

## **Dungeon S 601**

### **Chapter 601 Refusing To Participate**

Of all a sudden, Jin felt his sweat slowly wetting the back of his shirt. Participating in the National Dungeon Symposium? That would basically be an open invitation to have his secrets possibly exposed.

For not being a proper dungeon supplier.

At the moment, he could get away with it mainly because Jin was able to divert such questions to the quintessential excuse of 'trade secrets'. However, if he were to join the National Dungeon Symposium, authentic high grade dungeon suppliers would have genuine questions for him.

Even Ke Loong had his suspicions and assumed that Jin was using technology more advanced than the current prototypes. But Mr Know-it-All told him to trust Jin fully and work with him instead of doubting him.

This 'blind' trust was not without any support. Ke Loong's Chief Engineer, Bo Ze had sent numerous workers under disguise to try out Jin's dungeons, so they all could fathom and theorise how Jin's shop. Unfortunately for them, they came out even more baffled and had only worked out assumptions on how Jin's instances work to a certain extent.

There were numerous missing holes in their theory which Bo Ze's talented senior engineers could not figure out, but that did not mean that they were not secretly attempting to decipher it. Because in the end, they were hopeful they were able to reverse engineer what they had experience in Jin's dungeon. All of it was to possibly rival Jin in the future despite Ke Loong insistence saying that they want to be partners.

Ke Loong did want to be partners all for one reason.

Upon seeing such Dungeon Technology, he wanted to own this by himself. That was why Sea Mesh CEO ordered his HR to mercilessly headhunt Jin's researchers. If he could get the technological knowledge from Jin's researchers, they would further push the research they had been doing. Sadly, they had a hard time finding them, and even their online database had no information on them. (Mainly because they do not exist in this world in the first place! Teehee!)

Also, why let that particular dungeon technology stay in one corner of Shenzhen? Let Ke Loong handle it, and he would spread it to each and every intersection of China and probably the whole world! Up till then, Sea Mesh Company would be famous world wide and not to mention the profit!

That was also why Ke Loong appeared very trusting and accommodating to Jin for the Portal Devices. He wanted to do everything to earn Jin's trust, and even he could not get the Dungeon Technology, this particular Portal Device technology would soar throughout the world given its use and efficiency.

However, Jin was not a small little town bumpkin.

He knew that Ke Loong had plans to poach people like Ayse and had been wary. So by placing the portal devices in dungeon instances and monsters, it was not only to improve the security but to show the dungeon supplier's dominance.

This particular move made Ke Loong wary whether if Jin was starting to learn to be street smart or it had been that way all along, and merely pretended to be taken advantage of.

At the same time, Kraft had suggested to Jin's Head Researcher to take further initiative to aid her master. With the success of getting information on Ryuli, Kraft had passed Ayse a thumb drive with another version of Foxy. Just plug the thumb drive once into any of their PCs or laptops and Ms Foxy will worm its way into their servers with absolute stealth.

"Two can play the game," Kraft said to Jin after the revelation of Mr Know It All as a potential spy. A spy for corporate businesses, for the government or foreign governments? Kraft did not bother that much, but for Mr Know-it-all to introduce an intimate business contact of his to Jin, Kraft would not be taking any chances in counter industry espionage.

With all these events happening at the sidelines, Jin knew that participating in the Symposium might potentially bring him more harm than good. He had enough problems to deal with both in this world and other worlds so he rather not risk himself exposing too much at the moment until he had time and energy to focus on his main business at hand.

"I will consider but most likely not going for the Symposium as a participant. More of an audience. I will prefer to see how the competition is like before entering. Maybe the year after?" Jin said to Si Fang politely.

"Ah, that's a pity. I was hoping you could rise even higher, especially when your dungeon instances are always the talk around the café. Even without me going to your shop, I already know that you have an awesome Christmas Raid going on." Si Fang teased how great Jin's dungeons were.

"Perhaps, you and the other shop keepers could come and try it out. I can give you guys a free trial for the first round as a thank you for sticking through. Hahaha!" Jin said, and Si Fang did not dislike the idea.

