

Dungeon S 591

Chapter 591 Grand Feast's First Even

The spread of food was not just fantastic, but absolutely amazing. Lacking time, Lynn had no other choice but to entrust her penguins with creating this particular grand feast from scratch. With the limited experience they had, Lynn has assumed that she would need to oversee all of the cooking of food.

Thankfully she was proven wrong again and again as she sampled each and every dish early in the eve before Christmas day. Her penguins had taken what they had learnt and applied everything without fail. Sure enough, there were some minor mistakes here and there but to be able to cook such an enormously large amount of food without losing the quality, made Lynn respect her penguins to the fullest.

The piggycupines surprisingly turned out to be one of the most versatile monsters they had ever caught. The meat was extra tender, making it very easy to stew, fry or even roast. And their spikes, when cooked well, had a nutritional value equivalent to a plate of vegetables.

Thus, a number of dishes were based on these Giant monsters, and the System even gave them access to the farming world materials (Which were totally in excess). All the meat loving monsters adored the thickness of the slab of meat Jin was offered, and no one had any complaints at all.

The Beast Demons mostly had the whole piggycupine in front of them to savour. The penguins had made sure that the meat was seasoned properly and sufficient spices were used on different parts of the body so the Beast Demons could enjoy a plethora of taste from a single dish.

As for Mr Derpy, the size of piggycupines were like a chicken nugget, so for this special occasion, Jin had made sure that he had more than just dozens of 'chicken nuggets' for his meal. Mr Derpy did not expect to have a sumptuous and filling meal in his life nor his stay with Jin so far. The dungeon supplier told him that if he does well in the new Open Dungeon Instance, Jin will get him more than just 'nuggets' in the future.

"As the Shadow of Lord Dagen, you have unknowingly signed a binding promise to me. You must fulfil at all cost or else... Hey wait, Jin! Don't take my piggy nuggets away! Please! I'll be nice! I'll be nice!!" Mr Derpy whined a little, and all his Deep Ones were laughing at the power play between Jin and their Supreme Lord.

The Dungeon Supplier had come over to the Deep Ones to inform them that he did not prepare an Island Instance for them. Instead, they had the whole western sea region to play with. They would be retaining their underwater forsaken town from the current home instance, and in return, Jin had given them a bunch full of System points to use them as they saw fit.

The Deep Ones were actually elated to learn that their underwater forsaken town remained status quo as they were initially afraid when Jin said all minions would move to Island Instances. They also quite liked the idea that it was up to them whether they wanted to further improve their city or stretch its perimeters. With Jin's generous compensation, they even considered building a second outpost underwater. (Maybe an underwater military base?)

"Ah, except you guys will definitely be one of the few permanent bad guys for this Open Dungeon. The sea cannot be all calm and dandy, right?" Jin said, and the Deep Ones immediately cheered for that death and destruction was still applicable for them.

As the feasting continued on, Lynn and Qiu Yue suddenly appeared on the stage again, stopping the current powerpoint slides. Some of the monsters jeered and Qiu Yue snap back at them. "You guys! If you don't see it, it's more of a surprise! Rawr!" (She had been drinking a little of Lynn's new sake which was meant for later part of the feast.)

"Hahaha! Calm down Qiu Yue. How about we have a round of game as promised to earn some extra System points?" Lynn suggested, and that made the entire horde roared in unity. Who did not want some extra System points? That equated to better food in the future and possibly a more comfortable place to stay in with the new Island Instance. It was THE currency to get no matter what kind of hell the minion had to go through!

"For fairness sake, anyone larger than Baphomet won't be allowed to play. So Beast Demons and Mr Derpy, I am sorry. You will have to watch from afar. To make it up to you, we are preparing a secret meaty dish which has specially been prepared by Lynn. " Qiu Yue said, and the large monsters felt they had gotten the better part of the deal to be able to eat Lynn's personal cooking.

The next game was essentially a massive game of dodgeball with a slight twist. With the aid of Peppers' magic, the participating monsters would be magically coated with a sticky layer for the ball to stick and donning a helmet on. The varying colours of the helmet indicated how many points that particular monster was worth in order to balance the game a little.

Aside from catching the ball, the monsters could also block incoming attacks with their weapons or skills as well. The balls would be indestructible enough so that none of them had to worry about holding back. If a ball hit a monster, it would get stuck before getting teleported out, awarding to one who threw the ball the corresponding point.

So for monsters like Flame Ripper, his speed as an evolved assassin goblin would make him nearly uncatchable, and he had the skills to block most other minions. Yet his helmet was considered A-Tier, the second highest number of points attainable if he had been hit and subsequently ousted.

The S-Tier helmets were reserved for the bellators themselves. They were worth 500 points whereas hitting Flame Ripper would only yield 100 points. Thus, the bellators had become the prime targets for almost all of the participating monsters.

And this made each and every bellator's blood boil with much excitement. For this time only, Yun even participated in the event and wore a S-Tier helmet to make the game even more thrilling. There were no concrete rules at all, and Qiu Yue told them that teaming up was also an option but the points earned would ultimately belong to one from an individual.

For people like Amura Rei, who was just a normal human with the knowledge of the Mecha World, he was given the lowest tier helmet, D-Tier. Those helmets were also imbued by the System with a barrier mechanism that provided high defence so that if those stray S-Tier balls hit any of the lower tier users, they would not be accidentally killed by them.

Oddly enough, Jin was not taking part himself and was the person who would blow the whistle in the Stadium Instance to start the games in there. The rest of the non-participants were given the privilege to watch it through the large screen with various magic eyes providing the live scene feed.

"Are you guys ready?!" Jin asked as he flew above the entire group and held a flare gun with him. The participants shouted with anticipation and excitement as their master slowly raised the flare gun and pointed it upwards.

A bright red flare flew up to the sky, and the game of deadly dodgeball commenced.

Chapter 592 Monster's Dodgeball

When the flare went up, the ones who felt the most danger were the monsters wearing the A-Tier helmets. They understood that they were the most vulnerable among all of the monsters because catching them would yield the second possible highest amount of points. The bellators would be safe for a moment unless the monsters decided to band together to remove them from the game.

Those with S-Tier Helmets also understood that they were not the primary target as most of the monsters recognised how strong they were...except for the newer comrades who had yet to see or experience the unparalleled strength of bellators.

The Deep Ones, as the species that was even keener on battles than Orcs, knew better than to trifle with the bellators and yet the Mousefolks were daring enough to go against their own master.

Perhaps it was not ignorance but rather a sort of challenge to see how far the students could go against their own master.

"I won't show mercy," Zeru stated with a smug smile as he took his wooden sword out as if to protect himself. Unfortunately, the Mousefolks did not know that defence was indeed the best offence for the Sword Saint.

Every ball that was thrown towards Zeru was directly reflected back towards them. The angle of the slashes and the amount of energy used to reflect the shots were perfect. The Mousefolks that were hit realised that Zeru was giving them mercy. And yet at the same time, it shed some light on how Zeru was able to control his attacks to such a precise degree that brute strength was seen as gross incompetence.

After a few tries, the Mousefolks accepted that merely throwing their balls at Zeru would not be working and they needed to devise a plan of attack. However, they seemed to have forgotten that this particular dodgeball was a free for all. The other monsters were frantically trying to eliminate one another.

Jin was fairly amused that even when his minions were not engaging a bloody fight, the monsters were doing their best to earn as many points.

