jin or Qiu Yue.

"I see, then we will do our best not to fail you," Nightingale promised on their behalf to Meomi as they made their way with the four magpies and a bag of gold.

### **Chapter 453 Demon Origins**

"Demons, huh? I guess I can help you with that." Gold wondered as he looked through the mansion windows and saw somebody that could use a push in life even though he was literally an immortal.

It was none other than Lord Wolte.

The depressed slug now aided the Werejackals by killing some very annoying pests that had invaded the home instance. There had not been any such pest initially, but the System introduced it and isolated it to part of the crops the werejackals were growing because the crops ironically needed the pests to survive.

The more the pest bit and feasted on the crops, the more resilient the seeds of the said crops would become. However, there was a limit to how much damage the pest could do to these unique crops before it was considered destroyed. A balance had to be struck, so Lord Wolte was sent in as the pest terminator, killing the pests that were already out of control.

With its slug's body who was able to emit the same fragrance as the crops, the insectoid pests assumed that Lord Wolte was part of crops and got attracted to it. This allowed the System to bring in a higher and varied number of insects to test the limit of the unique crops to the point even Lord Wolte found it to be staggering. This was so that the System could grow one valuable resource.

Oil.

When the oil plant matured, the roots of the oil crops would secrete oil into the underground where they had already placed an oil deposit (the size of a tanker) to catch that black gold. In the beginning, it would only be able to secrete 1ml of oil, but the seeds that bloomed afterwards allowed it to emit an exponentially increasing amount.

The cycle continued until the current iteration of seeds could secrete 1 litre of oil per week. Lord Wolte had been eating those insectoid pests to make sure that the crops would not die from being bitten and the werejackals encouraged him further by thanking him for making such an important contribution to the ecosystem.

Initially, he had been quite excited to finally be part of something bigger, but in recent days, he wished that he could do more than just eating pests since the System had already created a few clones of him to do the same thing when the oil fields got wider and larger.

However, the real reason why he was so disappointed was because he did not even have a ride to his name in the WunderPanda Theme Park. Even the Minotaurs who weren't featured yet in the dungeon instances received a mechanical bull rodeo ride in the Theme Park and Jin was selling soft toy versions of Moloch puppets as the prize. He couldn't get any sadder that Moloch received more attention than him.

Still, Lord Wolte did not know how much of a help he would be when he gave the System a breakdown analysis of how his body worked for it to create similar clones like him. The market for oil was tremendous, especially in Jin's world.

The System did not need it because it was omnipotent enough to power itself up. (Though it would be more efficient if it had the mechanical brain to increase its processing speed.) Nonetheless, the System was thinking long term and considered extending the werejackal's farming instance to incorporate larger oil fields, else a multi storey oil producing farm.

In terms of expenses, it would definitely help Jin too especially when he and Qiu Yue needed the extra dungeon dollars to get the Dungeon Fortress City going. The System had already calculated their expenses for just the first year and noted that if they could sell the oil, it would benefit them greatly. The prognosis might look decent for the future, but first, they have to survive that critical sapling stage of city building thus every extra dollar counts.

"Yo, Lord Wolte. How's the pest extermination going?" Gold came down with a group of (armoured) entourage with him behind as he asked Lord Wolte about his well being.

"Eh, could be better, you know. If I positioned myself from Section 1.2 and mowed down the pest from that point, I might have been a few minutes faster than yesterday." Lord Wolte answered as he looked somewhat intrigued at the armour fellows behind him.

"Ah yea, I have some good news for you. These are the new batch of monste- \*cough\* humans that came in and it just so happens that they're practitioners of the dark arts." Before Gold could say anything else, Lord Wolte's expression immediately perked up a lot.

"Practitioners of Dark Arts? So which demon do you worship? Baal? Diablos? Mephisto?" Lord Wolte wanted to share his own personal knowledge since he had been lonely and feeling useless for some time. Gold guessed it was the right move to push these Dark Templars on to him.

"Actually, we do not know the name of the demon that we worship because he hasn't given us any name," Zieg confessed with a bit of embarrassment.

"Hahaha! it's actually more common than you might think! These kind of demons usually try to act all high and mighty, but in fact, they are just little brats who feel happy that some humans happened to be summoning them out. Or maybe, they think that you are incompetent enough to know its name. Come now, let me see-" Lord Wolte was suddenly pulled back by Gold for a moment. (Gold used his magical powers to do so since it's quite impossible to do that physically.)

"Wolte! They are from a different world! Theirs might not even be the same demons that you are familiar with." Gold whispered to Wolte.

"What?! I don't think it really differs that much between worlds. Demons are arrogant pricks that want to be acknowledged." Wolte proclaimed with certainty before mumbling a few words which Gold needed to strain his ears to catch them. "...even myself..."

"Regardless! I would like to see the kind of demons they summon." Wolte told Gold as he waited for them to start the process. Needless to say, they did the same chants as when they tried to surround Sebastia, but this time it was a vastly longer incantation since they were not in a hurry.

After all this time they were asking their contracted demon to come out. The circle that the dark templars formed turned purplish and then red, which later shone quite brightly to reveal the emergence of the demon the Dark Templars had made a pact with.

Horns rose up from the summoning ritual, and that was when Wolte immediately called out the name of demon even before the demon had fully descended.

"Baphomet!!!" Lord Wolte shouted just half way through the summoning, Baphomet was in shock hearing his name spoken so clearly when he knew that he had not once given a name out to any dark arts practitioner at all.

"Wolte?!?!?" Baphomet roared in return, just as surprised.

"EHH??" Gold was speechless when Baphomet also appeared to know Lord Wolte's name when he even barely got out of the circle. "What the hell?!"

"Hell it is." Lord Wolte chuckled as he waited for an old friend of his to be summoned fully. The Dark Templars did not know that their benefactor was friends with this particular slug tending the fields.

"I ...just can't even..." Gold had wrapped his mind hard on the matter, and unless there was some ritual or spell that could transcend worlds, there should be no way the two demons should know each other's existence less being friends.

"Hahahah! That look on your face is priceless!! Hahahahah!" Wolte laughed as he asked Gold if he could contact Yun in any way.

"What's the matter?" Yun came by to see a number of new faces, most of which she was aware of. She was briefly informed by the System, except for the demon that was standing in the farms. Upon closer inspection, System had notified that the demon's existence was permissible in the instance.

"Huh...even the demon they summoned is also partially taken into possession by the System already. No wonder the System allowed it to be here with strict supervision." Yun thought to herself as she noticed the processing capabilities of the System was third in priority in this particular instance at this moment. The first was still Jin who partially recovered and the second was working with Kraft to get more information about Ryuli.

"I just needed to ask you a simple question. Do the names of demons like Diablos, Baal and Mephisto exist in Master Jin's World?" Lord Wolte asked, and she nodded her head, which only served to make Gold question everything around him even more.

"Oh, I think I understand why Gold may be confused. I doubt you'd know this. The existence of the demons are both separate and at the same time singular in their entities." Yun explained as she inadvertently looked at the progress of Oil Crops.

"It might be a bit too much to take in, but the Demons can basically exist in various worlds; however, their souls can only exist in one place at one time. Think of them as having possible replacement bodies in every world that know about their existence though the moment that particular world wants to summon it, they need to sacrifice an equal or greater number of souls or resources like blood etc to have that entity to exist in their world."

"So you are saying demons are in a way some sort of immortals too? They can pop up in any world they want?" Gold questioned, and Yun nodded her way.

"Putting it very simple, the answer is yes. However, there are still conditions to be fulfilled. For example, Wolte's and Moloch's King, Baal currently exists in the Dungeon World. He has a major presence in the Dungeon World, and if someone would wish to summon him in another world, the sacrifice required should be massive, like a metropolis or equivalent for the soul to move to another place." Yun tried to explain the best as she can to the scholar.

"But if the demons were killed, their souls would lie in wait in a dimensional plane or that was what I was told until someone decides to summon them. For more information, you may want to ask Wolte or Moloch themselves." Yun explained.

"Is there no way to stop them from being summoned ever again?" Gold asked and Yun shook her head.

"There always exists a balance of good and evil. Somehow, someone in a time unknown to us, created these demons to ensure such forces would remain indefinitely balanced. For our side, Moloch and Wolte belong to the System. Someone would have to sacrifice something similar to the worth of this ever growing System or more to retrieve back one of the two. Only then could they break the Enforcement Loyalty Orders from the System." Yun cited examples to him to understand better.

"However, do note that the System is also a by product of the Will of the Heavens. Meaning, unless some guy in the heavenly plane decides to sacrifice a part of heaven to get Moloch and Wolte, it's most likely they would not be able to obtain them" Yun concluded her explanation to Gold which he appreciated deeply.

"So erm bro, it's been a long time. That girl is smoking hot though." Baphomet and Wolte were talking to each other at the sidelines while Yun gave an impromptu lecture on how the demons worked.

"Heh, you better not mess with her. The last time I tried to look underneath her, woohoo~! I got killed ten times before she let me off." Wolte cautioned Baphomet.

"So, bro, how have you been? Guess your death in the Dungeon World wasn't the worst thing to have happened to you. I mean you seem to do pretty swell, now that you have some fun with your little dark arts practitioner group to give you resources and stuff." Wolte sounded a little jealous, but Baphomet understood what he meant.

"Yeah, they've given me shit loads of items, especially this thing they call Litoride. Yo man, that's the bomb! You should give it a try once in a while. But you know what brother? I will not leave a fellow

brother of mine in a wreck, especially after what Baal did to use. " Baphomet attempted to carry Wolte up with his batwings.

"I've currently only taken the pact with this particular squad, they still have a hell lot of nubs back in their headquarters. I can introduce some of them to hook you up. That way, you can regain some strength and followers too." Baphomet generously offered to Wolte.

"You sure you to give your precious resources to this old man? Don't you want to have them for yourself?" Wolte asked.

"Hell yeah, I want them to myself brah. But you've always looked out for me and even helped me to take a hit against Baal before I've gone apeshit and stuff. So take them as thanks." Baphomet took out something similar to a cigar made out of Litoride and smoked it.

"Heck! Even I might even repledge my allegiance to you again. You were like the coolest leader ever, although a bit talkative and punny but damn~! You treated your men well. I'd love to serve under you again." Baphomet revealed as he knelt in front of Lord Wolte once more.

"You that solid? Bro, you do not know how much your gift means to me." Wolte said with visible tears sweating out from his skin.

"Yeah man! \*clears throat\* I Baphomet, hereby swear to be under the service of Duke Wolte. May this pledge be ever binding till our souls disintegrate!" Baphomet swore and, in that instant, Wolte himself was oozing with brightness.

Suddenly Yun got alerted that an evolution was triggered in front of them. As Jin was still unconscious at that particular point from surgery with the Sub System Users already away in the Giant World, Yun was the highest authority.

So being the only one that was able to substitute Jin for an answer, she nodded her head. "Go ahead, Jin would want his monsters to evolve anyways."

"Very well. Initiating Wolte's evolution." The System stated as it allowed the evolution procedure to proceed smoothly.

## **Chapter 454 Monster Bones**

It took Zeru less than a microsecond to unleash his sword. Before Jin could finish blinking, his master had already inflicted him with hundreds of superficial cuts on his flesh, from head to toe at a distance. The cuts were too numerous to be counted, and Jin staggered instantly.

"Hey! I just healed him! Can you be a bit more gentle?!" Pei shouted through the System Channel at Zeru though he shook his head in defiance.