"Yeah, we could do that. By the way, are you available for supper tonight? We usually have a get together at Boxing Day as part of the Tian Gong Shopping District shopping community." Si Fang asked, causing Jin to look at his phone.

"If...I am not too occupied with my dungeon making. Hahah! I will inform Lynn in case I could not be there." Jin replied unfavourable, making Si Fang a little disappointed as he wanted to Jin to participate in this special supper as a thank you for what he had done for the Tiangong shopping district.

Jin could have abandoned the old store owners, he could have ignored the livelihood of the people in this place. Instead, he stood up against the bullies in this unfair society and carved a breathing space not just for himself but for the rest of the owners here.

Si Fang had always thought that the owners were being too irresponsible for demanding much from the new landlord. Jin did not need to accommodate to the old store owners at all, but he still did it despite the fact that not many owners liked him initially when he came.

Even when their business picked up indirectly from Jin's Dungeons and Pandas, many store owners were jealous of his efforts. That was why Si Fang saw Jin more than a thriving business owner when he saw how unselfish the dungeon supplier cared to open up jobs for the rest to grow as well. If Si Fang were

deep down honest to himself in that Ruby Rat Triad incident, he would probably save his friends and ignore the rest of the group store owners.

Some might say that Jin was naïve, but when Siu Fang and his friends gathered for some casual small talk, they discussed how the dungeon supplier had the foresight to keep the old store owners. One was to prevent former store owners to inciting possible vengeance, assuming that it was Jin's plan to use the Triads to push the previous owners out of the place.

The other reason was to create a debt of gratitude and at the same time a sort of repayment for the destruction of Tiangong Shopping District. Yet, Si Fang and friends clearly knew that the Triad had been aiming for this particular spot to create a casino in order to attract more cash into their coffers.

However, the act of killing a Triad Boss had caused Jin to have unintended consequences as well. The news spread like a riptide through the underworld scenes, and a number of Triad Bosses close to Wo De Tian were seemingly unhappy that Jin was to be left untouched. And that was the absolute order by Mu Bing, the Triad Boss for the Prosperous Pigs as well as one of the elders in the Triad Circles.

Because of this effect, Jin noticed that there were multiple requests of store owners without any branded names wanting to place a mark into the Tree Mall to cash in with the popularity. (The famous shopping brands were intentionally avoiding the Tree Mall as an order by their respective Triads.)

For now, Jin decided to play as the ignorant to the multiple requests until he finds what he needs within the candidates for his Mall. (After all, there is only 'limited' amount of space he could give out.)

Upon seeing Si Fang's disappointed look, Jin sighed softly as he knew that he did somewhat owe Si Fang for the favour of him decorating the Tree Mall for Christmas.

"Alright, I promise that I will join for a while since I also like to hear everyone's thoughts and feelings after working for a few weeks in the Tree Mall." Jin said with a crumpled smile. Si Fang knew that Jin was trying to be accommodating and thus the café owner tapped on Jin's shoulder and thanked him for making time.

## **Chapter 602 Boxing Day Supper**

The supper gathering was after working hours at Si Fang's Café instance which all of the Tree Mall's store owners arrived, carrying their very own boxes of surprises into his café. Jin was neither the exception as he came with a box of food along with Yun, Lynn and Qiu Yue who were free enough to make it for the Boxing Day Supper.

In the meantime, the store was handled by Another Jin in a Panda Santa Suit especially since Jin could split himself into two safely and within the premise of his Tree Mall. The rest of the customers were not too suspicious and only assumed that the Panda Santa Suit was either Jin's employees or he himself.

"Jin! Glad you manage to make it! I heard from Si Fang that you are too shy to appear right in front of us for making us pay for premium prices on the ingredients you sold to us!" Lai Fu, the owner for Offshore Sea Store Instance, exclaimed loudly and the food court owners were agreeing him wholeheartedly.

"Lai Fu! You know I do not say this kind of things!" Si Fang said in a mild tempered tone which Lai Fu shook it off very quickly. He then reached for his box and took out beers and soft drinks for everyone to drink.

Meanwhile, Si Fang and Qian Qian, owner of Reef Knolls Bakery Instance, were behind the coffee counter preparing desserts for everyone to eat while the Pyramid Food Court store owners brought piping hot leftovers from their store for everyone to enjoy.