Shu ended up participating even when he was aware that his size would mean he would have a hard time. The Ancient Treant did put up quite a fight despite its inability to dodge by shrinking itself to a smaller tree and grew many branches to whack the incoming balls away quickly. (That was how he cheated the height and size requirement!) Sadly, his valiant effort lasted... less than ten seconds, he was ousted when a dodgeball curved and hit its torso from his blind spot.

It was none other than Ke Mi who had magically used her strings to manipulate a feint in the throw to hit him. "Ah, you ungrateful brat! After all these months of nurturing you!" Shu shouted when he saw the digital scoreboard in the Stadium instance. It clearly showed Ke Mi 'killed' Shu, causing him to be teleported back to the Town Hall instance.

"But you are B-Tier! Lots of points!" Ke Mi laughed and waved goodbye to the disappearing Shu.

Afterwards, it became a major turning point for the game. For some reason, many of the monsters hadn't even considered attacking the helmets of their own tiers but planned to get the big points by ambushing those in the higher level. Suddenly the free for all turned chaotic as everyone really became everyone's enemy.

Tsu was the first to attack his fellow brother, Kai. "What I said shall be kept as a promise," Tsu shouted as his ball flew towards Kai with a whirling cyclone of black energy surrounding it which vaguely resembles a wolf trying to attack its prey.

"Fine with me," Kai replied quickly as he decided to take the attack head on. Some of the monsters in the vicinity were just in awe by the powers of Tsu and Kai as they had never seen these foxes in their human forms at all. It was also an eye opener for Jin and the other Sub System Users as they had enjoyed preview on the might of the foxes that remained mysterious till this day.

However, not all bellators had it easy.

Similar to Zeru, Kraft was also attacked by his own underlings. Their motivation was nowhere near as noble as wanting to test themselves. The crafty fox had forced them to endure hell, and all of them were looking forward to getting at least a little bit of revenge.

Initially, the Original Bellator had enough time to play around and even taunt the dark elves for failing to hit him thanks to his illusions, but quickly more and more monsters came over in the attempt of bringing this fox down.

Kiyu just joined for the fun of it whereas Pei, who had never hidden her contempt for the Devilman, was happy to mess with him. With the girls working together and pointing out where the real Kraft was hiding he was eventually hit by a ball.

Peppers thought her magic casting would be able to save her in all kinds of situations. Yet, within the first few seconds, she had already been annihilated by a ball from behind. The ironic thing was that it was her fellow friend, Ayse who had done so mercilessly to earn those couple hundred of System Points. (Oh, Peppers made sure her next explosion experiment would be met with some sort of accident.)

Other than that, the rest had much fun trying to escape from the attacks and dishing out damage. The spectators watched them with much glee, and after three minutes of annihilation, the final ones left were Milk, Zeru and surprisingly, Dread Reaver.

The Death Knight had some manipulation with the power of fog that enabled him to slow down the dodgeballs and allowed him to either escape or block them. As for the other two bellators, it boiled down to speed.

Milk was evasive enough to block every attack with her hands, and she even had some innate monk skills that gave her another extra pair of 'hands' (Jin thought she was some sort of thousand arm buddha when he saw Milk using her abilities.)

But instead of continuing to see who was the ultimate dodgeball king/ queen, Jin announced that the game was up and declared the remaining three as winners. Some of the monsters jeered at the sudden stoppage of the game since they wished to know who would be the ultimate winner.

"Please continue with your Grand Feast! Qiu Yue and Lynn will be introducing more games to you all in the next hour or so. And if you wish to leave to get some rest, feel free to do so. Everyone will receive a video about today, so you can rewatch it anytime you like. Else, have a great night!" Jin said and took his leave from the stage.

He teleported back to the Dungeon Maker due to a message by the System. There, he saw Kraft for once with a very serious look on him before resuming his usual self. Noticing Jin, he showed him a half smile.

"Firstly, that was a hell of a dodgeball game, I will love to do it again. Second, I do not know if this is an intended Christmas present...but let's say it is." Kraft spoke as he turned on the console for Jin in the Dungeon Maker. Jin saw a couple of files being decrypted right in front of him, and subsequently, a picture with striking features was shown on the screen.

"Ryuli is real."

Chapter 593 Assuming the Wors

"... What?" Jin looked at the picture. This person did not really look like the one he remembered having met. Obviously, if the timeline were correct, she would have to be at least an adult already. Yet, this baffled him a lot. How can a dream match with reality?

"It could be just a dream, you know? Why are you putting so much weight to it?" Jin asked Kraft with all seriousness. The bellator grinned before he quietly asked Jin to take a seat.

"Well, first of all, the person in your dream was hard to find. So much so that even I can't call it anything but difficult. Aside from that. You are not the first to have lucid dreams, which may not have been dreams... Its a little hard to explain."

"Past System Users have dreamt of similar things before, and we have ignored them in those instances. Suffice to say, we shouldn't have." Kraft replied with a rare solemn voice as if implying that it had personally happened to him.

"Really? So it became precognition or a forewarning like of situation?" Jin asked, and Kraft shook his head vehemently and provided him with a little background story.

"There was a System User who had inherited the powers of Time from the System. Nothing too fancy, just being able to slow down or accelerate it. You can imagine how useful such an ability could be in a fight."

"It made it seem as if the User was able to appear at two places at one time. But as her powers grew, so did her skills in predicting the future. At first, it was predicting what her opponent would do in a few seconds, but in time it grew. It turned to minutes and later hours. "

"Because of this, her headaches got worse and worse. One time she had overexerted herself and fell unconscious. When she woke up, the User told us that she could foresee problems even when unconscious. Surprisingly, being unconscious allowed her to peek further into the future, but at one point, it was endless."

"And then Poof, all she could see was blackness. Given her prior condition, we dismissed it as just wild dreams. Only when the incident happened, did we realise her powers of prediction had indeed become too powerful? But that was also when she lost her life permanently."

"How...could she lost her life permanently? A Banned Emperor Assassin?" Jin asked. As far as he knew they were the only cultivators who discovered the means to prevent cultivators from being resurrected.

Else, it shouldn't be hard to revive, especially with the System's help. Kraft looked at Jin and sighed heavily. He knew that his answer would not be satisfactory.

"A black hole of some sort opened up and swallowed her whole. The System was unable to find her signal afterwards. Perhaps she was teleported to another world, another time or she was dismantled into nothing but atoms." Kraft answered and later gave a stifled laugh.

"Anyways, your guess is as good as mine! Getting back to the topic. Maybe I was just too bored and wanted to try my luck infiltrating the government." Kraft twirled his chair around once, and his sly smile came back in an instant.

"But how did you do it?" Jin asked the most awaited question which Kraft had been waiting to answer. There, the bellator bragged on how the System and him managed to create the Foxy Virus.

"Considering how deep Foxy had to infiltrate, the moment it found this series of pictures, I had programmed it to self destruct immediately after sending them back to us. Leaving no trace behind as quickly as possible. Did not expect the programme to work this long to get the results but thankfully it did." Kraft replied.

"But could it not have waited until the Grand Feast was over? What was the urgency?" Jin asked as he only saw the portrait of the blue haired lady.

"Now, see this." Kraft then pressed a button, and behind that portrait, a collage of pictures exploded into the screen. She was no longer fashioning that blue hair in those pictures and instead had disguised herself.

Without knowing any better, it would be impossible to tell that those pictures were of the same person. Not to mention, there were symbols imprinted on the top edge of the photo, which indicated that they were sourced from multiple intelligence agencies from all over the world.

"I'm sorry, I'm only getting more confused." Jin was just overwhelmed by the amount of information that was presented to him.