"In a fight, not giving your all is not just a sign of disrespect towards your opponent, it may also be the one mistake that might reverse the tide of battle," Zeru replied, giving Jin barely enough time to close his wounds with the aid of Octofussy's Rapid Regeneration of the Otherworld Parasite God.

Regrettably, there was no free meal in the world. Jin could feel a tingling sensation whenever his flesh wounds healed. It was as if a worm crawled over his wounds to treat them.

One alone would be unpleasant enough, yet that feeling was multiplied by over a hundred. He instantly felt violated even though his wounds were closing up. Jin had learnt his mistake from the past battle, and instead of moving, he summoned out two Astral Pandas each equipped with a shield.

They were none other than Bam (Tower Shield form) and Boo (Wide Buckler shield form).

"How are you going to fight me without your weapons?" Zeru asked as he produced a swing in the air, causing a flurry of white lotus petals to fly towards Jin. The two Astral Pandas stood staunchly in front of Jin and handled the attacks while he prepared his counterattack by summoning his Black Panda Fire.

"Forgoing the path of a swordsman, and facing me as a magician?" Zeru questioned directly beside Jin as the white lotus petals flew beyond the Astral Pandas. With a swift chop from Zeru after teleporting to Jin, the hand that Jin was charging his Black Panda Fire dropped to the ground. (More work for Pei if not for the Rapid Regeneration, this time he felt his whole hand grew from worms.)

Jin shouted in pain, but a kick from Zeru to his throat silenced that scream and knocked him away. His Astral Pandas disappeared the moment Jin lost his concentration, causing Bam and Boo to drop to the floor.

"While you are not wrong to stop a strong attack with the Astral Pandas, you seem to have forgotten that I have speed and strength on my side. Distance is not a problem at all, so you cannot hide from me. How long can you prevent me from attacking you should be your most and only relevant concern." Zeru lectured as he strolled towards Jin. He could see the insane regeneration inscription already working its magic to reproduce another hand for Jin.

"His chi regeneration is truly abnormal, else he would not have been able to activate that rapid regeneration inscription that many times." Zeru thought to himself. "So what if you grow another hand? All I have to do is to cut it down."

"Is cutting me all you are capable of?" Jin finally regained his voice as he placed his other hand away from Zeru's sight since he was leaning on the wall.

"Do I need anything else? Whatever tricks you do, it doesn't matter. In the face of superior speed and strength, they are meaningless." Zeru moved forth as if he was floating on air, but that was also when Jin had finished his preparations.

Learning from the experience he earned from the Three Tailed Fox Demon, Jin used the wall as a base to grow spikes of White Panda Ice towards Zeru. Despite his efforts, none of those White Panda Ice spikes mattered to Zeru as he dodged every single of them gracefully.

Whenever it looked as if the ice spike was about to hit his master, Jin ended up missing Zeru by a fraction of a centimetre. All the near misses pretend to frustrate Jin since it was not the main trick, for Jin was trying to fight just as Zeru had described... A magician.

Since Zeru was moving like the wind, Jin would have to slow the wind down. Each missed ice spike exploded behind his master into hundreds of ice shards and towards him. Jin did not care about the

collateral damage to himself as he trusted in his own fast regeneration inscription even if it felt like he was being skinned alive. There was no other choice if Jin hoped to win against Zeru.

Zeru noticed the forming of the multiple ice shards behind him, and he twirled once in mid air, creating lotus petals to appear destroying most of the ice shards. He thought that Jin would be using those as a way to attack him.

"Barely a decent move, but I hope there's more to it." Jin did not reply and instead shot a scatter beam of Panda Yawning for the first time. He figured if he could shoot one large beam, how about splitting the beam into several parts?

Only in the future would Jin eventually learn that all it took was to move his tongue up and down as if he was ululating a Red Indian war cry and his beam was scattered. For now, he just opened mouth really wide and tried screaming and stopping to let them move erratically. (which worked perfectly fine but more of a hassle.

Due to the distance and taking the divergence of the scatter beams into account, there were only a few chi energy beams that targeted Zeru's position. However, what his master did not know was that Jin's scatter beam was not meant for him at all.

It was the scattered, floating ice shards that remained in the air. As the beams travelled towards the ice shards, they deflected the beam like a diamond shining bright under an intense source of light. Some of the shards even refracted the Panda Yawning rays, causing more of the beams scattered to the other ice shards that were not destroyed by the Zeru's whirlwind of lotus petals.

Zeru was unaware about what was happening behind him as he went forward to slice down a fragile sheet of White Panda Ice shield which Jin conjured haphazardly to protect himself at the very last second. Yet, Zeru was merciless in tearing that last form of defence away from Jin to show that he was serious in defeating his disciple.

"Your White Panda Ice shield appears way too slow. If you were 0.5 seconds faster, your White Panda Ice Shield could have reduced the blow of the attack and not be a piece of paper for me to cut." Zeru said as he had already vertically slashed and plunged his sword into Jin's chest.

If not for the monster bones that Pei had just merged with Jin, his entire rib cage would have been cut. Nevertheless, even the monster bones didn't manage to handle the severity of Zeru's slash unscathed. The cut broke a number of the bones, just not thorough enough to be called a clean cut. (It would have if not for the incomplete ice shield)

Yet that ice shield was also part of Jin's impromptu plan. The moment it got sliced into two, the broken ice shield pieces angled themselves and went ahead to attack Zeru with Jin's manipulation of chi. It was enough distraction for the major backstab waiting behind him.

Jin had been slow with his casting as he had moved the ice shards with chi alongside the aid of his Panda Vision, Inverse Eyes (or as Ming called them Pandaromic Eyes). Like a targeting system, the eyes allowed Jin to clearly see the path where the ice shards must be placed to accumulate sufficient power in the beams to rejoin as one again and hit Zeru's back.



When Jin felt it was the right movement, he did not hesitate to redirect the towards his master. The energy beam was concentrated enough that it punctured a hole through Zeru's shoulder while he fought off the broken ice sheets. However, Jin did not know that Zeru deliberately took the damage as he had figured it was enough for now, thus receiving the blow to call off the match.

Still, he did not get the full picture until the moment he saw Jin's eyes bleeding along with the broken pieces of ice shards behind him. Only then he realised how Jin performed the counterattack.

Zeru slowly stepped back and sheathed his sword again while he granted Jin time to recover. His disciple might have an abnormal production of chi, but there was a limit for anything. He was still a Grade 8, and his injured eyes proved that his overconsumption of chi was taking a toll on his body.

Once more the Rapid Regeneration inscription kicked in, but Jin could feel that squirmy feeling getting worse this time. It was as if the worms had grown to the size of snakes, and he screamed, unable to stop his body's own regeneration.

In the meantime, Pei felt like a revelation hit her about what Zeru was doing. "Are you doing this because of the side effects of the monster materials merging with his body?" Pei wanted a clarification to see if she really did miss a step in the recovery process.

Zeru nodded his head with delight. Pei finally understood why Zeru needed to attack Jin the moment he was somewhat combat ready. "The monster bones you used had a will remaining from the monster it came from. If Jin's chi and body did not overpower them in the first place, the monster genetics could have potentially possessed Jin's body." Zeru answered as he brought Jin's face closer and looked through Jin's eyes.

"Good, the signs are gone. It seems to be breaking down and Jin managed to reforge himself again. This time round, his body won." Zeru said as he placed his master back down and went over to pick up Bam and Boo for Jin.

"What bones did you use? I thought you were going to improve me and not making me fight an entity for control over my body..." Jin finally had a breather to ask.

"Bones of a Vampire." Pei and Zeru answered at the same time, and Jin now understood why Pei said the monster had the same body structure as a human body.

"Technically, I had planned to make the System purchase the bones of a Vampire Duke for you. Unfortunately, such a high ranking creature is impossible to purchase legally, and the black market prices are astronomical. Let's not even start with a Vampire Prince or a True Ancestor. A Vampire Marquis, however, was exactly perfect for budget purposes and the bones are as hard as metal." Pei answered via the bracelet.

"The wounds inflicted was to awaken the vampire genetics in the bone marrow. The inscription should be the one eating all the vampiric genes up so you would not be consumed by it." Zeru shook his bloodied shoulder a bit before the System healed him automatically.

"Heh, so I might have become a vampire. That would be great for Halloween, but so bad for business otherwise. Still, this rapid regeneration is eerily creepy. I don't think I will ever get used to the feel of worms squirming around me." Jin answered as he was feeling better.

"A small price to pay for such an excellent inscription. Besides, you saw how your chi output was not able to cover the regeneration process after two severe hits." Zeru was also testing out Jin's regeneration capabilities.

"Now that you learn your limits and how awfully slow you are to even use your sword, it is time to give you proper training with the remaining time you are in here and remember. You do not much time left." From Zeru's pocket, he threw a few lotus petals around the isolation ward, causing it to float mid air.

"I want you to manipulate your chi and control your body to jump onto these petals without making them move more than 2cm away from their original spot. It's to increase your manipulation of chi so that you can call out your fire and ice energy as fast as your mind can think." Zeru said as he gave a demonstration by jumping onto a lotus petal making it appear as if he was floating on it.

"I notice that you were also able to harness wind energy. Use that to aid you too. But always remember not to move the floating petal more than two centimetres away from its original spot or else I will cut you down." Zeru instructed him as he drew his wooden sword towards Jin.

Jin understood and gave it a whirl at the training exercise, but any without warning, Zeru already send a whirlwind of cuts towards Jin for breaking the rules. "Don't worry, I can do this all day until they open the isolation ward. Besides, my arms needed some exercise too."

"What if I do not complete the test by the time the ward opens up?" Jin asked which caused Zeru to send another whirlwind to him, prompting Jin to dodge barely in time.

"Don't ever consider the option of failing. Be headstrong and convince yourself that whatever you try will succeed. However, considering this isn't really something to be learned in a brief period of time, you will have to continue the training after you have defeated the four demon exorcist trainees. That is if you fail." Zeru twirled his sword while telling Jin to get up as soon as possible.

"In short, you are not getting back to the shop until you learn how to control your chi properly without using your Pandaromic Eyes," Zeru said as he deduced Jin's eyes were bleeding because he was using his Panda Vision to manipulate his chi down to exact and detailed movements of the ice shards in order to create the concentrated beam. Such precision had its price and Zeru preferred his student not to take any short cuts.

"What are you staring at me for? You are a hundred years too young to fall for me. Plus, I do not swing that way. My wife is the 'bestest'." Zeru shot another whirlwind at Jin to make him get back to training.

## **Chapter 455 Rex**

"Rex, it's time for you to come out." Kraft was in the deepest level of the Dungeon Maker with the System's supervision as he unlocked the very last fox which the System had kept.

Aside from Pei who was currently making sure of Jin's condition in his fight against Zeru, the rest of the foxes were present to witness the unlocking of Rex's cell box.

Its outer form was very similar to a giant and very advanced level complicated Rubik's cube. Numerous combinations were unlocked, including Legendary Grade sealing inscription charms to prevent him from coming out.

Pepper's task to discover the properties of the magical living armour plate was interrupted once more, as the System needed her to remove the previously added custom made barrier, the Reverse Aegis. It had been a perfect addition to Rex's holding cell since its property to absorb almost every type of energy in order to maintain its barrier form was a boon for the berserk fox.

After analysing its usefulness in the fight against Orc King Hamu, the System had asked this little girl bellator to incorporate the Reverse Aegis, thereby freeing up 0.5% of its maximum processing capabilities needed to hold onto Rex.