Most of them knew that they were having a supper gathering and thus ate only the minimum for dinner. Even Ke Ru, manager for the Panda Burger instance had brought some of her store's specialities to share the love as well as limited Santa Panda keychains for everyone to keep as a memento.

The Twins for the Weapon and Armoury Store, Bai Xin and Bai Wan had prepared a stack of limited edition of Jin's Christmas Raid Dungeon shirts for everyone. Lai Fu even joked, asking if they had permission from Jin to spread those around.

"They do not need my permission for every small thing. As long as they produce profit for me, I am fine with what they do with the store." Jin said, and Ke Ru laughed heartily.

"As pragmatic as ever and yet, behind that façade of capitalism lied a hidden layer of kindness." She said so profoundly Jin tried to refuse that praise hard. At that moment, Si Fang came in with plates of delicious looking desserts ranging from cookies to pastries.

"I must echo my agreement with Ke Ru. If not for Jin, we would not have gathered together today in happiness and delight." Si Fang said, and Qian Qian nodded her head as she asked everyone to partake on the desserts.

Lynn took a piece and crunched hard on the cookie. Immediately, she could understand the meaning of the Chinese proverb that there's always a mountain taller than another mountain.

"How did you manage to get the taste of 'this' cheese to appear?" Lynn asked which surprised Qian Qian as she did not expect someone to know about the 'secret' ingredient she used to enhance the taste of the cookie.

"For you to sense that cheese must mean that you have some professional chef training." Qian Qian said, and Lynn nodded her head without reservation. Even though store owners knew about the dungeon chef, they always thought it was an exaggeration. Yet, Qian Qian instantly respected her for finding the taste of the cheese which she hid carefully in the myriad of sweetness within her cookies.

Not only that, by being the Sub System User that specialised in cooking, Lynn's cultivation had the ability to both enhanced and dull her sense of taste at the same time. It was to allow her to adjust the taste in her food not just for the regular customers but professionals too.

Lynn knew she does not possess the Heavenly Chef Tongue which she could criticise every work out there by merely tasting it, but it was sufficient to point out the glaring mistakes she or her penguins made.

Additionally, the ability to dull her taste proved to be useful too. That was because this was the flaw of any chef who possessed the Heavenly Chef Tongue. Even a near flawless cooked dish would spoil the chef's appetite mainly because it's not perfect.

From there on, Qian Qian and Lynn began talking to each other along with some Food Court owners who want to learn a tip or two from the infamous Dungeon Chef.

Meantime, He Rong and Yong De took out photo chips they bought from Lai Fu stores and that alone was enough to satisfy their insensitive palates. With their hands full of chips and nothing else, Jin decided to move towards them to discuss certain issues which he had requested the arcade owners to keep an eye on.

It was mainly about the mini games and if Yong De and He Rong had any personal feedback upon trying the games. Yong De said that the card game was simple enough, but it was not complex to master, and thus he did not think it would attract too many hardcore gamers.

"Its more for casual players since its a bit too gimmicky in nature. It will be hard to attract more people in the long run. If you can make the gameplay something similar to games like Gwent, Hearthstone or maybe the Shadeverse, there might be more players would be interested." Yong De suggested.

"If we go with that kind of thinking, I believed Boss Jin's subsequent concern would be that the game might become unoriginal. But Yong De is right. With just one pet, it limited the things one can do. And if it is turn based, it is even more boring for the younger generation. Maybe I don't know, make it more active?" He Rong suggested.

"Perhaps have two modes? One turn based and the other active action to accommodate the young and old?" Jin asked which the arcade owners nodded their heads to that direction.

"Still, I think only having one pet kinda sucks...if you get what I mean. I have no variety in my options other than the battle cards that I have in my deck. And you had already close my options because I used that cultivation. What if I do not like my cultivation and only use my cultivation because I HAD to." Yong De ranted.

"Sure, co op play will spice things up, but I'm like 'I want to try that Tiger Mini Pet too!' that kind of feeling in my heart. Or maybe, I feel that Tiger playstyle suits me more than my current cultivation. Its a good head start to use their cultivation style as the first pet, but having additional pets will ultimately give you more profit too." Yong De spoke as he was obviously thinking of the Triad Tigers that had beaten him in the recent card battles.