"In short, the lady that you somehow seem to have interacted with, might playing with very dangerous people. The most likely answer is that she is one of them too." Kraft explained stating that she might be a possible spy for the Chinese intelligence, or worse. A double agent.

"Buuutttt, the most important reason why I called you here just now... was this particular picture." Kraft said as he pulled the image out from the myriad of images and expanded it for Jin to see.

At first, he did not know what he was looking at until he scrutinised the picture a little more and noticed there was one very familiar person within the whole picture.

Mr Know-It-All.

"I tried to dig through all the classified junk that Foxy had collected and collated but to my surprise... I cannot find him within all that data." Kraft said and even iterated that the System's registered database of customers was no help at all.

"I tried to cross check the details of this guy, but it was undeniable that he was using an alias. To have a master spy within our midst... Oh, man. This is like calling me to take the challenge to unveil his identity." Kraft mentioned with a scary look on his face.

"Maybe Ke Loong know something about him? I can casually ask about him since they seem to be best friends of some sort?" Jin asked, and Kraft shrugged his shoulders.

"The CEO could possibly be one of the contacts that this Mr Know-It-All had. Perhaps I should have paid more attention to him. I've noticed that he never made an appearance ever since I sent Foxy out to scout for information." Kraft tried to piece the information up, and it puzzled Jin a while.

"Though, to be honest, there is nothing much you can do about it now. Since you have already escaped the Grand Feast, go and have a proper rest. Perhaps even take a day off."

"I guess I shall take the former...A day off is impossible with the pressing issues at hand." Jin thanked Kraft for the information and wished him a happy Christmas.

In the meantime, Kraft was not taking things as it is. The old fox always knew that Mr Know-It-All had some sort of elusive presence. At first, he had not bothered too much with it. The middle aged guy always mixed himself with a public presence so at most Kraft thought him to be a competitor spy out to unveil Jin's secrets.

Only now Kraft did realise that hiding in plain sight was truly Mr Know-it-All's real speciality and it made the original Bellator a little perturbed that as Jin's personal self proclaimed spymaster, he had allowed such an individual to do what he pleased so long.

Separately, the System advised Kraft to calm down. "Knowing that Mr Know-It-All is a possible spy won't do much harm to User Jin. It shows that people are watching, and that is what the System wants. For more people to know more about User's shop."

"Oh...So your take is that we should see them as a customer base rather than a threat?" Kraft stared into space for a moment and chuckled to himself.

"I guess... that is fine by me. Tsk, you are fine as long as they bring you more cash, after all, it's us who are going to deal with him if he becomes a problem."

"Still, that does not mean we should not be prepared. Even if we are just assuming the worst or Mr Know-it-all could possibly be just a normal person being photographed at that point of time, it's time to get those uppity rebels to enjoy some special Christmas training to burn those fats from the feast." Kraft replied as if he had some sinister training plan for all his foxes (including the elves.)

Chapter 594 Clash of Titans' Even

Another game was played in the Grand Feast, and this time the Large Beast Monsters weren't just allowed to play but even encouraged, because the event was casually called the 'Clash of Titans'. Mr Derpy and the Titan Knight would fight against All of the Beast Demons combined. (Mainly because Spiky, the Transforming Spider was comparably larger than Mr Derpy when it came to the overall size.)

The game was fashioned as a modified version of the Shaolin Football Instance, with their current location as the battleground. The System could not be bothered to expand the size of the Stadium instance further, using up even more of its precious resources.

It had stretched the instance as much as was needed allowing Jin to accomplish what he had in mind. After the feast was done, the System would only have to reset the Town Hall instance, and everything would become a piece of empty land once again.

Since Jin was not around, Qiu Yue and Lynn took the initiative to act as the judges for this Clash of Titans' event. Everyone was randomly chosen by the System to represent the Red and Blue team. Team Red would be siding Mr Derpy and the Titan Knight while Team Blue sided with the Beast Demons.

Some like Weslie was lucky enough to get assigned into their preferred teams with the Beast Demons, but others, for example, the Deep Ones would have to compete against their Supreme Lord.

At times like this, Qiu Yue wondered whether they would 'betray' him further in the name of more System Points since she roughly knew that it was somewhat wrong to raise their weapons against their own god.

When the game started, everyone went into a frenzy mode. One army clashed towards another just to fight for the sparkling rainbow orb that served as the ball to score. The Bellators, unfortunately, were not allowed to join in the game mainly due to their insane powers, but it was a nice change of pace to see the monsters fighting against each other to their fullest.

Peppers even offered to play the bank and turn it into a small betting event on who might win the first round. But nobody bothered because they knew how good she was in deducing the winning team based on her magic. (If Ayse were around, she would take her bets and argue that her collected data beats magic all day long.) Besides, they did not wish to be spoilt through her prediction and simply rooted for their own favourite team.

However unlike the classic game format where the Titans where mostly there for appearance sake, Jin wanted his Titans to battle it out too. So, whenever a goal was scored, it became a free for all for the Titans to pit their strength against each other for a set amount of time.

The team that scored the goal would receive the opportunity to apply a temporary size debuff against their opposing rival. (The System was happy to use this as an opportunity to get a better grasp on the concept of Hamatarou's Totem of Atem.)

Hence, the opposing team had to fight harder and smarter instead of just relying on its huge size. In the meantime, the rest of the monsters continued to pitch their lives for additional System points.

The monsters involved on the frontlines were rather apparent as the judges could see the majority of Orcs handling it with a mix of werejackals and dark templars in it. (In fact, the Orcs were so fierce that some of the Dark Templars assumed them to be demons incarnate.)

Surprisingly, the zombies put up quite a decent fight too with Half Ghoul Lord Derek using his powers to personally enhance the horde on both teams equally. Though some of the monsters casually shouted foul play at that, they also understood that he wanted his zombies to be more than just cannon fodder.

Meanwhile, the Mousefolks turned out to be a handy bunch of range support as their use of guns increased the fighting capability of their respective teams.

It was to the point where they were aiming against each other since the Mousefolks knew best how much of a threat they could pose. Zeru and Meomi had informed them that they had gained grace from the powers of System which allowed them to resurrect, making them rather fearless without holding back.

The Wyrms dug a tunnel to surprise the opposing team, and it worked especially well for one round before Team Blue monsters realised and later sent their Mousefolks to defend the underground.

As Wyrstriker was the only few that was able to fly, Que Er made sure to target him first with her murder of magpies. While one magpie was useless, having that entire flock of birds was a danger to Wyrstriker.

This was the first time he had difficulty fighting and had to use multiple AOE attacks to fend for himself. Thus, Sandy assisted by creating a barrier for him on intervals since she needed to take care of the ground allies too. Still, Que Er managed to hold air superiority in the latter part of the event.

The whole Town Hall instance became a slaughter with whatever items they could find. Forks, chopsticks, plates, chairs and tables being thrown around or used as temporary barriers to delay the possibility of a goal from the opposing team. (Some even used the leftover bones of the piggycupine as a weapon. Those Orcs sure know how not to waste stuff.)

Still, not a single monster dared to mess around and risk destroying the food tables which the Penguins were guarding with their lives. As for stray bullets, the Penguin ninjas were capable of immediately deflecting or slicing them up.

Eventually, the monsters unanimously seemed to have demarcated a line not to be crossed so as to prevent any possible damage to the food tables.

Lynn was positively surprised and taken aback by this particular development and some of the monsters even declare that they would even kill their own teammates or themselves as punishment if anyone wasted the penguins' hard work. The Boar Knights ironically pledged themselves to be the guardians of

the food tables. (They loved the piggycupine meat way too much. Could that be considered some level of cannibalism?)