The three ex bellators who were marked as troublemakers by the System, each had a reason why they were deemed as such. Kiyu had always been hailed as the goddess of natural beauty. With a charm which she painstakingly trained, Kiyu could make ANY male fell head over heels for her in minutes, resulting in major headaches for previous Users.

Pei has been at odds with the System for a very long time, and had regarded Kraft as her personal jailer. Furthermore, because of their shared history, to this day, she had not forgiven him and kept regarding him as the Devilman.

And lastly, there was Rex. An ex bellator dangerous to the point that the System needed more than a single leash to stop him from doing the one thing he craved to.

Rampage.

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The desire to destroy everything in his path had not always been inside Rex. Originally, he had been a human just like all the other ex bellators. He had lived a long and in his own regards, a happy life as the one and only right hand man for Zhou Lin.

Together with the Jade Prince, Panda Lord Zhou Lin had commandeered his enterprise to aid the Twelve Clans at the time to the best of their abilities to vanquish the Banned Emperor's reign. He and Rex had overcome countless trials to unite the business world of both Eastern and even the Western regions.

The Western Magic Kingdoms back then had been very fearful of the Eastern expansion, but Rex had been able to make it happen because of his origin. He had been adopted at a young age by Panda Lord Zhou Lin during one of the many revolutions in the Western Magic Kingdoms, yet nothing could hide the fact that he had been a westerner by blood.

(Regardless of the purpose, Zhou Lin had the foresight to raise a Westerner within his clan.)

Surprised by his discovery that Rex could control both Magic and Eastern Cultivation, Zhou Lin personally tutored Rex, making him on par with Zhou Lin's bodyguards at the tender age of 12 years old. Treating him like a son, Zhou Lin further inculcated values and business decision making into Rex.

Despite the protests of the various Panda Elders stating that as the Panda Lord, he should focus more on his blood related sons who would one day take over his seat in the future, Zhou Lin openly ignored them.

In fact, Zhou Lin had never been one to show favouritism to those who were not capable, even if those happened to be his own children. Thus, he preached meritocracy as the indicator for those who wished to get the seat of the Panda Clan's Head.

Without a doubt, his sons had been jealous towards their adopted brother but time and time again their plots to remove Rex had been in vain because of his knowledge, insight and mere prowess. He could be considered a near perfect human in all regards... except for one distinct weakness.

Their father, Zhou Lin.

Thus, fostered by their hatred towards Rex, and clouded by their own ambitions of becoming the next Panda Clan Head, Zhou Lin's sons decided on the most villainous plan that any child could ever come up with.

Patricide... followed by fratricide. Even Yun as the spokesperson of the System for Jin had never been informed about the whole truth for one of the darkest chapters in the Panda Clan's history.

The children of the Panda Lord had collaborated with the Jade Prince to allow him to remove their father, Rex and any respected Panda Elders opposing their own rule in return for a 50% share of profits after they had won against the Banned Emperor.

It had not been too hard convincing the Jade Prince to do so, as it was obvious to anyone that he feared the Panda Lord Zhou Lin as a potential threat to his 'rightful' rule. The Panda Lord had been the one that gathered all the clans to his banner so that the Jade Prince would not be implicated in the long run. If such a man could dispose of one ruler, why should he stop at two?

After gathering of all these power and the vast sums of money in his disposal, the only thing he lacked was prestige, which Zhou Lin could buy if he were smart enough. Despite the many pledges to the heavens by Zhou Lin with the Heavenly Five Elements Tribulation as part of the oath, the Jade Prince was constantly worried due to his inferiority complex.

So the Jade Prince agreed to the Panda Lord's children terms when they came to him. Yet unbeknownst to them, he had something far more sinister in mind. After collaborating for a long time with the Panda Clan, the Jade Prince had already been aware that the sons were rather useless, and understood why Zhou Lin would prefer to choose Rex as his successor who was their exact opposite.

The Jade Prince could already foresee that with the removal of the respected Elders, all their businesses would eventually be devoured by other competitors given their incompetence. While the profit of 50% seemed alluring at first sight, who was to say, they would be content with that amount and not plot against the Jade Prince to backstab him at some point in the future?

If they could do that to family, what little concern would they have for the lives of others in exchange for money? Hence, the Jade Prince decided to put his real trust into the Twelve Clans. He would remove the elders as requested by the children since it was part of the unbreakable oath when the Jade Prince

asked for Panda Clan's help. (Both parties agreed to make the oath vague, so there could be leeway with any request done)

Afterwards, the Twelve Clans would dismantle the Panda Clan and absorb and divide their financial assets as their own. The rest of the Panda Clan members were to be branded as traitors.

Initially, the Twelve Zodiac Clan leaders had been very uneasy with such a decision as Panda Lord Zhou Lin had been extremely generous to them. Only because of Zhou Lin, their Clans rose to fame and betraying that man would be a disfavour to him.

Knowing how the clan leaders felt, the Jade Prince used underhanded methods to instil distrust, caused discord within the leaders and even had some of them replaced by their more ambitious clan members. After all the Jade Prince did dabble with a few Western Arts when the Banned Emperor had sent him off as an envoy to the Western Kingdoms. The magical scrolls of influence he bought, enabled his proposition to be more readily accepted by the leaders in exchange for the promise of wealth, power and land.

Following the betrayal of the Jade Prince, the System came into existence and was inherited by the final Panda Elder, who had been hidden in case the Jade Prince would betray them just as he ended up doing.

Understanding their overall situation from the System, he ordered the rest of the clan members and his allies to hide amongst the population as best as they could. For those from the main family, it was no easy task since many were found and killed on the spot.

He also told their other branches and outer families to integrate into the twelve clans if needed. As for the Panda Elder himself, he knew that he needed time to make preparations for a potential comeback.

The System allowed him to grant a part of its own powers upon the various branch heads within Panda Clan with the goal of passing it down as an inheritance for future generations. It was to raise warriors to lead their revolution, thus creating the first iteration of what was called Sub System Users, who would later become the first Bellators when they passed on.

Unfortunately, the plan of this Panda Elder only bore fruit a couple of decades later after he had already relinquished the role of the System User to a new generation. Only then, the new (Panda) Chosen called upon her allies to gather so they could begin their counterattack.

She felt that waiting any longer would result in a further consolidation of power by the Jade Emperor and his Royal Zodiac Clans, just as they were promised by the then Jade Prince.

Answering her call were the most promising members of the young generation of Clan Head candidates who had staunchly allied with the Panda Clan despite the emperor's declaration to brand all Pandas as traitors. The following were some of the Sub System Users which the Panda Chosen was being accompanied with.

Pei of the Crane Clan.

Kiyu of the Butterfly Clan.

Evon of the Frog Clan.

Tsu and Kai of the Wolf Clan.

Itori, Ixel and Ixa of the Grizzly Bear Clan.

All of them gathered at the behest of the Panda Clan's Chosen with their rank and file, as they were all aware that the power they wielded partly came from the 'one' behind her. From what they were told, disobeying the Panda Chosen meant losing a huge chunk of the power they had gained so far.

However there was one more candidate that did not stand out in the open, but orchestrated most of what had to be done from the shadows

Kraft of the long lost Fox Clan.

He had obtained the powers by previous Panda Elder through an incident of opportune. The Panda Elder used it as a chance to revive the fox clan who had bravely fought beside the Panda Clan through the years. He was the one who had influenced the new Panda Chosen to convene with the rest and came up with the intricate plan of attack.

The general idea was that they were to infiltrate their enemies' camps and learn every detail of the Jade Emperor's activities. If needed, blend into the daily routines of the Jade Palace.

Be it a chef, cleaner or prostitute. Everyone was clear of their objective. Only then, the rest could ambush them under the guise of the forgotten Fox Clan.

Coincidentally, the Fox Clan was also one which Panda Lord Zhou Lin used to have close ties to, since his paternal grandmother hailed from them. Unfortunately, the Chosen did not care as much for that bond, but not for the last surviving member of the clan. (He had other plans in mind.)

The whole plan was to eventually destroy the Twelve Clans and have the Panda Clan start anew again with no dirt on their name and with everything else getting pinned onto the foxes. But to Kraft, that was how the Fox Clan should regain its reputation as the clan of trickery and deception.

During the constant skirmishes, the spies had learned that the Jade Emperor had constructed a tomb in which he housed the remains of the Panda Lord and his only filial (adopted) son Rex. (For the emperor's trophy sake.) With the System issuing a mission the Panda Chosen could not ignore, the Foxes were forced to infiltrate the palace and recover these remains.

But not without heavy losses.

A forbidden ritual initiated by the System sacrificed the lives of many rank and file including the Chosen's very own two children, allowing them to revive Panda Lord Zhou Lin.

The betrayed former Panda Head swore revenge against the Twelve Royal Zodiac Clans and promised to use whatever he needed to do to bring them down. Together with Panda Lord Zhou Lin once more, Rex was revived in order to handle the main objective of removing the Twelve Royal Zodiac Clans. Thus, Rex became the very first one to be deployed as an official bellator under the System.

Panda Lord Zhou Lin did keep his promise of revenge. He had done many things which on the surface appeared as if they all were in the best interest of the Panda Clan, but the justice that Zhou Lin served was suffering to both the common folks and Royal Zodiac Clans.

Yet his hunger for power only seemed to grow more and more. Eventually, he even usurped the authority over the System from the Panda Chosen who had resurrected him, turning her into a useless rank and file cultivator.

Rex was furious about what his father's wrongdoings, and felt unjustified of what he had been contributing to. The repeating acts of terrors by Panda Lord Zhou Lin had made Rex doubt whether this was the very same person he had decided to accompany into the very depths of hell. Still, he followed him with a heavy heart knowing that Zhou Lin had a reason for all this.

Eventually, it had reached the point that the Panda Lord's actions could no longer be overlooked. It happened when Zhou Lin had personally executed some Panda Clan Remnants. They, who were ordered by the previous Panda Elder to hide by marrying into the Twelve Royal Zodiac Clan had been branded by Zhou Lin as traitors.

All the Sub System Users had agreed to rebel against him.

Ironically, Rex had been the first one to get killed by Zhou Lin even though he had been the only one who had refused to join their side. Unfortunately, when the System had been the one to inform Zhou Lin about the Sub System Users' transgression, the Panda Lord first severed the head of his loyal right hand.

This particular action had in turn sparked the internal coup d'état against Zhou Lin. What was now only known to Kraft and the System; when the coup happened, the Sub System User's overall Grade had dropped for some reason.

However, the System actually played on both sides of the coin. While it could have stripped the Sub System users of nearly all their powers, the System had decided against it. Instead, it treated the whole infighting as something akin to a test for the Panda Lord.

In case Zhou Lin was unable to deal with his own faction then it meant that he was not strong enough to remove the Twelve Royal Zodiac Clans. In such a case the System planned to wait for however long it would take to find someone suitable. However, if Zhou Lin managed to remove Kraft, it would listen and grant Zhou Lin complete access of all its abilities no matter the cost to itself.

Against all the System's expectations Kraft managed to revive Rex with the help of Pei. By performing what would later be improved as the standard of resurrection, the drive that kept the betrayed aide alive was seeking justice from his injustice. (Resurrection was not available until much later when the laws of nature were changed.)

In the end, it was not Kraft but rather Rex that enabled the rebellion to go smoothly. His burning rage became the backbone of the Sub System Users to defeat Zhou Lin aside from the weak points that he suffered.

But it was no easy battle. All of the Sub System Users were eventually killed and later revived by Pei into bellators. When the Panda Lord knew that it was Pei who managed to restore them as bellators, she became his one and only prime target.