"I see, I get what you mean. Your suggestions were indeed valuable." Jin nodded as he took a stylus out and wrote his notes down on his phone. If anything, these suggestions could potentially be the expansion of the core game that he needed.

### **Chapter 603 Secrets Veiled in Plain Sigh**

While Lynn and Jin were busy discussing during the gathering by Si Fang, Qiu Yue and Yun sat down in a corner and enjoyed the mountains of good food in peace. Yun did not like to interact much mainly because she did not have much interest with other store owners.

She only came because Jin asked her to take a break from all the work she had been doing for him. Jin also hoped she will interact with the other store owners, but somehow after the revelation of the System's true identity, Yun had been rather 'docile'. It became even more apparent when Grandma Yuan revealed herself to Jin.

While she still communicates between the customers, the System and Jin's workers, the System-created 'relative' had always been putting up a preoccupied face. It was as if she was thinking non stop about a certain issue and when Jin prodded about it, all he got was a defiant silence.

"Why do you even bother to care? Don't you have other things to do?" That was her standard answer for now. Although Lynn and Zeru had more luck in making her exude other emotions other than a stoic facial expression, they had no luck in getting her to explain. Thus, Jin could only hope one day she would open up.

On the other hand for Qiu Yue, she got kind of bored sitting with the quiet Yun, so she subsequently interrupted Man Tang, the Karaoke Boss for the Meow Meow Karaoke Instance who was also in one corner of the cafe tower instance.

There was nothing much but pleasantries at first until Qiu Yue asked about Man Tang's expansion plans. At first, Qiu Yue did not know anything about the shady things that Man Tang did, but the latter assumed that Boss Jin used the Red Panda Cultivator as his lackey to learn more about her current predicament.

Thus, when Man Tang talked more about the reduction of the shady deals she had been conducting, Qiu Yue was slightly taken aback and surprised. Yet, the Empire Building Sub System User did not raise an eyebrow and even managed to reply back as the Sub System conveniently filled her with the information needed to continue on with the conversation.

"...That is why I might think of expanding doing more than just karaoke, seeing this might be the chance to break out of the circle. Your landlord is not charging much from rent other than maintenance and a meagre cut from my sales. That inadvertently increased my profit margin by a lot. If he maintained this but introduce other entertainment-oriented competitors, I might have to think of things to increase my competitiveness instead of just karaoke." Man Tang said.

"But you lack the ideas on how to expand?" Qiu Yue asked, and Man Tang was in a slight dilemma whether to say it out.

"Since I am already in the karaoke business and with some of the triad members as regular customers, I was thinking of opening up a billiard instance, and at least separate the Triads and other normal customers away from them." Man Tang suggested a few other venues of profitable entertainment which Qiu Yue felt it was feasible.

"That could work. It does not take much to make an instance like that from Jin if I am not mistaken, but surely that would not drastically increase your revenue, right? Instead, you might potentially be losing more at the start."

"Erm yeah, but I do not know what else can I do. Besides, the Tiger Triads are holding this place secretly as their new turf, I might not be able to do much compared to last time." Man Tang shrugged her shoulders, thinking that the tigers will bring this 'triad neutral ground' setting to an end.

"I thought the Tigers were just giving protection and using the arcade to you know, 'wash' their money with that game which Jin had created. They aren't exactly taking this place for their own yet." Qiu Yue believed Jin would not give the Tigers the site if they really asked for it despite the help he got from them.

"Exactly. I do not know whether Jin would be liaising with the Tigers in the future, considering the things that I heard from the other Triad members." Man Tang added that she knew Jin was now an honorary member of the Royal Zodiac Tiger Clan.

"There are many factors could happen, and it isn't like the days past where it is an ambiguous area for the various Triad members to mingle even though it is usually just the same with people." Man Tang explained, and it got Qiu Yue slightly curious about the workings of the underworld. It seemed like this current society had even more of its secrets veiled in plain sight.