As thanks, Lynn personally awarded them a small payout of System points to ensure that those who had sacrificed themselves were not in vain. Obviously, it came from her own System Wallet. The Sub System Users also had access to System points to periodically reward their underlings for a job well done. Those points were given to them by Jin who converted them using his own profit.

So, the food tables were instinctively being drawn up like a barrier which everyone adhered to and fought to the fullest. After around half an hour of game time and both teams still tied, the System declared it to be a Sudden Death format with the monsters being allowed to help defeat the opposing Titans.

Eventually, the ones winning turned out to be Team Red. They received 200 System Points each (no matter if they were resurrected or not) while the losing team earned 50 System points each for participating in the game.

When that particular Shaolin Football event came to a close, the last event that Lynn and Qiu Yue had prepared was an informal drinking contest. But before that, the monsters all helped cleaning up the trash and debris to be fed into the Lost Tech Recycler later.

After which, they laid the open fields with mats as instructed by the emcees while Shu purposely went to the centre of the area to make some flowers bloom.

Sakura petals floated around the Town Hall instance, while the System erected lamplights, making it a cosy and memorable place for every monster to gather around as the Penguins brought everyone bottles of plum wine to drink.

Gold and the werejackals had already experimented with sake, but they achieved a real breakthrough after Chieftain Skitter had inadvertently found a Giant Plum Tree and gifted its location to Lynn. The Sub System User had not hesitated to reap the fruits from that tree.

"This is the last event! Drink to your heart's desire! Drink, eat and clear all the food that is on the table! Have a good chat with the monsters and interact with everyone!" Qiu Yue said with a bottle on her hand and pour one cup on stage to drink with everyone. "Everyone will earn some System points as gratitude from the System! You heard that right! Let's all toast to the stingy System!"

Lynn shook her head but joined in as well, as she commenced the start of the last event. To date, this had been undoubtedly the most laborious feast preparations she had ever come across.

Nevertheless, she was already looking forward to next year's feast.

Chapter 595 Unexpected Bonding

It had been such a long time Jin finally had a good night sleep. The moment he saw the bed in his room, Jin did not care whether the black sludge will flood in his place. He was somehow automatically been allured into the embrace of his bed.

"Had it always been this comfortable?" Jin asked himself, and when he closed his eyes, he did not think as much at all.

"It been a long time," Ming asked as he knocked Jin with his hiking stick and Jin found himself abruptly awoken with layers of clothes on himself. He noticed he was in some enclosed tent with little space to even get up. If one wished to move out of the tent, he had to crawl backwards to come out of it.

When Jin realised it was Ming's voice and he could know he was in his cultivation mode.

"God damn!" He said to himself out loud as Jin had forgotten that whenever he sleeps, he would be cultivating at the same time. However, for the past few weeks, the dungeon supplier had been using the high intensity sleeping capsule, which accelerated his sleep more often.

That only provided him sufficient rest and not enough to produce the circadian rhythm for dreaming, unlike this time when he came into the cultivation 'stage' with Ming around.

As he slowly dragged his body out of the tent, he realised that he was near the top of a mountain and Ming quickly gave him a pair of goggles to prevent the blazing sun and to protect him for the freezing winds.

The view, on the other hand, was spectacular. There were lower peaks and deep valleys all around the mountain which his tent was pitched at.

"What are we fighting this round?" Jin asked as he knew that he had the trial for the other three Cardinal Beasts. Ming did mention to him once, but he had forgotten which monster was it, and with no System reminding him, Jin could only hope Ming would not be so cryptic and give him the answer.

"Nah, I abandoned that Four Heavenly Beast route for the moment. That initially was to force start the development of your Maqi, but it seems someone else managed to do it for me." Ming said with a slight sigh.

"And to introduce you a little to Demon Exorcists and hope that Grandma Yuan could take you in. But it seems like you managed to not only become one but a branch manager at that." Ming knocked Jin's arms as he said it. "Guess, Yuan was softer than I thought."

"She is really a Tsundere, eh?" Jin asked, and Ming laughed loudly, which his voice was echoed back at the top of the mountains. He nodded his head and asked Jin to climb up with him to the top of the current mountain.

"So, what are you teaching me this time around?" Jin asked as he went into the tent and get the hiking stick as well as the backpack which Ming requested him to take.

"Not sure, to be honest. In these four months, you had grown tremendously fast that I am rather surprised by it." Ming said as he led the way up to the mountain. The two reduced their conversations as they hiked up the remaining distance to the peak.

It may not seem as far from where the tent was pitched, but they had taken a few detours to ensure that the snow was solid enough to climb forward.

Unlike the last time, Ming always offered Jin a helping hand and gave him a boost whenever needed. There was this particular ridge where they had to jump a little to reach, but with all their heavy equipment, it was nearly impossible.

Jin tried to activate his Maqi as usual, but he knew it was somewhat futile whenever it comes to Ming's unreasonable restrictions. Yet, it was a humble reminder that Jin was blessed with the System's powers in reality.

In an hour or so, they finally reached the top and surprisingly, there was a steel bench which made Jin shook his head in disbelief. The moment they sat down, the cold winds were not as harsh as before, and the sun was only partially blocked by the clouds. It made that beautiful view from the top even more pleasant.

"Should I be aware that there is some meaning...erm metaphor or something attached to this mountaineering experience?" Jin asked as if there was some meaning to climb this mountain.

"Oh, just relax for god sake. If everything is laden with some hidden meaning, your life would always be miserable." Ming scoffed at Jin and told him to not overthink. "Come to think of it... let's just say some proper grandfather to grandson bonding session?"

"Heh, I rather you teach me something than do this. It's so unlike you at all." Jin replied as he breathed in the cold winter air. It was slightly tingling down his throat but equally rejuvenating.

"Hahaha~! That is quite true. But don't you think it be fair for you to tell me the things you do? It is not fun trying to pry your memories or having that stupid fox coming in and bragging how creative you were in developing that tree mall." Grandfather Ming took his goggles and gloves off as he blew some warm air from his mouth to warm his hands a little.

"Oh yea, if you were with the System, it would probably have shown you everything. Well, can't you just pry my memories? Especially since our inheritance is a nosy group of 'people' and probably already knew about your existence." Jin said as he placed his hands near his mouth and shouted at the top of his voice.

"I could, but what is the fun of that? Knowing the essential stuff is good enough. You are a dungeon maker, so naturally, you should be a storyteller too. You never know when you will write a biographical novel or maybe keep some good stories for your kids?" Ming suggested.

"Hmm...let's say I am still alive after having the System for a long while, do I have to share the System with kids in the future? Or be like you? Make them inherit it? I mean, did great grandfather did the same as you?" Jin got curious and asked.

"Great Grandfather, huh? Actually, he died without knowing that he passed the System to me." Ming said. "He never knew he had the System with him. For some reason, the System did not activate, and I do not really know the answer. Perhaps ask System when you get back?" Grandpa cluelessly answered and it only made Jin pondered.

"Alright, then can I ask. Are you truly a big shot general or some famous Demon Exorcists? Somehow, Hou Fei was quite regarded in his military field, but he downplayed the way you and him fought

previously. What was like the significant turning point for your military career? Oh and speaking of which, have you fought any monster horde before? There seem-

"Woah Woah! Stop right there, cowboy! You are shooting me with so many questions, I begin to think to have a chat with you is the wrong decision I made this time around!" Ming raised his hand and tried to take a pause.