Tsu and Kai who protected her fiercely were maimed by him. And regrettably, they were just the first two on the list of her dead guardians. Eventually when Pei was killed, the remaining bellators thought all

was lost if not for an emergency backup plan by Kraft who had unwillingly allied with the Demon Exorcists. Otherwise, Pei could not have been resurrected as a bellator for Kraft too.

However, Rex was proven to be more dangerous than Kraft anticipated. When Zhou Lin was defeated after permanently losing all their Sub System Users turned bellators, only Kraft and Rex remained.

Sadly, Rex was not satisfied just seeing the corpse of what was once the man he regarded as his father. To make sure that there would never be a repeat of such a case, he decided to consume Zhou Lin's dantian. "AFTER EVERYTHING I DONE? ALL THE TROUBLE AND HARDSHIP WE HAD BEEN TOGETHER? THIS IS HOW YOU TREATED ME?!!" Rex managed to eat half of Zhou Lin's dantian before Kraft stopped the man who had become like a brother to him.

Lamentably, that was also when Rex had killed Kraft who tried to stop him. But with his dying breath, Kraft used the remaining of his commanding power he had over Rex after his resurrection to change him into a fox and sealed him.

At that point in time, the System placed Kraft in a time stasis and offered him a deal. The latter could swear allegiance to it, in exchange for resurrection as a bellator with immense power, including a limited ability to bring back those who had died similar to Rex.

Kraft ultimately agreed, yet unfortunately without Pei, he was unable to resurrect his former comrades as humans, and could only provide them the forms of foxes. The Original System made sure to cage Rex up before he could do any further damage to the world and to the dantian of the Panda Lord.

To the System, the ex Panda Lord was still a valuable subject for the future.

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"I hope your anger has quelled over the centuries, Rex." Kraft greeted him with a sad smile. Surprisingly Rex did simmer down after that long period of inactivity, especially when he finally got a chance to vent his anger towards Peppers' Reverse Aegis (It had helped a ton)

"If those old pencil pushers allow you to take me out temporarily, that means it's something important. Speak and then leave me alone." Rex sent fiery chi out when he spoke. Kiyu quickly hid behind Kraft while Ixa, Ixel and Itori came forward defending Kraft from that attack.

"I guess hearing you call me Little Brother once more, is too much to ask... Please lend me your powers, I need you to increase my abilities so that I can track something down for the current User of the System. I hope there comes a day when I can get you to meet him. You should like him. It appears he is a bit like the one you really referred to as Father." Kraft explained and Rex was a bit surprised at this information.

He looked at the rest of the foxes, who unanimously agreed that the User was not unlike the Panda Lord Zhou Lin in legends but of his memories.

"Hmph, Ten minutes, after that, I am returning to my cage," Rex replied and Kraft was delighted.

"Ten is a miraculous amount. Thank you! Big Brother..."



## Chapter 456 Updates From The Store

"Three days? You kidding me, right? It felt like three years!" Jin exclaimed as he was perpetually filled with bruises and wounds on his body. For the last two days odd after his surgery (further enhanced to nearly one week, thanks to Peppers' Temporal Manipulation magic), Jin had been furiously practising the lotus floating technique.

Worse, Zeru had been upping the difficulty whenever he felt that Jin was getting the hang of it. He threw whirlwind attacks, vast swarms of petals, and even directly attacking him whenever he tried to jump on the piece of lotus.

However, Jin discovered a nasty neat trick by overcoming the trials. All those chi control training with the Wind Energy which Zeru forced him to do, allowed him to unlock the Green Panda Wind power within him. Jin found it ironic that he wasn't able to control it from the start but had to reverse engineer his Epic Art to understand how to utilise the wind energy from the Bamboo Cyclone of the Lazy Panda.

That enabled him to create a Wind Astral Panda to infuse into his own body, giving him the agility and chi manipulation he sorely needed to float in the air and control his movements in three dimensions.

The System later noted that his Green Panda Wind movements were similar to the cultivation of the Space Hummingbird Cultivation Style. "The similarities of chi control surpass 80%. System recommends User to read the manual to further improve his chi control movements."

"As if I have the time to read right now," Jin complained while lying on the smashed up floor finally enjoying his first rest since the whole ordeal, at least for his little a while.

Zeru had decided he was competent enough to pass the test though he'd preferred for Jin to practice more so he would have been guaranteed to pass with flying colours. However, Zeru also knew that Claire would open the door to Jin in ten minutes or so according to the System's timer, thus giving him time to recuperate completely for the fight.

"And even if I did, I sure as heck would not bother reading that. Instead please give me some updates regarding what's happening at the store, the scouting mission or other things that I should be aware of." Jin asked as he closed his eyes just for a moment. He did not realise that sleeping on the floor could be such a blessing.

"The Store is still well managed by Yun. WunderPanda Theme Park Instance remains to be the most popular of all instances and the highest grossing instance ever since its inception. The Restaurant Instance still remains the toughest competitor with Lynn's inclusion of the Reservoir of Deep Fishing Instance as part of the stops in the Restaurant Instance." The System began its debriefing to Jin.

"There has been an increase of 5000% in regards to catches and the number of customers buying the various fishes for food increased by 300%. The most popular order was to stew it instead of eating it raw. Thus, the business model that Lynn introduced has been working well and it's become a popular spot for friends and co-workers to relax. System has also upgraded Bear Cub NPCs with 'playful attitudes' for free to prompt customers and guilt trip them into buying more fish."

5000% might look like a lot, but Jin knew that it was because the original number of catches in the past month was way too terrible. (Hint: it was in single digits.)

"Secondary News. A unit of 15 Dark Arts Practitioners was first captured with the aid of Minotaur Maid Sebastia. Fifty additional Dark Arts Practitioners were later captured by the Leader of the Dark Arts Practitioners. This had –"

"Wait, what? Dark Art practitioners? I thought they were supposed to do reconnaissance and/or fight Demon Rats? Are they related to the Demon Rats? Have we found the ones responsible who were manipulating them yet?" Jin threw a series of questions, and if the System had been Zeru, it would have thrown more slashes to shut him up.

"Minotaur Maid Sebastia has proven quite resourceful by infiltrating into the ranks of the Demon Rats. She previously captured the cousin of Werejackal Leader Gold, Silver, nicknamed the Silver Mage, alongside his subordinates. They had been the remnants of the rebel group known as the Jacks and Sebastia gained the trust of Demon Rats by eliminating them." The System later summarised the list of events to Jin, and he was pleasantly surprised by the development by his monsters.

"Yeah, I should trust them more so I can focus on bigger things." Jin smiled as he thought that when the System interrupted him with more news. "Lord Wolte has evolved immediately after he gained a demon worshipper, who happened to be the patron of the Dark Art practitioners."

"Huh? But the last I saw him, he had no evolution trigger or meeting any criteria to evolve. Is that even normal? Or was that Demon Worshipper so powerful it caused Lord Wolte to evolve based on its presence? No wait let me guess, because of the practitioners?" Jin asked and Peppers interrupted him when the System had enough of this babbling User.

"Demons and Gods are different from normal monsters. They need worshippers to increase their powers and based on Moloch's past tale about Wolte, it seems that he just needed worshippers to get back some of his original powers. The evolution shouldn't be because he met the criteria, but rather his power level was way more than the current threshold the System had set, thus identifying it as an evolution. Am I right System?" The System acknowledged the suspicion firmly.

"Oh...but can he also meet criteria for evolution?"

"Yeap, definitely. Although I think the worshippers part will be most crucial to him." Peppers assumed, and the System presented pictures of the new evolved Lord Wolte.

"What is this? A tank? How is this an evolution? He merely ...wait a minute. These spotlights? ARE THOSE EYES?!?!" Jin sat up to take a closer look at Wolte's new form.

It was definitely some sort of tank which he did not recognise, but the thing was he had eyes, a mouth and even a white moustache being merged at the front of the tank. "Do you have a video of him moving around?" Jin curiously asked, and the System presented one as requested.

"Holy wonkers! This is ... HAHAAHHAHA oh my god!" Jin noticed how the threads on the tank were like his hands and legs. He was able to move them at various directions albeit slightly restricted, but he was in full control of the tank. Lord Wolte was literally an anthropomorphic talking vehicle.

"Lord Wolte, in his free time had studied various forms of military vehicles, most likely to find a way to be more useful to User, despite his previously lacking strength." The System finally took an active role to explain.

"His current form, he nicknamed the 'Slug Tank' is his most basic forms according to him. This indicates that there is a lot more room for evolution should he be able to obtain more followers. However, as of now, he is combat ready and has been equipped with slightly more advanced armaments than the Sherman Tank User had possessed." The System explained which Jin thanked it for the heads up.

"Third News, Sub System Users Qiu Yue and Lynn have been deployed to the Giant World to complete a mission issued by the Cooking Sub System. User was not informed earlier because it has been their unanimous decision to train themselves up." The System reported and told Jin that the mission was to find the missing Penguin Chieftain as they were not back from their monthly pilgrimage to the Altar of Giants yet.

"The Giant World? Oh, the one where insects can be as big as the size of an Ogre from the Goblin World?"

"Affirmative, the one User had also used the same analogy on the cats from that world, stating that they would be the same size as an Ogre." The System replied and Jin rolled his eyes.

"What can I say? They are really all at the size of an Ogre! Only some were a bit larger!" Jin argued as he remembered Lynn and the penguins bringing back a dead Boar looking monster which was the size of an Ogre before cutting it up to use its bones and meat for the ramen broth. (The number of customers that visited the Restaurant instances required such a size to feed their hungry stomachs consistently despite the Sub System's cloning ability of 'raw' materials)

"Alright, leave the two alone unless they signal for our help, but please do monitor them close enough. Call me overprotective, but I don't trust them enough to be on their own yet. Their cultivation grades are too low for comfort." Jin ordered the System while he looked at the reports of the ongoing construction for Pand-Atlantis.

"Under the supervision of Demon Lord Moloch, the Orcs and Goblins have completed Phase One for the foundation of the Undersea City Pand-Atlantis. A few Sandroku Golems were damaged due to the constant work, but revisions of those golems are already underway to ensure such mishaps won't happen again." The System noted as it continued with its report with regards to the Floating City

"Progress has been significantly smooth for the Floating City. Agriculture Sector One's crops are at 110% growth with the aid of Ancient Treant Shu and Zither Mistress Ke Mi. Agriculture Sector Two livestock have increased to two fold with controlled temporal manipulation. Industrial Sector One has recently been completed and awaiting your choices to select what kind of industry User is looking at next."

"I want a factory dedicated to improve and produce more of these Sandroku Golems so that the Orcs and Goblins working on it have a better workshop environment. Allocate half the industrial factory space to Niu Lang and the Robot Crawlers." Jin commanded as he explained his rationale.

"If we are going to invade or protect the Mecha World, we better start producing our own Mechas. But make sure to prioritise the repairs of Mechataur to get it up and running before anything else." Jin said as he had already spent a generous amount of money on Niu Lang to increase his knowledge on Mechatronics via the System. The profit returns were visible from the mini game that Niu Lang created, but it was still not sufficient to cover the costs yet.

"If need be, outsource help from the goblins and Orcs who had been working on the Sandroku Golems. We need as many people on deck for this. Heck maybe get Lord Wolte since he potentially might have some knowledge on robots too. Else get him to get some tanks or planes. Continue building Industrial Sector Two as per Qiu Yue's plan." Jin continued to swipe the boring statistics that the System showed, and that was also when he heard a lock unlocking from the top.