"Still, I do not think Jin would want to be under the protection of the Tigers forever. He is more ambitious than what you think of him. That I can guarantee you." What Qiu Yue said suddenly struck an entertaining thought for Man Tang.

"Jin wants to create his own Triad?" Man Tang chuckled when she proposed that particular idea out which made Qiu Yue widened her eyes and laughed along.

"He CAN do that??" Qiu Yue questioned which Man Tang shrugged her shoulders but as a gesture of jest than an inability to answer.

"I saw a number of teenagers who create their very own gangs and later subverted into a larger group due to them encroaching on their territory. Eventually, those larger groups were subgroups of a Triad. As for now, this place is still a 'free area' if what you are saying is true, so the other Triads had no right to fault him if he ever creates something like that." Man Tang said as she chewed on a few snacks.

"That is assuming that the tigers continued to protect this place unofficially." Qiu Yue replied which the Karaoke Boss nodded her head.

"Yeap and Jin can grow his own 'security force' regardless of size since this is his place after all." Man Tang stated bluntly which got Qiu Yue thinking. "However, that is assuming he has the money and clout to do so. Currently, I believe he only has the latter."

"Because he killed the Rat Triad Boss? But I thought this piece of news was not shown in any headlines nor social media." Qiu Yue questioned as her body slowly gravitating towards Man Tang's direction, showing more interest in this particular topic.

"This is because you are looking at the wrong end of the social media. To those in the Triads, its big news. There are even Triad Bosses who are angry about the death of the Ruby Rat Boss although it seems to me there is a gag order going around. Not sure how, but it seems somebody had the influence to let Jin live some way or another." Man Tang added that she was initially wary of Jin's plans of the Tree Mall because she knew how the Chinese Triads worked.

She could have taken her insurance money from the destruction of her stall and run away. But when Jin called for everyone and announced that he wanted to help the previous tenants, she hesitated in calling him out a fraud.

But the moment she saw him in person, she somehow saw a glimmer of hope that everything could actually be okay. Man Tang did not know why or how, but he seem to be as promising as how Si Fang had depicted him.

Perhaps it was because of the stunt Jin pulled to create a gigantic tree had indicated that he might have friends that could potentially stop the revenge cycle in the Triads. Also, that unwavering stance when Man Tang saw Jin spoke with ambition made her feel slightly comforted.

Thus, she decided to gamble and worked with Jin with this Tree Mall project of his. In any case, she had accumulated enough 'black' money to run away if there was a need to.

Now with the current discussion between Qiu Yue and her as well as the additional information she learnt about her new landlord, she seemed slightly more confident about staying on.

"I see. But I am just wondering, and it might potentially be a tall order. Do you wish to aid me with recruiting members for Jin's potential Triad group?" Qiu Yue casually asked, and it nearly made Man Tang throw her drink out.

#### **Chapter 604 Haggard Researcher**

"You what?"

"Exactly what I said. Well, a bit less underworld but more of secretive in nature. I was thinking if we could keep this as a secret from Jin. A shadow task force in case Jin ever needs help if you get what I mean. In return, I can aid you in getting a bigger instance to you know...gather people and such." Qiu Yue began to whisper her intentions to her.

"But I do not think you will want mere lackeys, right? I mean there is surely some of your cultivators who are so loyal to you that they could potentially aid whenever possible." Man Tang asked.

"While I do agree with you, it will be better to have a force that could be used at any time possible. And yes, I do not want just worthless lackeys. If need to, I can provide the fees for training in Jin's dungeons."

"That means something like ex-police and military, people who have cultivation experience but possibly needed a better paying job or more flexible work time." Man Tang started to see where this is going.

"Yeap. Given your connections, I am sure you scout some people out, and you refer them to me for an interview. In return, I will provide you with the upgrading of your shop instances for free as well as a scouting fee. If you do manage to gather them, I will provide the salary and a bit of management fees for you too." Qiu Yue stated, but Man Tang started to be a bit suspicious.

"You aren't just an employee? I thought Jin was the only one creating the instances." Man Tang asked with furrowed eyebrows.

"Hahaha! I'm not just some employee. Its a tad complicated but things will be done." Qiu Yue replied as she placed her hands on the Karaoke Boss to comfort her.