"But it looks like you deserve to know a little about me since I brought you this mess," Ming said as he pulled out a book and showed it to Jin.

It was a diary.

"This contains my life's secrets. I give you 15 minutes to look through."

"You are kidding me, right? 15 minutes? Judging by the additional notes and the thickness of this particular diary, I am basically swimming in the haystack to know what is going on with your life." Jin complained as he casually flipped through.

"Well take it or leave it." Ming tried to take the book back, but Jin held onto it, very reluctant to release it.

"I will read it. It is better than nothing. But can you at least point to the pages where - Oh, what is this? Your first meeting with Grandma...Yuan?" Jin said out loud and suddenly a cold frigid wind blow towards Jin which abruptly that page flew off into the wilderness below the mountains.

"HEY, THAT IS UNFAIR!"

"If you didn't say it out loud, the wind probably would not have blown I guess?" Ming shrugged his shoulders with a smug smile.

"Then I shall go find it! It looks like this is one juicy secret you are quickly averse in sharing." Jin said as he saw the page flew further down.

"Cough. Don't blame me if you know, some beast appear or something." Ming said, and Jin stuck his tongue out as he placed his large backpack to the ground as if he was looking for something.

"After all, this is my dream. I can do what I want." Jin said as he tried to imagine a snowboard out from his back.

"You knew you are able to do that; you should have done it in the previous fight." Ming scoffed, but suddenly a snowboard slowly emerged out of the backpack. He was slightly surprised Jin managed to create a snowboard out.

"I realised the moment I entered this place. I cannot feel my qi, nor the flow of Mana but for some reason. I can vaguely sense Maqi for over this entire area which you initially restricted. It did not take long for me to try and manipulate them." Jin said, and Ming smirked.

"Guess Zeru did not teach you for nothing. I shall await that moment when you found out about my 'juicy' secret." Ming replied while maintaining his sly smile as he shoo-ed Jin off and suddenly, the snow on the peak gave way immediately after his sentence.

"GRANDPA I WILL REMEMBER THIS!!!" Jin shouted as he fell along with the snow.

Chapter 596 From the Valleys

"Uwah~!" Jin woke up violently on the floor and realised he was not in that cultivation dream state that he was in. But instead of sludge pool which Jin should have been immersed in upon waking up, he found that the black sludge was floating above him in a more condensed form like a cloud hovering at his ceiling.

Jin quickly absorbed all that sludge into his storage ring and decided to not give up. There was obviously something Ming wished to hide actively from Jin, but at the same time, his grandfather seems to not be thrilled to let him take that particular information.

"So much for being an open book! What lies! Anyways, it's only 4am. I think I can force myself to sleep again." Jin said to himself as he went into a sitting stance which allowed him to mediate and subsequently absorbed himself into the cultivation dream state. True enough, the moment Jin opened his eyes, he returned exactly to the point he got violently awoken.

In the middle of falling.

"Snowboard, Snowboard!!" Jin looked around and noticed there was nothing but snow and ice all around him, and he believed he had less than thirty seconds before he made an impact onto the ground.

Unlike last time in his dream state, Jin could feel that the Maqi in the surroundings was still unstable, maybe because he was forcefully entered into the dream state as compared to previously where he naturally fell asleep.

"Ah, fuck it!" Jin said to himself as he tried to use his body inertia and whatever Maqi he could gather as the force to move himself closer to the mountain. The result was not pleasant, and he felt pain all over his left shoulder, but Jin attempted to hold onto anything he could grab.

Unfortunately, it was all snow that Jin held onto, and the Astral Panda cultivator was still falling until he managed to grab onto a cliff. Yet, the pain he received was tremendous, but somehow Jin managed to tolerate it by gritting his teeth.

Even with his bruised left shoulder, Jin forced himself to grab onto the cliff and had a proper footing while he looked downwards. There was still a much longer way to go, yet he did not dare to move much. Jin was afraid the small little ledge which he was holding onto might give way with the amount of force he exerted. Suddenly, he heard echoes within his brain rather than from the surroundings, and they were obviously from Ming.

"You still alive? Should have taken my offer of leaving the dream state when I kicked you out. Now you possibly have to suffer just like how you fought with the White Tiger to get to that secret now." Ming chuckled within his thoughts before it came into an awkward silence. "But I am not that evil."

A shimmering light was seen within the depths of the valley which the page had dropped, and Ming told Jin that was the only help he would render. Knowing his grandfather, diving straight towards the light would only bring unwarranted danger. It was either a major risk to take or waste his time going through the safe route.

Obviously, Jin would take the former.

But Jin was not that dumb either, he held onto the ledge for some time first, gathering whatever Maqi he could muster. After which, he took a deep breath and dive into the unknown.

With no weapons, no armour and a limited amount of Maqi at his disposal, the Astral Panda cultivator steeled his nerves to brave the darkness.

Unfortunately, the one who took pleasure in this scene as much as Kraft was Ming himself. Within the darkness, the shimmering light dissipated and two blue, glowing orbs emerged in the dark as Jin dived into the valley.

Soon enough, a loud thundering roar echoed through the valley, and the two blue glowing orbs got nearer to Jin. Within a split second, Jin finally saw that those orbs were eyes.

The eyes of a serpent.

Only then Jin realised that there was no way to evade the attack in midair, considering the typical movements of the serpent and his experience fighting against Ke Mi's Great White Snake. Even if he utilised his Green Panda Wind Energy, he would not be able to collect enough Maqi from the surrounding to do a counteroffensive.

So, he decided to fight head on.

With his fists slowly imbued with Black Panda Fire Energy, he raised his hands towards the snake like creature like how Superman would fly towards his enemies.

However, it seemed like Jin had underestimated the serpent's intelligence as it hesitated to attack upon seeing the flame charged fists that Jin was wielding.

Instead, the whole bottom of the valley glowed with a dull green light in a peculiar pattern and out flew a piece of hard shell that impacted with Jin. Even with his Black Panda Fire imbued fists, Jin could felt that there was no effect against the shell. The only one that was in pain was probably just himself.

But that was not the end of the attack. The piece of hard porcelain looking shell flew up so high that Jin had to hold onto the edge of the shell in order not to fall over. That was when he noticed the serpent attempted to attack him when Jin had his hands full.

"Shell?!...Serpent? The Black Tortoise of the North?!" Jin thought to himself and an echoed sound of Ming laughing hard.

"Perhaps but even if you discern its identity, how are you going to defeat it?" Ming asked as the shell violently shook Jin sideways to make him fall. It succeeded without much attempt, and another piece of the shell popped out to attack the Astral Panda Cultivator.

"Not this time!" Jin gritted his teeth as he converted his Black Panda Fire Energy into Green Panda Wind Energy. Although the conversion potentially cost him half of his limited Maqi, Jin needed to at least survive the attack.

"You could always restart, you know?" Ming replied, and Jin snarled back.

"Yeah, and let you revive me to the exact same point which I began falling from the peak of a mountain? No, thanks!" Jin said as he was able to move out of the way at the nick of time. But that only bought him an extra second before the serpent strikes at him again.

Perhaps...it might be wise to revive and rewind.

Chapter 597 Massive Backlogs

Instead of a rewind and revive, Jin was once again thrown back into reality as he lay on his bed for a moment to rearrange his thoughts.

"Grandpa must be thinking... Of all the things that you want to peer into my life, you got to see my relationship between Grandma Yuan and me first." Jin thought to himself while smiling. If he could not get that information from him, there are always other sources from to get. Perhaps, they might give a glimpse of what their true relationship was.