"You can come out now," Claire informed him as she fully opened the door. Jin closed his eyes for a while to get used to the outside sun before he jumped out effortlessly with no help from his new Green Panda Wind energy.

"We have verified your existence within the Isolation Ward for the past 72 hours. You may now challenge the four demon exorcist trainees. However, I will suggest using your System to teleport you back home and have a change of clothes." Claire said as she distanced herself a bit from him with an irk of disgust on her face.

Jin looked at himself and finally noticed the amount of bloodstains he received not only on his tattered clothing but all over his skin, making it all dark red. If he hadn't known any better, Jin would have thought that he had drowned himself in a sea of blood.

"I shall inform Grandma Yuan that you are in dire need of a bath. I am sure she can spare you another 15 minutes. Meet you above ground soon." Claire walked away, evidently covering her nose, which made Jin wonder if it was that bad of a smell.

"Trust me, if not for the bracelet being a dimension of its own, I would have already run far away from you." Pei agreed with Claire entirely, and the System had already opened a portal for Jin to a private Emerald Mountains Hot Spring Instance.

"Oh my god, Master! You smell worse than a rotten fish." Mr Patsu complained as he saw his Master coming back for a bath but criticised his body odour.

"THANKS FOR LETTING ME KNOW!! Mr Patsu, prepare the most fragrant bath soap you can find and put it into the hot spring instance!" Jin ordered as he hastily took his clothes off.

"Sire, this is a hot spring, not a bubble bath. Besides, the soap bath would not remove the odour from you. We need to manually scrub your entire body to make sure the stains are washed off." Mr Patsu tried to reason with Jin but he was already butt naked.

"Then what are you waiting for? Scrub away! I only have 15 minutes in real life! Get it done as soon as possible and soak the hot spring with medicinal herbs! I want to dip a little before I go for the fight!" Despite the demands, the penguins in the hot spring instance were pumped up to serve their master to the fullest.

"And somebody! Get me a bowl of cold soba noodles! I am literally starving!" Jin yelled as he tolerated the penguins intense scrubbing starting from his feet.

## **Chapter 457 Selecting a Location**

Upon returning to the burnt temple location, Claire and Grandma Yuan were actually waiting for Jin at the stairs of the underground basement. "Seems like you had more than a good bath," Claire mentioned as she thoroughly scanned Jin's body to the point he felt a bit violated from her staring.

"Am I late?" Jin asked as he looked at his storage watch, which indicated he should have a minute to spare.

"No, but I'd like to request something from you." Grandma Yuan answered as she nodded at Claire as if to signal for her part. Claire brought out a suitcase from her storage ring and opened it right in front of Jin. It was not filled with cash but bars of gold right in front of him.

"I refuse if you want me to lose the fight intentionally. Also please don't tell me to go easy on them, because I literally went through hell inside the isolation ward." Jin was quick to refuse what he assumed Grandma Yuan was here before she could say anything.

"Hahahah! I can imagine. The sensory inscription does not exactly operate the same way as a CCTV, but it was able to track the moments in that Isolation Ward. Truth be told, I'd call it a miracle that you managed to survive after all the crazy things that happened inside that Isolation Ward." Grandma Yuan laughed before she shook her head.

"No, I am not asking you to do anything of that sort. My words are promises. You shall fight one on one against my students and I sincerely expect you to not pull your punches. However, I never specified the location so that's the part I would like to ask for your help." Grandma Yuan clarified, and Jin started to realise where this conversation was heading to.

"I see. Even with this amount of money, the materials for resurrection might not cover all four of them and considering they are all fairly high grades, it would be all the more expensive." Jin pondered out loud and Claire seemed offended by this.

"Grandma Yuan is rich enough, she does not need your pity!" Claire rebutted before Grandma Yuan stopped her.

"Claire, stop it. It's true I might have that kind of wealth but would be stupid to waste it for such fights when it can be used for far more important matters like funding a certain store's expenses. Am I right?" Grandma Yuan was sly enough to change the topic.

Claire initially approved when Grandma Yuan had proposed that idea, but after a while, she disillusioned herself that cultivators having a tremendous advantage in life especially Jin, who possessed the System, would be more prideful in nature. She figured Grandma Yuan lowering her tone and proud stance was to please Jin in order for him to get the request acceded.

"Sure, no problem. What kind of landscape do you want the dungeon?" Jin agreed almost immediately, which stunned Claire for a moment.

"You... are not bargaining or anything?" Claire tried to clarify her doubts about Jin, and he shook his head.

"Nope, that gold amount is more than enough for a dungeon instance. Besides, Grandma Yuan has been treating me rather nice ever since I met her despite her tsundere demeanour." Jin blurted the truth bluntly and Grandma Yuan laughed.

"Hmmpf! Cheeky brat watch your words!" Grandma Yuan smirked and walked away, ordering Claire to follow her. "A simple arena will be fine and get the portal ready when I come back here."

"She means in five!" Claire said.

"Aye Grandma, five is more than enough." Jin acknowledged as he returned back to the Dungeon Maker and whipped up a dungeon instance as instructed by Grandma Yuan. However, he decided to make it a bit more fanciful despite her instructions to be simple.

The terrain was endless with a few slopes and hills, but the ground was filled with water, similar to the Grand Central experience that Bin Yong and the rest had been in. The water was only ankle level and to avoid the endless pool of water, one had to make for the hills. Jin also did that to give himself a slight disadvantage, especially for the fight against Lein's since he was an electric user.

"Why does User wish to give a slight handicap to himself?" The System asked and Jin brought up an important point. Trust.

"The moment they enter the portal, the demon exorcist trainees might discerned that its a dungeon instance if everything is in my favour. While they do not know that I might have the System, seeing an obvious advantage that Lein can utilise should be sufficient to gain their trust." Jin replied.

"Will it?" The System shot the question back at Jin, and he was unable to answer for a moment.

"In any case, I did not do that just for the obvious disadvantage part. I am genuinely afraid of the Demon Snake Cultivator and the Nine Tailed Fox Demon. The shallow water should provide me with sufficient clues to know where they are coming from." Jin explained his rationale and once again the System rebutted his claims.

"The Demon Snake Cultivator and the Nine Tailed Fox Demons are highly likely to use the small hills as cover and as a platform to jump on User. System recommends User to not be stupid and give himself unnecessary disadvantages." The System stated, and it made sense when Jin considered the System's opinions.

After all, it did witness the thirty seconds fight till the end and had probably formed some analytical report given the trainee's performance. Moreover, the System should benefit the most from analysing them in the dungeon instance.

"Fine, fine. Give me a nice scenery then. Maybe the beach or something." Jin passed the task over, and immediately the System recreated the entire dungeon instance to show a neverending skyline of the sea in the beyond and the beach he requested.

But as for the sandy beach part, it was spacious up to a 100 metres wide before a high cliff blocked the entire view. "Tall cliffs on one side and the ocean on the other side with an endless beach strip. Seems pretty enough and it gives the challengers options to choose whether they want to fight at the sandy beach, sky or sea. I accept this instance." Jin smiled weakly at the System's design.

"Of course, System will never manufacture inferior products." The System boasted itself in front of Jin, and he sighed with a light smile once more.

Jin reappeared back at the temple hall in time and saw Claire escorting the trainees as well as Grandma Yuan into the area. "You could have just waited here, Grandma Yuan." Jin mentioned with a little concern since she did not have to walk out to get her students. She seemed to be quite soft on the inside when it came to her students.

"Mind your own matters. Have you selected the location already?" Grandma Yuan questioned.

"Heh! He better selects one that will give him an advantage or else it might be too boring for us in a one to one fight. Am I right guys?" Rong, the Ox Demon Cultivator sniggered as he looked down upon Jin.

How much difference could three days of training really make? It's not like he could have improved in grade, right? Besides, he heard that Jin had remained in the Isolation Ward the whole time. With no light, food or supplies, one could only cultivate within that room.

Unlike him, the demon exorcist trainees returned to their respective Royal Zodiac Clans to train under the closest scrutiny. Yes, all four of them hailed from various Royal Zodiac Clans, and they happened to have an affinity with the variant Zodiac animals which prompted them to learn these Demon Cultivations.

Each clan not only had a Main Family and Branch Families but there would always be another House related to the Royal Zodiac Clan family made up of either Monster Slayers or Demon Exorcists. This had been mandated by the Jade Emperor when he first started up to counter against the ever ongoing monster hordes that plagued the earth.

Hence, these minor Houses within the Royal Clans were called the Extermination Houses. There was even a joint organisation that handled these minor Houses to coordinate joint monster extermination efforts in the country.

Grandma Yuan happened to be Shenzhen's best and was also ranked amongst the world's top 100 most experienced demon exorcist instructors. For this reason, despite her little known post as the Tiangong District Guardian, she carried significant influence in Shenzhen. It was at her own request that she maintained the title as the District Guardian due to personal reasons.

Rong was from the Royal Zodiac Ox clan. Su Zhen hailed from the Royal Zodiac Snake clan while Lian cultivating the Nine Tailed Fox Demon cultivation style came from the Royal Zodiac Dog clan. Lastly, Lein who practised the Qilin Demon Cultivation Style was from the prestigious Royal Zodiac Horse clan.

Within the past three days, they had not received any instructions from Grandma Yuan. Hence, they sought out their clan's own instructors to spar and consumed food that had high spiritual powers to rejuvenate their spiritual cultivation and body. Other fellow clan mates had also come to assist them with their training so they could practice what Grandma Yuan and their parents had taught.

As compared to Jin, they had been living the heavenly life while Jin had been in the hellish pits of a closed, isolated ward battling for his life continuously without any stop.

Not to mention, the cold soba noodles in the Emerald Mountain Hot Spring Instance had been the first meal he got to enjoy in these three days (actually a week, counting in the time dilation). And let's not forget about his emergency surgery though it proved to be an upgrade he sorely needed.

When they reached the other end of the portal, all six of them, including Grandma Yuan was taken aback by the beautiful sun setting in the horizon. They found themselves inside a cave inside the cliffside, wide enough for everyone to line up at the opening to watch the sunset. The temperature was cooling enough so that one could snuggle in bed just to enjoy the sea breeze.

"This is an isolated, disclosed place that I found. We can fight along the beach below and to the sea if any one of you wants to do that." Jin pretended to state that this paradise looking place was found by him even though there was a high chance they knew it was a dungeon instance.

"Amazing place! Which part of China is this place located at?" Lian asked as she tried to turn on her GPS to check, but there was no signal at all.

"Don't bother looking, this place is isolated enough to have our battles uninterrupted," Jin answered as he asked who would be the one to face him first.

Rong raised his hand up immediately and Jin wasn't too surprised, especially when he had taken the initiative to attack him before the others had had the chance. "So, is he the typical 'let me fight them all' kind of person?" Jin wondered as he gladly let Rong entered the Beach first.

"Ox Demon Cultivator Rong has reached Grade 5 Peak as compared to the first time you battled with him. The System will continue to collect information with regards to these Demon Style Cultivators." The System noted and Jin nodded his head, but before he left for the battlefield, Jin asked Grandma Yuan if she needed a chair to watch over the battle.

"Heh! Imprudent fool! I already brought my own chair." Grandma Yuan coughed as Claire took out the very same majestic looking chair from her storage ring she had used to oversee the 30 seconds battle. She even prepared a teacup and placed it at the side of the chair.

"Now, don't act all concerned about me. This isn't anything like the previous you, and I despise being treated like an old weakly grandma by a greenhorn. So stop sucking up to me, it won't bring you any extra merit points." Grandma Yuan attacked Jin with her stinging words.