"You can be sure that I have the ability to exert some level of influence to ensure that our shadow force is secret. As for the upgrade instances, don't worry too much. Despite his erm... attitude towards you, Jin will be more than happy to create more business. Because in the end, a part of the profit does go to him." Qiu Yue said, and Man Tang roughly understood what she meant.

"I see, well the deal is not set until I find someone for you, so I shall at least agree to this dealing for the moment." Man Tang said, and they both shook hands as a sign of agreement for the spoken trade.

Separately, Jin met up with Yu Xiang who seemed to be holding onto a few plastic boxes and filling them with food.

"Ah, Boss Jin. Good evening to you there and Merry Christmas." Yu Xiang said with a huge smile on her face, as compared to the last time when Jin spoke with her. Yet, she looked less dejected but seemingly more haggard.

"You okay? Your black eyes seem worse than mine." Jin said, and they both laughed.

"Boss, you sure? It seems yours seem blacker than mine even though it's smaller. Or are you becoming a Panda?" Yu Xiang said as she inadvertently took a bite of the mini pastries.

"I am packing some food for my friends back in the lab. They are working overtime because they seem to find a minor breakthrough with regards to the chi potion you loan us."

"Seem to find? You not there with them when they found it?" Jin asked too blatantly, and Yu Xiang immediately rolled her eyes, wondering if the remarks were genuine or slightly sarcastic in nature.

"I can't find it when I am here, right?" Yu Xiang said, and Jin gave a bitter smile. "Sorry Boss, I get cranky once in a while when I delved too deep into my work. And they made the discovery the moment I stepped out to represent the store for Si Fang's gather. There and then, they called me and told ME to bring extra food to them to celebrate. At least Si Fang was able to loan me these plastic boxes."

"Heh, I can empathise with that to a certain degree. Erm..I mean the work. Don't like to be disturb when I working on my dungeons. So how's the working condition and the machines? I did try to procure the items you asked for." Jin questioned, but that statement somehow brightened Yu Xiang a lot.

"Brilliant. Absolutely brilliant! Seeing that we have a chance to do research unhindered and with sufficient funds kind of scare my friends a little. It was a deal too good to be true. Especially when I told them, I can get whatever machines they want except their desired salary. Still, they flew to me like vultures hunger for a fresh corpse." Yu Xiang replied with a lighter tone.

"And those machine orders, we did not expect to be in so quickly, allowing us to proceed to what we want to research almost as swift as possible."

"Have you met my personal research staff as well or at least my Head Research?" Jin asked as he helped Yu Xiang to get to fill the boxes with more food.

"Oh, eh Ayse was it? Also, kind of curious why you need me when you have your own research stuff but meh, you paid our bills and research so no complaints here." Yu Xiang grabbed another bite of the sweet tasting chocolate cake fondue before giving her impression of Ayse.

"That employee of yours is a terrible distraction to my male colleagues. But other than that, I find her insights rather interesting. Exchanged a few pointers and even systematically solve a dilemma question that we like to pose when meeting new researchers. It's like a kind of litmus test to learn their intellectual level." The Lady Boss for Chinese Medicinal instance said before looking at Jin as he tried to formulate a proper response. "Sorry, if I offend you in any way, Boss."

"Nope! Not at all. I think if you give me that question, I probably fail terribly at that litmus test of yours."

"That's great to hear. Usually, our sponsors will like to eh... 'playfully' try this question when we brought it up as a conversation, and we have to entertain them. Thank goodness you aren't that kind." Yu Xiang said with a gentler smile.

"Hahah. I kind of know the extent of my ability and do not wish to humiliate myself in front of you." Jin smiled back and hope that the minor breakthrough could lead to more. "Other than the research, how're your parents coping with the new store?"

"Ah, they know that the Chinese medicinal store is a niche area. They aren't expecting much business. Thankfully, my friends and I were there to manage the western medicine front of the shop. Together, we earn decent enough, though it was definitely better than in that terrible alley." Yu Xiang replied as she finally finished packing the boxes and decided to chat with Jin a little while.