On the other hand, the serpent attack reminded him that Ming was not lying about sending out the Cardinal Beasts against him. That was clearly the Black Tortoise of the North. Which stupid giant snake would be so dumb to live in a secluded, freezing area full of snow and still be active during winter?

The hard shell attack was also the dead giveaway, and he believed only the Black Tortoise of the North was capable of doing that. The North Cardinal Beast fitted perfectly since the icy cold valley itself would prove to be an invulnerable spot for it to stay while using its 'tail' to get resources. (When the tail was awake)

Not to mention, it's an extremely defensible spot given the lack of mobility.

Thus, Jin believed it would not be a wise choice to re enter his cultivation 'dream' state again only to find himself falling hopelessly without any weapons or tactics against the Black Tortoise of the North. Regardless, the dream state was an enjoyable experience to accompany his grandfather for a hike.

Still, Jin knew he had to fight against the Black Tortoise all by himself in the coming future and perhaps, that would give him a peek into the next grade of cultivation as well as Ming's secret.

"No matter. I have other things to do...though I am curious what had happened in the Grand Feast." Jin said to himself as he asked the System to replay the event through his phone.

While lying on his bed, Jin laughed hysterically at the game event as well as the big key moments during the gathering where the monsters tried to fight against Yun to a drinking battle.

The game was fun inducing, and it was all because of Lynn's choice of alcohol. Her sake was already potent enough for most to fall after a cup or two since Jin did try one for himself. True enough, almost everyone who participated in the 'competitive' drinking contest, fell into a drunken state after the third cup. Even Zeru, with his overwhelming cultivation, could not stand against the sake.

Lynn knew that her sake which was brewed within the Werejackals' compartment was one of the most tedious procedures the workers had ever done, but the taste of the sake was tremendously sweet.

It was one of the more traditional recipes which Lynn had unlocked from the Sub System. Considering most sake usually have a tinge of bitterness and dryness, the traditional ones were more luscious. Yet Milk and Nubwort, the Orc General, were the only few that was able to stand against Yun. They were at

their fifth cup and Yun was still steadily standing and laughing at the state the two other contestants were in.

Nubwort was barely standing with his sheer will while Milk went into a more drunken state but still conscious because she had previous training of the drunken fist style while the 'fake' priest had her training as a monk.

"Just give up already," Yun said in the video, and when given the sixth cup, both collapse almost simultaneously after drinking half of it. This concluded that Yun was the new drinking champion for this particular Grand Feast Event, and the organisers called it a day.

For those who were still sober, they brought their colleagues back to their home instances in the Sanctum of Worlds to rest. Jin did tell them previously that the transition to their Home Island Instances could be done within a few months if needed so they could rest easy for now. However, it would be better to move as soon as possible, so the System had more processing capacity for other things.

And although the System preferred to evacuate them once and for all, it respected Jin's wishes and gave them at most a month to move out (which it would eventually send a notice to everyone) even though the Dungeon Supplier said 'a few months'.

"User, hope you have a good rest as the list of agendas have grown tremendously." The System stated as it began to show the objectives shown in no presiding order.

1. Creation of Cultivation Zoo Instance
2. Establishment of Demon Exorcist Administrative and Training Centre Instance
3. Joint Military and Police Raid Instance
4. Procurement of Mechanical Titan Brain
5. The liberation of the Minor Races in Giant World
6. Completion for the Dungeon Fortress City and its defences
7. Creation of a Mecha Related Dungeon as a promise to Bu Dong
8. Extension of the Christmas Raid as requested by customers
9. Polar Phantom Gentlebear Secret Dungeon Instance
10. Finalising the Portal Devices with Ke Loong

"What the heck!?! Since when did I have that many things to settle?!" Jin swore to the System when he saw the list.

"There are other things promised as well as like the goblin theme treats which User wished to promote Lynn's store. However, given that the Tree Mall has a bakery, it would not be wise to create unnecessary competition for your tenant." The System stated.

"Wait... Did I - Wait No! Nevermind!" Jin said to the System when his phone was suddenly taken controlled by the System, and a past clip of the System's Magic Eye replayed the scene which happened in Lynn's office.

"Argghh. So you really did document everything." Jin replied with some bitterness, and he can feel that the System 'nodded' its head.

"All had to be documented should there need to be the reproduction of evidence." The System stated which made Jin shook his head.

"Then what do you advise me to do first?" The Dungeon Supplier asked as he looked at the long list. There were obviously some items on the checklist that needed to be completed first before he could attempt them.

"System suggest that User look into Item #8, the extension of Christmas Raid and prepare the shop instance for the New Year." The System stated.

"A new theme? But there isn't much going on for January. Unless you wish for me to prepare for the Chinese New Year in February." Jin understood that it was the norm for most shops to start the Chinese New Year festivities at the start of January.

"Not just the new Theme, with the advent of the Tree Mall, the System noted a constant rise of customers coming in. At least a 280% rise in customers was seen during the Christmas Raid event during the day and a 70% increase of customers in the night. It would be wise to change the layout of the shop instance to accommodate more of the customers." The System suggested.

"I see... Then perhaps I shall do that. Besides, I need to kill some time before I meet up with Que Er." Jin looked at his storage watch and also realised he needed to do something about the Living Armour Suit as well.

"Remember to take your breakfast as well. Without proper meals, User might potentially fall ill." The System reminded.

"Yes, mommmmm." Jin brushed the System away like a nagging parent and went to the washroom to prepare for the day.

Chapter 598 Your Remarks

A new Shop Instance?

Initially, Jin did not know what to do to increase the viewing capacity of the customers. What kind of view which was acceptable that could provide both privacy and at the same time, the overall mood of the people watching it.

Jin could have just killed the view screening idea and proceed to expand his shop instance to accommodate customers, but that would destroy the community that he had painstakingly grown in his shop.

The chat forums had always been bustling with snippets of cutscenes from various random dungeon viewings, and people discussed how silly some were (and of course they would be taken down should the cultivator in cutscenes asked the 'moderator' aka the System to do so.) Or how epic some cultivators had performed as well as the discussion of the dungeon walkthroughs.

The casual viewing was the very essence of Jin's shop instance.

So Jin cracked his brains to think of it and perused the internet for ideas. Stadium? Nahhh, he already had a stadium instance. Besides, there is no privacy in it.

Concert Hall? Nah. Even though it could potentially accommodate people, that would be too cold and precise at the same time, wouldn't it?

A more substantial extension of the current cinema circle which the shop instance embodied? Not really very ideal and could get rather messy.

These were the few times he had to crack his head hard since Jin could not possibly update his shop instances every time his customer base got larger.

He needed something as modular as the Gearbox system.

A particular instance where he could merely plug and play whenever he liked and at the same time, insert new stuff whenever he wants without having to revamp the entire shop instance.

Thus, he needed a solid core foundation for his new shop instance and subsequently allow this modular concept. Also, the gathering hall which he had utilised as a stop gap in the luxury recovery instance was becoming full.

As he allowed the System to take over the operations after setting up the necessary amenities, the System had instantly showcased the various flaws that Jin had created in the gathering hall. Things like lack of visual cues to show the way, shortage of storage lockers, insufficient seating space for people to wait etc.

Jin could only remedy certain things with a band aid like adding more furniture and increase the number of Panda NPCs to aid the customers, but it did not solve the inherent problem.

While it was clearly a more convenient and better way to gather people, there should be better ways for people to wait for their turns and have better dungeon play experience.