Jin, in return, shrugged his shoulder and took a rope and a modern pulley system out from his storage ring and tied it at the side of the cave. (Jin had actually made it beforehand when the System created this place for him.)

The dungeon supplier then slowly descended down the cliff, making Rong waited impatiently for him. "Oei, slowpoke! Can you hurry up?! Dragging out your demise will not help you any further! Just get down fast, and we can start the fight or else I will come after you immediately!"

"Huh? Me? No, I'm just actually being helpful enough to make sure the rope is strong enough to withstand your corpse after I kill you. After all, Grandma Yuan needs to see the evidence that you died. Besides, you know you cannot do that. It is a sacred part of the rite of the duel to wait for the person to acknowledge your duelling request, else it won't be valid." Jin lectured as he finally climbed down from the cliff.

"Who the hell invented such rules? I never heard of such rules from my instructors at all?" Rong sounded unsure of the truthfulness of Jin's words as he folded his arms.



"Me. I invented those rules like just now." Jin smirked shamelessly handed a peace sign at Rong and made him mad on the spot. "And your instructors? Grandma Yuan is not the only one teaching you? Do you need more than one person to explain to you how to hit and kick and such?" Jin taunted him as he took out Bam and Boo in katana and Wakizashi form and tied them at the side of his waist with a makeshift holster.

"You piece of rotten scum! I have no more words for you!" Rong took out a well ornated two handed hammer that had two bull horns at the cheek of it. With a pull and push trigger on the Hammer's stick, it seemed like the chi from Rong's body got inserted into the Bull Horned Hammer, and continuous steam was venting out of the hammer.

"Begin!" Grandma Yuan voice echoed in that quiet beach which Rong took the initiative.

## **Chapter 458 Giant World**

"Urghhh I never knew that trekking would be such a pain in the ass. Can't we just use our cultivation? Or ask the System to teleport us someplace nearer?" Qiu Yue complained as she followed behind Lynn. If this were just an exploration mission to the Altar of Giants in the Giant World, Lynn would have personally beaten Qiu Yue for having such a talkative mouth.

The trek was not treacherous or anything of that sort. Still, it was obscenely long because of the number of kilometres they had to cover (If they had been giant size, this would not have been such a problem). There were a few Penguins accompanying them including Kido who was like a shadow following Lynn wherever she went.

He became a personal bodyguard after she found out that he was more well versed in Ninjutsu compared to the rest of the penguins. His cooking skills were also top notch, and as it turned out, he was also ranked as the best candidate to have been selected by the Sub System.

However, not all were as incredible as him. The rest of the penguins were only more competent in Ninjutsu rather than cooking. Hence, Lynn allowed them to focus more on the combat component and used them as servers.

"We should be reaching a checkpoint soon. There is sort of a cave...erm, I mean crevice between the walls." One of the penguins told Lynn and Qiu Yue, which made the latter slightly relieved. The penguins were not slowing them a single bit. Instead, their ninjutsu training had made them even more agile than Qiu Yue. The cultivators who had been to the Restaurant Instance would know that each waddle they took could be equivalent to six of theirs.

"Remember that we are here for training while searching for clues to fulfil our mission to find the chieftain." Lynn reminded the Red Panda Lady as she informed her about the Penguin Chieftain, Skitter and the rest of the elder penguin council having used the same track they were covering right now. If they had used cultivation to speed up their way to the Altar of Giants, they could have potentially missed any clues left behind.

Qiu Yue did argue a valid point that they should use their cultivation to move to the Altar of Giants as soon as possible since they might potentially be trapped there. Kido shook his head and denounced that particular plan because of a few things. One of it was that they had already missed the deadline to return from their pilgrimage.

Should anything have happened to them at the Altar of Giants, they would have been dead by now. Therefore, the penguins back at the village had already accepted the Council of Elders, including Chieftain Skitter, might have been killed or worse, eaten. Hence, what the penguins needed to find was actually a unique item that had been carried by Chieftain Skitter.

The Totem of Atem.

Kido mentioned that this particular small totem had allowed the penguins to survive and thrive because it shrunk them permanently into small sizes. In the Giant World, the largest always won and the original sized penguins had definitely not been among those who could become competitors in this cruel world, but a mere survivor in this giant eat giant world.

The area which they had established their village was deep within one of the crevices of the broken Cathedral that lead them to the main Altar of the Giants. Yes, they were located not too far off from the Altar itself because the Penguin Chieftain needed to periodically repower the totem of Atem to immunise the penguin hatchlings from the Giantification Genes.

"You mean Atom?" Qiu Yue figured that made more sense but Kido and the other Penguins simultaneously corrected her, that it was 'Atem' and even spelt it out for Qiu Yue. "Alright! Alright, no need to be so agitated about it."

"Hahaha, it happened to me too. That totem to them is a sacred item like how a statue of Buddha is to a religious person." Lynn giggled and consoled Qiu Yue as they were reaching a broken part of the wall that connected the room they were into another.

"Still, this is just crazy, do these Cathedral ruins have a history or something? A look at the stained glass windows, I can already imagine there must be some sort of civilisation that lived in this place." Qiu Yue looked upwards and saw a gleam of light shone down through the giant piece of a cracked window. Qiu Yue realised that if she were standing at the spot where the sun had shone through the window, it would have felt like in a desert walking through that particular area.

"Surely there is some sort of history behind it all, but we do not have the luxury to find out at the moment," Lynn answered as Qiu Yue could hear the penguins taking out their weapons. It was a Giant Boar Rat larger than the size of an Ogre staring at them in the intersection of the broken off wall. To the great vermin, it was staring at delicious looking food looking to be eaten up.

"Penguins ready?" Lynn asked as part of her habit. Even if it looked like a rat, the System would still categorise it as a consumable when it's killed because the meat itself had nutritional value to it and most importantly all those who tried it could only describe it as such.

Absolutely Tasty.

Lynn had killed a few of the same Boar Rats before and even used them as part of the ingredients for her more top selling dishes. Yet the customers thought it was merely pork meat, since it was named as such

in the menu. Even Jin assumed it was a gigantic boar when Lynn captured it back then. (At the time Jin had been looking through the porthole window, Lynn and the penguins were already slicing the boar rat up.)

Qiu Yue fumbled as she took her katana out, but by the time she did that, Lynn and the penguins had already charged in and blinded the Boar Rat by stabbing their kunai into the eyes of the Boar Rat. It caused the vermin to screech while stomping its feet and shaking its body to prevent the penguins and Lynn to perform any follow up attack.

"Qiu Yue, come and join in the fun!" Lynn offered as she stepped back to the direction of Qiu Yue. The cultivator of the 'Radiant Red Panda in the Umbral Snow' Style thanked Lynn for giving her a chance in the battle. She took a deep breath and stepped forth with her chi all gathered within her sword.

A cold breeze of air flowed through the intersection of the broken wall when Qiu Yue raised her sword to accommodate her offensive stance. "Katana Arts! Snowy Dance of the Red Panda. Act 1!" Qiu Yue shouted as her sword turned pristine white and dashed forth to release the chi in her sword. The energised slash released a wind of snowflakes, causing the Boar Rat movements to be slowed down significantly.

That was when the penguins took the opportunity to rush in and deal an all out attack by stabbing and slashing the Boar Rat's legs and tail, causing it to stumble and eventually tumble to the ground for Lynn to deal the finishing blow. A straight cut under the neck released the Boar Rat's suffering instantly, and the Boar Rat was immediately sent back to the System for cleaning.

"Another cooking material to be used!" Lynn wiped her one handed sword with a cloth which was hanging at the side of her waist before sheathing it back into the scabbard. "Hehe, It's a habit. I am a bit particular about cleanliness, even with my sword." Lynn explained a bit embarrassed as she saw Qiu Yue giving her a strange look.

"Yea, I think both Jin, and I learned that the hard way after the last time we went into your kitchen to share with you some snacks we bought from Tiangong district. You've been shouting at us as if there was no tomorrow." Qiu Yue easily accepted Lynn's apology.

"The Penguins also gave us a death stare. Only afterwards did we realise that you were in the process of washing the kitchen up for the day." Qiu Yue giggled, and Lynn automatically apologised for her Obsessive Compulsive Behaviour when it comes to cleanliness.

"Sub System User Lynn, Sub System has found a piece of possible evidence when processing the Boar Rat for freezing purposes. Sub System was able to retrieve a particular piece of accessory that was stuck in the fur of the Boar Rat." The Cooking Sub System stated and teleported an amulet necklace accessory into Lynn's hands.

She quickly passed it to the penguins for verification and Kido noticed that it belonged to Colwaski, one of the Council Elders that followed Chieftain Skitter for the pilgrimage. "He is basically the overall genius in the Penguin Village. Without him, we would not have survived this long. All the items he managed to salvage or create are vital for our survival." Kido explained.

"So do you think it's a coincidence that he left it with a Boar Rat or was there some purpose to it? Sub System, any conclusive evidence that Elder Colwaski could have been eaten by the Boar Rat?" Lynn

asked, and the Sub System conclusion came out negative. Even if there were any signs, it could have long been digested.

"We are far from over. We have yet to reach the Altar of Giants as you guys stated. At least we know there are some physical remnants of him lying around which meant we are on the right track." Qiu Yue tried to encourage Lynn and the penguins beside her.

"You are right. We should rest up and continue on later. Sub System, please analyse this to check if there is any possible hidden message in there." Lynn requested since Kido did state that Colwaski was the Overmind in the village, he might have left some valuable clue behind. However, the Sub System informed her that it would take a few minutes since the System was currently running at near full capacity.

"How come?" Qiu Yue asked as she opened her Sub System via her phone and checked that everything was fine at her end.

"Jin is currently fighting against a Demon Cultivator or as they call themselves the Demon Exorcist Trainees. System is currently analysing the information being collected in real time." The Sub System answered, but the Sub System users were unaware that the System was at full capacity because of Kraft. He was pushing the System to the max into working something valuable after he was done hacking with the aid of Rex boosting his abilities.

"Shall we watch Jin's fight while we take a breather?" Qiu Yue asked Lynn, and she agreed wholeheartedly.

"We hardly see Jin fight earnestly, maybe we too will get an idea on how he performs so we can perhaps train collectively in the future too," Lynn suggested, but in actual fact, she just wanted to fight side by side with Jin. Even though it had been a brief experience, she missed the adrenaline rush when Jin had been by her side fighting against the Orcs in that make believe goblin capital they had created.

The Sub System obliged to their request since it would occupy them for a while as it could delay the process to identify the object which required the main System's aid.

"Oh my god, it's true. An Ox looking Demon silhouette above that guy's head. I don't recognise that demon though." Qiu Yue commented but neither did Lynn could comprehend since she was only acquainted with Japanese Mythology and Lore.

"Ao Ye. A demon that seemingly originated from the folktales of China's western regions. The System does not currently have much information on it either. Only that Ao Ye is rumoured to consume humans and collect their bones for keepsake." The Empire Building Sub System revealed to Qiu Yue, and they saw how aggressive that Ox Demon Cultivator's attacks were. The attacks had immense strength behind them, and his footwork was precise, but for some reason, Jin just kept dodging without any retaliation.

"What is that fellow doing? Tiring that guy out?" Qiu Yue seemed frustrated watching the match, and Lynn begged to differ.

"If I am not wrong, you should look closer at Jin's eyes. He seems to be actually trying to learn the footwork of that demon cultivator while avoiding the steps."