That was also why Jin created the squads' feature. Initially, it was to facilitate faster gameplay, although it might inadvertently promote solidarity or erode the community he grew. Thus, the dungeon supplier had to ensure that there had to be a balance involved.

Too superior and the squad NPCs might potentially replace group play altogether. Too weak and they would be discarded as a cosmetic feature, not to be utilised unless deemed necessary.

Only when Jin felt like he was giving up with remaking the place, the Magpie Queen came in just in time to interrupt him. He then looked at the timing and realised that she was slightly early.

"Did the Feast went well?" Jin asked, even though he already knew the answer to it. The question was more of a conversation starter for him since he rarely spoke to her.

"It was brilliant, thank you for the surprise feast. I suppose you might be doing this in the future as well?" Que Er asked as she was in modern clothes, a fashion trend more towards office fashion. Orange short blouse with long waist pants complimented her long silky black hair and the touch of makeup nearly made her almost indistinguishable against other humans living in Jin's world.

"Probably more of a joint effort from a number of monsters in the future. This was way more tiring than I expected it to be." Jin blurted the truth, and Que Er nodded with a smile.

"What do you need of me, Sir? You seem rather serious when you send a passing comment to me during the feast." Que Er did not wish to waste much more of her master's time as she saw him fixated with the consoles in front of him.

"Remember how I said that you should not side evolve at Yu Xiang's Chinese medicinal store? Your face seems more than just disappointed, and it made me think about what I had said to you." Jin asked Que Er which the latter vehemently shook her head.

"No, it's fine. It is fine, really!" Que Er anxiously replied, rejecting all the possible goodwill by her master until Jin took a card out from his storage watch. It was similar to when he used the evolution upgrade card for his goblins.

"Hold this. Whenever you feel you are ready to use it. Use it." Jin said as he placed it right in front of her. "I do not know your legend, your history, but I know you are an immortal, a Queen to all your birds, be it magical or real." Jin placed the card onto her hands even though she was trembling with the intention to return the card.

"I might be your master but I shouldn't bound your potential just because of the pact you made with the System. You became part of the System for a reason that is unknown to me, and I realised some... discretion should be given to you."

Que Er leaned back on the chair and stared at the card for a moment. It was true that she had been working hard for reasons unknown to Jin and yet when she held on the side evolution card, she gazed at it as if it was insulting her in some way.

"Your remarks back then were to be 'useful'. I thought about it long and hard. Were my services not sufficient? I had provided the communication network not just for the resistances in the Farming World but also the Goblin War. Were my birds not helpful enough? What do you exactly mean by useful?" Que Er said while her face was still directed towards the card.

"...I was-" Jin was interrupted when he realised that Que Er was not done talking.

"It was then that I began to understand that you did not mean just the practical uses of my abilities but possibly the initiatives I should take." Que Er said as she looked at Jin with a determined face.

"So...I actually went on a journey myself with the permission of the System." Que Er reply was resolute, and with a whistle, two large ravens flew out of her, and each landed on the side of her shoulders.

On closer inspection, those ravens seem to have a fake eye on the side they stood on. The crow on the left lost his left while vice versa for the bird on the right. Their feathers were not exactly entirely black as well, and there were shades of translucent blue and purple.

To Jin's knowledge, there were only two ravens that were infamous enough that he believed even the Queen of Magpies would attempt to recruit. Even if he did not fully know the lore behind it, Jin was able to warrant a guess for the names of those two ravens Que Er had on her shoulders.

Huginn and Muninn.

Chapter 599 An Alternate Perspective

"You got those from Odin...?" Jin asked and assumed those two birds were the pets of the legendary Norse God King.

"He actually owed me something back in the days when we were still students." Que Er said as she laughed and recollected past memory on it. "I merely went to him for some collateral interest."

"More than just collateral. We are now the property of Que Er, the Queen of Magpies." Muninn said with the one with the fake eye in the right.

"We are not the property of that fake bird queen! We are only here for show!" Huginn on the left rebutted, and the ravens began to fight against each other above Que Er's head.

"Oei." Que Er looked up with an annoyed look which they quickly simmered down and landed quietly on her shoulders once more.

"So...does that mean that you can control ravens now?" Jin asked, and the Magpie Queen nodded her head, indicating that she managed to achieve her own version of side evolution without the need of Jin's help.

"Now I can summon both ravens and crows out the same way I summon my magpies. Mu made it possible. Besides, those pretty little blackies and magpies are of the same class of birds according to your world's science books. But the interesting part is that the birds are erm...more offensive in nature." Que Er explained that while Muninn could allow her to summon the birds, it was Huginn that brought alive the innate latent powers of Que Er.

"They made very good fireworks, in my opinion, though Peppers would beg to differ." Que Er said as she clasped her hand together and a crow emerged in front of her palm. It was like a nifty little magic trick by her as Que Er shadily pulled two more crows underneath the wings of the first crow, creating a total of three.

She then asked the System to provide a dummy target for a little performance. A section of the dungeon maker room expanded specifically for the appearance of the dummy sandbag target. All the Magpie Queen needed was to point at the specific dummy and the crows moved silently towards it.

When they were just a metre away, it exploded with a force that scattered their blood, bones and feathers all around the dummy target. Jin was shocked as it thought it would be just a normal magical explosion but not an implosion from within the bird itself.

The System then pulled the dummy target towards Jin and saw that the feathers were of a piercing nature and blood of the crow corroded the outer layer of the sandbag.

"A blood explosion. Usually utilised by Blood Mages from the olden days and later banned due to its extremely lethal potency against humans as well as the related matter of human sacrifices." The System stated that the feathers were strong enough to pierce through sheet metal, making it very useful against enemies like the Demon Rats who do not have advanced armour like Jin's world.

"But I can only do this to my birds." Que Er said, and suddenly a slow clap was from the corner of the Dungeon Maker.

"Amazing. Bloody amazing." Kraft said as he looked astonished by the blood explosion of the magical crow. "Boss, imagine strapping C4 explosives to them. You have your very own miniature kamikaze air force at your disposal."

"What do you actually mean?" Jin said and Kraft merely said two words.

Mecha World.

Suddenly, it clicked onto Jin. The dungeon supplier had been thinking about the various methods of invasion against the Mecha World, and he thought that building his own Mechas were the only viable way.

He had been thinking it all wrong for the past few weeks.

When he remembered what they say about being the bad guys, they did not necessarily mean to be the ultimate enemy against the two factions. Instead, Kraft seemed to be pointing the direction of wanting Jin to be an annoyance, the irritating thorn in their flesh.

Similar to how poorly budgeted resistances and perhaps even how terrorist organisation operated, they did not use flashy mechas or top grade materials to stifle the war against their adversaries.

Instead, they used creativity to undermine their heavily armoured opponents and to achieve their objective. That was exactly what Jin had, and besides, he was not looking to be a messiah or the conqueror of their world. He just wanted the Titan Mechanical Brain.

Furthermore, he had the upper hand with him.

All the weird monsters at his disposal would be a definite surprise for the inhabitants in the Mecha World which the System stated that there were no sightings of such beings in their world.

Thus, all Jin had to do, could solely be a grab and run kind of mission where he does either maximum damage or chaos to the place by distracting the guards for the main objective and steal the item.

He believed that the press release would probably be contained, and with odd monsters attacking, it was less likely to pinpoint that to the other military faction. In fact, Jin could conduct a similar raid attack against the Xeon Union and both factions would believe that it was an external intervention by some extremist groups.

When Jin proposed the concept to the System, it had analysed that it would not immediately escalate tensions as to picking a side and fighting against the United Federation at all. That was when the dungeon supplier looked at Que Er with renewed direction.