"What for? Jin could just blast him out in the sky if he wanted to...pretty sure he could." Qiu Yue replied back, though she whispered the last more. Still, that was the moment when Jin finally did something to break out of the monotony. He used his shoe to pick some sand up and threw it at the Ox Demon Cultivator to distract him.

After which, Jin lowered himself as he aimed for the legs instead and suddenly from under the shadow of the Ox Demon Cultivator, a silhouette of Ao Ye appeared from Rong's legs as if to try and bite Jin off.

However, Jin was able to evade the silhouette and stood up properly with no loss of balance. It was Rong's fighting technique that allowed him to concentrate his chi into his legs, making them fight independently in case Rong's upper body got immobilised.

"I see, so the rumours of the Royal Zodiac Ox cultivators taking pride in their legs more than the Royal Zodiac Horses were true. For you to be able to gather enough chi to summon a silhouette above your leg, it is truly a wonder." Jin praised his opponent as he took a step back.

"Hmph, you should be proud to have made it appear. That is why no matter how much you dodge, you won't be able to pass through my impenetrable defences of the Ox Demon Leg Techniques. Similar to how Ao Ye hides his legs in his large fur like body hair, you will not see my leg attacks coming!! And that includes my hammer attacks." Rong announced with pride as he had mastered the foundation techniques of the Royal Zodiac Ox clan before becoming a Demon Exorcist trainee.

"Then it's all the more interesting." Jin beckoned Rong to attack him.

## **Chapter 459 Abyss Web**

"Whew! it's finally done!" Kraft heaved a heavy sigh as he pressed the 'simulate' button in the Dungeon Maker to let the software he created run in the background while he stretched his body a little. Rex' ability boost had proved to be of a significant help for Kraft as he and the System enabled the Original Bellator to penetrate the Deep Web and into the Dark Web of the internet. This was because in order to gain access into the restricted cyber database which the Chinese government had placed, Kraft first needed to gain some knowledge about the latest possible ways to hack.

Usually, traversing into the Dark Web was like going into a deep shaft mine without a canary to check for possible signs of poisoning in the atmosphere. However, Kraft had the skills to do that with his eyes closed though this time around, he was not there to merely poke around the Dark Web. Instead, the sly old fox had something more sinister in mind. He was going to infiltrate the lowest depths of the Dark Web or as hackers nicknamed it, the Abyss Web.

Ironically, it was Kraft who placed the groundwork for that before sending out a challenge on the Dark Web for other elite competent hackers to try and crack the code. All those who read about the challenge determined to use this opportunity to join in the fun. It took roughly about three years before Kraft's code was broken.

The top hacker who did that managed to find out the hidden objective of Kraft and remodified it to become a forum for the best of the best hackers. (He gained the infamous title of Conqueror of Fox Wall by accomplishing this feat.)

However, when the hackers cracked his code, Kraft was already staying within Ming, laying domain. That was also when the world wide web was just an expansion from a small group of governmental users, especially from the various defence departments in the world which Kraft took an active part in it. That was the reason why Kraft, who was knowledgeable in counter intelligence was among the first few to dabble into it and helped expand the project.

It happened when the System User back then had the foresight to infiltrate into the intelligence and defence departments of the Chinese government to gain an advantage over the Twelve Royal Zodiac Clans. Kraft, at the time had been successful in placing a monitoring device of sorts on the clans. It proved to be very vital in information collecting since the User and System collated plenty of data on the Zodiac Clans which they would have never known in the past.

He even managed to marginalise a victim (as what he had done recently) for the crimes of monitoring the Twelve Royal Zodiac Clans. The User did learn about it and eventually assisted in compensating that particular family by matchmaking the victim's son to a daughter of the Royal Zodiac Snake Clan. (Of course, behind the scenes.)

And that victim was none other than Hou Fei's father.

Kraft had been like a hidden guardian angel for him because it was the User's command to take care of the victim's son and subsequent family members until they were able to stand on their own. So, Ming having met Hou Fei in the army was no mere coincidence, but it was something Kraft had orchestrated behind the scenes.

Unfortunately, after the time reversal incident, Kraft had not been able to actively access the net because of the need to conserve his energy to assist Ming whenever he felt like it. There was also a personal reason why the original bellator decided to follow Ming rather than stay enclosed within the System who had entered a full dormant state after the time reversal.

Kraft had been afraid the System would repeat the same mistake it did in choosing a person that had intents and actions similar to the Panda Lord Zhou Lin. Ever since Kraft re-joined the System, he made sure to gather sufficient resources under his name in case of such a worst case scenario.

While the System was aware of Kraft's doings, it did not stop him because the Original System's judgement had been flawed at a time when it had been at its peak. Thus, the current System knew that depending on the circumstances, it might have to resort to such an option once more.

Also, despite the System's pledge to enhance its logical thought process, Kraft inherently knew that the System's processing capability was being reduced with every User it blessed. The fact that, up till now, only two Users managed to help it recover some of its power proved that most Users it chose had never been very successful at all.

Some squandered them away by wanting to become the top cultivator in the world, which most often lead to their own demise along the way while others preferred to just live their lives comfortably without too many complications.

The System had been desperate for a decent User for a long time until it met Ming. Jin's grandfather ought to be the candidate with the most potential within his generation. It was precisely what the System had been looking for despite his equivalent (foolish?) desires to be the best cultivator in the world.

Hence, the System had decided to invest everything it had onto Ming, giving him the best training resources possible and aiding his quest to reach Grade 20. However, problematic issues arose when the Banned Emperor assassin killed his daughter, which ultimately broke his will and thoughts, causing him to do suicidal things.

Therefore, the System decided to abandon Ming in order to conserve whatever process capability it had left after the time reversal, and that was when Kraft jumped into Ming. Kraft could have assisted a Sub System User like Grandma Yuan, but he decided to do something to amend his past regrets.

Kraft blamed himself for retrieving remains of the Panda Lord and Rex at the cost of the many lives of his dear friends and comrades including his fiancée. He felt that it had been partially his fault to have let Panda Lord Zhou Lin rampage on his path of destruction. That and the desire of empty revenge for the multiple deaths of the Panda Clan Remnants back when Panda Lord Zhou Lin had been the User for the System.

So, when the time reversal happened, Kraft guided Ming when no one else could. Jin's grandfather had been depressed and suicidal thoughts made him believe ending his life would solve everything.

Fortunately, he decided against it, as there was still a little Jin to take care of.

Nevertheless, it felt like a living hell seeing everyone around him proceed as per usual. Hou Fei and Grandma Yuan did show some concern, but Ming always acted strong in front of them. That resulted in them not knowing what was occurring inside of him and they even thought that he had turned over a new leaf.

However, Kraft knew what was happening and stay with him, encourage him (albeit in the form of a little sarcastic subconscious) and aided him to pull through.

Ming realised and understood where he had gone wrong and taught Jin whatever he could despite how busy he could be at times. In the meantime, his career skyrocketed with the aid of Kraft and Hou Fei supporting him.

There had been times that Grandma Yuan did pull a string or two secretly for Ming to rise to the top and he was extremely grateful for it even though both of them did not show it to each other.

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"The malware works with a 100% success rate in the simulation. Original Bellator Kraft's assistance to dive into the Abyss Web has proven to be very insightful." The System thanked Kraft for breaking into the Abyss Web and getting all the information including the various types of malwares and hacks for the System to analyse.

Kraft was able to infiltrate into the Abyss Web due to a hidden backdoor he placed in his code when he allowed the others to crack it open. After all, when inviting all sorts of folk into one's house, why not have a second pair of keys in case he needed one?

"Duh, you definitely have to thank me. I had to isolate all those malware codes to prevent them from infecting you when you were analysing them. But the most valuable player is no doubt Rex. There were two! Two secret deep root malware codes which I could not have detected without Rex's ability boost." Kraft emphasised as he remembered how merciless the System had been when it placed Rex back into solitary confinement via that odd Rubik's cube prison when the ten minutes was up.

"...System has taken Original Bellator Kraft advice into account. System shall provide better food for Rex as compensation."

"You better make sure to take note of that!" Kraft said as he glanced through the simulation results of the malware that had undergone the test run. With the knowledge he snatched from the Abyss Web, the System and him had been toiling through the hours to perfect the malware they were going to insert into the National Database.

Like every infamous malware ever made, the System and Kraft named the malware virus - 'Foxy'. What was special about Foxy was that the System injected a part of its artificial intelligence coding into Foxy's code structure.

Still, Kraft made a plethora of contingency plans ensuring that the System's code would disintegrate if someone managed to try and isolate and analyse the code structure of Foxy.

Other than that, the malware was loaded with all the latest weapons of mass cyber destruction. Like an assassin, it's able to blend itself into its surrounding, preventing others from detecting it and smart enough to gather any information it could grab.

After which, it would lie in wait, analysing the target's structure until there was a loophole for Foxy to exploit. It might take time for the Foxy malware to work, but it was guaranteed to breach through any firewall silently on Earth.

However, Kraft needed to enter as soon as possible since the security administrators probably had already detected the breach in their database when the System had queried about Ryuli. The Chinese government might not be able to patch the loophole immediately, but they would get it done as soon as possible, best case scenario they would have about four to five days. (In addition, it was to wait for the hacker to act again so they can confirm their catch.) That was also why Kraft and System worked to the bone to smuggle in their malware before that window of opportunity would be gone forever.

"Now, let's get this baby fox to work," Kraft spoke as the System queried about Ryuli once more, sending another alert out. Kraft had previously instructed Tsu and Kai to track down that particular cybercriminal which he shifted the blame to and happily learned that he had not been caught yet.

So, Kraft was going to use the same trick. Besides after a bit of research, the counter intelligence agent had found out that the criminal was working for an underground syndicate that dealt with human trafficking. The crafty fox believed he would do the world a favour by ensuring someone like him would rot behind bars as soon as possible and not just stay on the watchlist.

This time around Kraft managed to isolate the alert ping within one of the System's own virtual routers for which he already simulated the settings of the government's internal database on to it. Hence, there was no way it could come back to haunt Jin.



When the ping was isolated, Kraft injected the malware code into the ping, while also changing the digit of the IP address, elaborately switching several international routers' address so as to 'mask' the address of the criminal he wished to incriminate. After which, he released the alert back into the wild and waited for time to pass.

But it did not take long for a returned ping by the malware who was connected to the System to respond. "Holy smithereens. What the hell is this!?! " Kraft saw what was inside the hidden national database when Foxy sent a sneak preview of the list of data that were inside there.

Of course, there was the usual scandalous information about the politicians, among the royal Zodiac Clans as well as a certain terror crime watchlist etc. But what made Kraft surprised when he should be immune to all these issues after living for hundreds of years was that there was a file listed 'Surviving Panda Clan Members' as well as "Possible Relatives to Fox Clan." Both of which were an interest to Kraft for particular reasons of the past.

"Damn it, we cannot command Foxy to gather what we desire, we just have to wait until the information comes in." Kraft regretted not designing it, but a remote control option had a risk of being detected. Meanwhile, he also analysed the firewall which the hidden national database was using.

It was out of the world and according to the knowledge he acquired from Abyss Web, it seemed that it was even more advanced than what Israel, Germany and US were using for their database protection combined. If those western countries were to describe their defences as an impenetrable firewall, China was literally using the Great Wall of Fire. Kraft sighed when he also noticed that the sneak preview list had an existing watchlist for the Banned Emperor Assassins.

"At the very least, they are not oblivious to their existence." Kraft knew that all he needed to do was wait even though it was the most excruciating thing he could do right now.