"I think I know what you are thinking about. I see what I can do in terms of information gathering." Que Er winked at Jin and immediately asked the System for the permission to transport her birds into military bases etc.

The System acknowledged and opened various portals up for her to send the birds. They were based on Amura Rei's prior knowledge on certain military school bases he had enrolled in to teach the students. It was not much, but it was still a start for the birds to gather information gathering.

Even if the crows and ravens were not a native species of the world, which the System nor Que Er had prior understanding of, they could still hide and take information in without the need for food or sleep. (since they were magical in nature).

Thus, it made them the perfect spies in an urban environment.

And before she left the dungeon maker, she returned the side evolution card to Jin which he guessed it was overall an unnecessary move by him.

Nonetheless, Que Er did appreciate the thought, just that she did not show it out publicly.

Chapter 600 Kicked Ou

After the conversation with Que Er, Jin returned to the shop instance where he met up with Yun when she conveniently gave him a plate of curry rice to eat.

"Eat up, I know you haven't had anything since you woke up," Yun said as she placed the food on the table.

"Thank you, Yun. This feels surprisingly homely despite the crowd around." Jin said as he partook on the curry rice. While Lynn had changed and improved the curry rice recipe, Jin somehow felt nostalgic when he ate the System's original taste.

Jin could have eaten at home or in Lynn's restaurant instance in a private setting, yet he felt a need to eat at the bar for needed extra inspiration on recreating the shop instance. He believed that by using this opportunity to sit at the bar, it could instil him with the perception of the customer and to experience what the customers might potentially have in mind.

Yet, he did not go full incognito. Customers who recognised him greeted him when possible while the others merely mumbled from a distance and announced to their friends that was the 'legendary' dungeon supplier who had defeated the Triad Rat Boss in one stroke.

Although Jin had a keen sense of hearing, he could also tune it down with the use of his Maqi. So, the rumours did not bother him at all. Moreover, the boss got to show up in the shop instance once in a while, right?

And upon finishing his meal, he decided to extend the Christmas Raid Event for an additional week upon seeing the pleads and requests from his customers via his phone.

The amount of profit he received from the stunt he pulled off was tremendous, and the System predicted that the net profit was even sufficient to cover the cost of the Grand Feast. However, it noted that it came with consequences which led to the System suggesting to its User to revamp the shop instance.

Jin had also felt the 'crowd' even though the Tree Mall was still relatively new and customers were pouring in to see the new building, which was trending in the news and social media.

"Ahh... too bad I was way too busy creating the Tree Mall and not create any Christmas events to take advantage of the holiday," Jin said to Yun who was cleaning the plates.

"Not exactly, you have been cooped up in the Dungeon Maker for a long time to prepare the Grand Feast, so you never knew what was happening all around the Tree Mall. You barred the System from letting information out, and hence I decided to not let information in too. Especially when you are focusing on your work." Yun responded.

"Most of your tenants are experienced store keepers. They knew what to do and continue what they had been doing for years. Even without you, Shen Si Fang had already organised a mini Christmas event to attract even more people to our humble Tree Mall." Yun added.

"Odd for you to say the Tree Mall to be 'humbling' in front of me. It's supposed to be eye catching." Jin rebutted, and Yun shook her head.

"You could have gone for some grand scale architecture to blow people's mind, but instead, you went for a tree. It's like you are defying the reputation of Shenzhen city of being a highly modern society. That itself is sort of humbling."

"...Erm okay? Thanks?" Jin replied slowly, not knowing how to respond to a praise by Yun and while he prodded Yun for more information, she suggested him to go for a walk around the Tree Mall.

"Perhaps, a walk will help you trigger something and hopefully an idea. Just like how your perspective changed for the Mecha World Invasion when you met up with Que Er." Yun stated as she shoo-ed Jin off.

When the dungeon supplier got kicked out of the shop instance by Yun. Jin reluctantly looked around the place. To his surprise, the current rooftop garden on his Tree Mall was decorated with Christmas decorations and even had reindeer plastic statues along with the Panda stone Statues. The Pandas also had those Santa hats on them!

Only through the System's explanation, Jin then found out that Si Fang had gotten the committee to decorate not just the Rooftop Garden but the entirety of the Tree Mall's interior. When the dungeon supplier went to the lower floors, there were modest Christmas decorations all over window railings.

But what surprised Jin was that a Santa Hat was placed on the Panda Tian Gong Statue at the centre of the mall. Jin laughed at the absurdity of it when he realised that it was the System's doing roughly about a day before Christmas Eve.

"I totally did not expect you to do this," Jin said, and he could visualise System giving a smirk smile while it reasoned that it had to do Jin's portion of redecorating. It was repayment of favour for Jin to secretly preparing the Grand Feast Christmas celebrations for the monsters.

While Jin was walking around the mall, he happened to check on the past week reports. According to the statistics, an increasing number of people are coming to the Tree Mall for lunch and dinner. It also inadvertently increased the sales of Lynn's Restaurant Instance, particularly when the lunch crowd wanted something more exquisite.

Lynn did not heavily advertise her instance, but it was through the word of mouth that people knew the existence of her shop instance. So those who could afford Lynn's food would not hesitate to climb to the Garden rooftop for those extremely appetising meals.

At the same time, there were feedbacks from his store owners that the customers asked if the Tree Mall would be willing to have a dedicated private bus route service to charter them from the business centre district (which were a few stops away via the subway).

Jin did consider it, but he needed to get buses or vans plus also the need to hire people with licenses. Fortunately, the System indicated that manpower was not an issue since the System can use the Farming Humans from the Pandafull service to operate the buses. Jin then remembered that licenses should not be an issue too since he had his...printed without going through an examination.

"I will consider that option maybe in the new year," Jin said as he continued his tour around the Tree Mall, towards Si Fang's café. (Ironically, some of the customers who did not know his identity thought he was cutting the queue.)

"Si Fang, thank you for decorating the place. I was kind of busy preparing my ehhhhh... Dungeon instances." The Tree Mall Landlord said as Si Fang had his smile placed from one cheek to the other.

"Boss Jin! Welcome to my store. Hold on for a while as I explain to my customers for a moment." Si Fang purposely went out of the shop instances and explain to his customers before returning to chat with Jin. He tried to apologise for cutting queue, and Si Fang rejected the apology. It was after all his right as the landlord.

"And no! I should thank you instead! Thank you for restoring the place and bring even further business to us! Not to mention, having this kind of café is really a dream come true for me." Si Fang said as he offered Jin a seat behind the coffee counter. (Since the café was fully booked that there were no places for SI Fang to have a proper chat with Jin.)

"What new instance have you created this time round?" Si Fang casually asked as he brewed a cup of tea for Jin to drink while he asked his other staff to look after the cafe business for the moment.

"I am undertaking a massive project. Something that could possibly change the dungeon instance industry. Hahaha!" Jin laughed and as Si Fang who was giggling along suddenly took his phone out.

"Speaking about changing of the industry, I am sure you heard about the National Dungeon Symposium? I recently read some news that it is going to be host in Shenzhen next year!" Si Fang said as he showed an email to his friend.

Jin naturally knew about the National Dungeon Symposium, but he never had the chance to enter as part of the crowd because the tickets were sold out really fast. (Besides, they were rather expensive for a student back then.) "Yeah. Perhaps, I might buy the tickets this time around." Jin said to Si Fang, and the Café Boss almost choked.

"Buy tickets?! No! I did not mean that. What about participating in it?" Si Fang asked with his eyes glittering with curiosity.