"I guess I could watch Jin's fight while waiting for the time to pass so, so slowly." Kraft sat down and leaned back in the Dungeon Maker to enjoy the fights.

"Still, I am interested in the Nine Tailed Fox Demon Cultivator. It's time for a well deserved break anyway. Shall we find out how the foxes of this generation fare?" Kraft invited his companions over, and the System teleported a penguin carrying a plate of tonkatsu curry rice for Kraft and the others to partake. (Evo grabbed two pieces before Kraft even had a taste of it!)

## **Chapter 460 Pandaromic Eyes 2.0**

A shockwave blast travelled throughout the beach as Rong, the Ox Demon Cultivator slammed his two handed Bull Horned hammer on to the ground. When the impacted sand finally settled to the ground, Rong was still panting from his continuous attacks. Jin gracefully dodged the attack and struck towards his legs once more.

Rong partially blocked the attack, no longer having the same stamina he had at the start of the fight. "Are you fucking messing with me? Why are you always aiming my legs?!" Rong complained when Jin

took a few steps back, still feeling refreshed. The battle was taking so long that the sun had already set and was replaced with a waning crescent moon shining its best to keep the place lit up.

"Ehh, isn't that because that's your weak point?" Jin asked back, and Rong was speechless for a moment. He had no idea how he knew it as he had tried to cover it up as much as he could.

"What the fuck do you even mean?" Rong faintly tried to bluff his way out of the accusation as he tightened his grip on his bull horned hammer and charged forward once more.

"How did Jin knew that was his legs were the weakest part?" Lian asked and Grandma Yuan was gracious enough to speak the answer out.

"It is because Rong overcompensates his weakness. See how Rong gets flustered the moment Jin tries to aim for the legs? This kind of body language, as well as the strong retaliation attacks from him, proves that he can't afford to let himself get injured there. In other words, it's exactly where Jin should aim for. Now, most people would do the opposite the moment they see that there are no openings for his legs." Grandma Yuan explained.

"Also, notice how his hammer swings are not as swift when it comes to defending his lower part of the body? It is an inherent weakness of the hammer techniques due to the shift in weight to block the attack. Which is why most hammer cultivators would have learned how to push their opponents away and strike them back. Unfortunately for him, Jin isn't one to be pushed around, and he is capable enough to avoid any attacks."

"But you have to give credit to Rong, he had been practising his Ox Leg techniques for the longest time and continues to do so after he picked up the Ox Demon cultivators." Lian chimed in defence of her teammate.

"Still, you saw how Jin always attacks the left leg instead of the right whenever he got the chance?" Grandma Yuan clarified, but apparently, her disciples had not noticed that details.

"Fools! I believed Jin saw a slight difference in movement with his left leg instead of his right. Rong might have practised a lot of his Ox Leg techniques, but he predominantly uses it on his right side rather than left which causes that foot to react slower" Grandma Yuan scolded them reiterating her point to underestimate Jin.

"Still, it looks like he is withholding his punches against Rong as if he knows that we were going to analyse them and use it against him." Su Zhen said as she was the only one who had her eyes affixed on Jin's movement.

While the interaction between her fight against him was short, it was enough to know that he seemed more agile than the last time they met. Visibly agile and less panicky. Was it because he was prepared to fight them this time as compared to the previous surprise ambush? She would not know until Su Zhen fought with Jin one on one.

"He could be, but does he really need to?" Claire fired the question back at Su Zhen which broke her gaze on Jin.

"Yeah, Rong is already bearing the burden of the sword slashes on his legs," Lian replied to the group on behalf of Su Zhen. "With his leg injured, Rong cannot fully expend his Ox Demon powers as much as he

wanted to. The fear that Jin would attack him again at the same spot limits his options against Jin. Rong might be a frontline fighter, but he requires support to distract the enemy so he could unleash his dynamic, powerful attacks."

"Indeed." Claire agreed as she eyed at Lian, who was itching to go down to help him. They were, after all a pair when it came to training, each of them covering for the other's shortcomings, providing an almost perfect offence.

If it was not Jin who fought against them in the 30 seconds trial, the Demon Exorcist trainees were sure to have gotten a victory within the first five seconds.

"Last but not least, his full body plated armour only covers his shins," Claire added as Rong was the only one in full armour amongst the Demon Exorcist Trainees although he only affixed plated armour parts which did not affect his overall movement.

"His inscription was working, and leg strikes prevented a number of hits before it got serious." Su Zhen commented as Jin suddenly changed his stance.

Not caring for those watching him and their talk, Jin had not only been dodging to taunt Rong. Instead, he had been using this fight to get more used to his upgraded Pandaromic Eyes ability ever since he was able to control his chi to a certain degree.

Jin was finally able to link it up with the System and use it like a digital display which the System showed the potential weakness that Rong had. In his defence, Grandma Yuan never stated that he wasn't allowed to use the System to the fullest potential.

The Pandaromic Eyes 2.0 made everything look very game like him. He could see an estimated percentage of Rong's health in a bar, which made he doubt the analysis that the System gave him.

"Are you sure this is accurate? The last time I used this Pandaromic Eyes feature on Zeru, all you gave me was a '?????' question marks all over his so called health bar!" Jin complained to System while he was fighting with Rong.

That was another reason why Jin had not fought to the best of his ability. It was not because he was hiding his skill, but arguing with the System. "System has collected over thousands of cultivator's data to provide such an estimate, so User could gauge how much damage is needed to defeat Ox Demon Cultivator Rong." The System replied back.

"Then why are there times his so called health bar increases when he is obviously not taking any health potions or anything of the sort? He was just recharging his chi!" Jin pointed out as he parried the hammer blow while looking extremely focused when he was actually very annoyed by the System.

"As Bellator Peppers would put it, 'because this is reality, not some sort of video game. Unlike in the virtual world, no one can fight at 100% top strength while only having 1% of his HP remained'. Chi is a factor that has to be taken into account as it helps reduce bleeding, enhances body recovery in a short burst as well as expending energy output." System stated its rationale to Jin.

"System originally wanted to place a chi/stamina bar factor right underneath the health bar but decided otherwise. This was because chi can be affected by an individual's willpower. Therefore, System cannot properly estimate a chi bar."

"Hence, System decided to include the chi factor into the health bar algorithm, to represent a more accurate indication of a cultivator's health. Through the constant use of Pandaromic Eyes, System believes that it could push out products similar to that to the store's cultivators."

"Oh please, if you wish to push it out, you would already have done so. Aside of that, you can also control each and every minion, and if you want them dead after a certain hit, you could make it happen." Jin added as he made an irritated sound in front of Rong as if it was just too bothersome to fight with Rong.

"What the fuck is wrong with this person? This was supposed to be a fight to the death... why does it feel like I have interrupted him mid-thought? If he is feeling irritated, why can't he just finish me off quickly?" Rong thought as he panted heavily and began to feel the pressure on his left knees and ankle.

After seeing that it seemed impracticable for him to continue, Rong had wanted to withdraw from the fight. No matter what, he wanted to escape the sensation of death, but remembered boasting those big bombastic words of his to Jin.

If he withdrew from the fight, it would be guaranteed that the others would remember him as a coward, including his opponent. Or maybe Grandma Yuan would personally cut him down since she already declared that there was could be one person to be left alive.

"That is actually a very good idea, User. By introducing health bars to the monsters, System could artificially control the amount of health a minion can have. Upon reaching the threshold, System can then teleport the minion away as if it disappeared into nothingness. While in actual fact, the minion is still alive. Thus, it will save a significant cost in the long run." The System sounded excited upon hearing Jin's proposal.

"But your initial cost will be quite troublesome if you have to invent like some glasses or contact lenses for them to see through." Jin avoided another incoming hammer strike from the exhausted Rong. Because of the heavy blast impact that he made, Rong was stuck in mid air due to the momentum he made, but Jin was not bound by any since he had the Green Panda Wind energy infused within him.

With a slight push, Jin was able to slip through the sandy impact and slash at both of his legs. Blood was visible with Rong unable to block in time and he fell to the ground in pain. Jin did not waste any time and finished him off with a slash to the neck. The others saw how effortlessly Jin killed Rong, but none of them noticed the Green Panda Wind Energy he utilised because of the sand fall from the impact.

Except for Grandma Yuan.

"Looks like he is able to mask his technique with Rong's attack. For him to control his chi to such a level as compared to just a few days ago, there's no doubt he had been trained hard by Master Zeru." Grandma Yuan thought as she continued to drink her tea.

Meanwhile, the rest scorned Jin for killing Rong so mercilessly while at the same time trembled at the fact that Grandma Yuan had been deadly serious about this being a fight to the death.

Though they could afford the resurrection given their family status, death was still something unknown to them, and it was definitely something no one would want to experience. They had heard rumours

how resurrection could go wrong, or be damaging to the spiritual soul and hence reducing the cultivation grade.

Some extreme gossips even claimed that it might render the cultivator handicapped from chi production because of the dantian dysfunction after the resurrection.

"Ah! How about reusing the masks that we made the cultivators wear during the Goblin Raid? Maybe we could add a cosmetic lens enabling the cultivators to see each other's grades, by showcasing the data from their account. You should be able to cut cost if you proceed that way. Well, if you want, we can try and make the cultivators pay for an upgrade at a small fee to offset some of the costs. The new masks can be produced via the Lost Tech Counterfeiter if needed." Jin suggested while looking coldly towards the sea. To the other Demon Exorcist trainees, they believed that he was looking down on them.

In the meantime, Lian came down to retrieve the body of her close friend while tearing a little at the fact that Rong was killed just like that. She knew that he would be resurrected, but still, such a sight wasn't easy to behold. "You did well...you did well..." Lian sobbed as she repeated those words. Angered by Jin's indifference, Lein had decided to be the next opponent.

"Lian, you recover your composure first. I shall defeat this nobody before he dares to lay another finger on either you or Su Zhen." Lein announced, but the White Snake Demon Cultivator jumped into the fray with her weapon already out.

"I want to fight him too." Su Zhen's words were direct and cold.

"Like I said, one on one fight!" Grandma Yuan spoke with an uncaring tone. She knew such a scene was bound to happen after seeing one of their comrades killed. Yet, the two Demon Exorcist trainees would not budge at all.

"Sigh, they have so much more to learn than just revenge for their comrades." Grandma murmured her troubles at Claire and she nodded her head quietly. She remembered how blinded she was by the same thoughts during her training.

"No, he is mine!" Lian argued as she was filled with rage. Her portrayal of the Nine Tailed Fox Demon silhouettes was burning brightly above her head as she moved towards him.

"Actually, how about we change the rules a bit. I fight against all three of them." Jin suggested as he stretched his arms to loosen the ache in his waist.

"You sure about this? ... Alright then, the deal still stands so don't blame afterwards if you lose. But if you win, I shall throw in a little something for your...kindness. Other than that, Proceed." Grandma Yuan started the match verbally. Claire shook her head for their rashness but believed it was still a good indicator to see if Jin had truly improved from his stay in the isolation ward.

"Then let me end his life in this instant." Lian did not hesitate as three tails appeared right behind her. Jin noticed that her rage for revenge had nearly consumed her entirely, and her control was seem very limited that it could breakdown anytime. Lein and Su Zhen immediately knew that Lian would not be playing around when her tails had appeared, therefore giving way to her make the first move.

"So, I guess it's Round Two?" Jin smirked at himself for the déjà vu he experienced when he saw those three tails waving radiantly right behind Lian.