"And before you ask if I need any help on that aspect, given the nature of your ...helpfulness, we do not need any help. In fact, that storefront could be considered as a breather for us whenever if we feel that the research was taking a toll." Yu Xiang replied before Jin could answer anything.

"Erm... Then I shall not keep your hungry friends waiting. Guess I await the good news in time to come." Jin said as he thanked Yu Xiang again for the update.

"No. Thank you." Yu Xiang took a step backwards and gracefully gave a half bow as a sign of gratitude before telling Si Fang that she was taking her leave first.

Eventually, the supper party went without a hitch, and everyone returned with a stomach full of good food. Yun was satisfied with the meal while Lynn brought back a few handy tips back home.

Qiu Yue no doubt had achieved something which she did not expect while Jin had an overall understanding that the Tree Mall was doing significantly well without him meddling. He even got some great feedback in his notes which indirectly expanded the list of objectives by the System.

Thus, with him back at his Dungeon Maker room, it was time to clear those said objectives. The first thing that Jin did was to summon Qiu Yue in order to understand the current situation of the Dungeon City Fortress and its future.

At first, she thought her hidden plot was found out by Jin, but later she realised it was an excellent opportunity for her to get some things done for Man Tang. (Although she did get a bit irritated since Qiu Yue was about to lie on her bed to rest after such a great meal.)

## **Chapter 605 Review of Dungeon City's Defence**

The start of the meeting between Jin and Qiu Yue was rather productive (along with the leftovers they had from Supper.) She managed to convince Jin that Man Tang was looking to expand her instances to be more entertainment-oriented. She proposed for additional instances like billiards, bowling and even a cinema theatre which Jin felt it was viable and definitely money making in the long run.

"She said that she wants to get off from the crooked deals that she had been doing. But in order to supplement her lost profit margins, she wanted more of this." Qiu Yue said which Jin agreed and already had ideas for those instances.

"Sure. I will create those for her, but those additional instances won't be cheap as compared to the first." Jin replied, and Qiu Yue nodded her head.

"Definitely, she knew that the additional instances will definitely be more expensive than the initial ones as written in the contract. But she was hinting whether a discount could be given since she was asking for so much more." Qiu Yue lied through her teeth when she knew that she would be the one paying for her instances in exchange for Man Tang's secrecy.

"Haha, that I will think about that. Now let's go to the main issue." Jin asked the System to call Moloch into the meeting and pulled out from the digital consoles and projected out a hologram layout on the table. It showed the current constructed buildings and sectors within the Dungeon City Fortress.

"I trust you want to know about the defences more than anything else?" Qiu Yue as she looked at the hologram layout and expanded the entrance of the dungeon fortress city. As Jin's city was built in a cave unlike compared to the humans' towns and cities, there was only one way in or out of the area.

Sometimes, Jin regretted he did not build something similar to a defensive fortress city like the dwarves in his board games. However, Moloch previously told Jin that those layouts were exactly how his former King Baal had created his underground metropolis. The very thing that protected the dungeon metropolis was high walls and with layers of it to prevent the attackers.

"I bet when his army stepped into our territory, they would literally scoff at this place when the general in command knows how terrible 'defenceless' this place is," Moloch said in a sarcastic way.

While Jin still severely underestimated the urgency, Lord Moloch repeatedly guarantee him that King Baal will attack with his army the moment the shield barriers are down.

"But there are no buildups of any massive monster army or whatsoever in the neighbouring areas based on the wide scans from the System," Jin said which Moloch shook his head.

"You are not the only one who have portal magic. He has mages that can do that too -well, yours is basically a hundred times way more advanced than his, since you can travel across worlds. Anyway, out of point. Erm, yeah, the portal magic will bring in his armies to the entrance of the dungeon cave because King Baal never liked any deserters or mutineers no matter how small the crime was." Moloch explained but that suddenly made Jin panicked.

"User there is nothing to worry about. Regardless of how highly sophisticated one's portal magic can be, King Baal will always be teleported to the cave entrance." The System spoke out and Moloch concurred. The System later explained it is something similar to the laws of nature in their world. That was why Jin

was previously teleported to Moloch's cave and not straight to the dungeon treasure room or dungeon core room.

"Can we look at this quickly and get over it for the day? I feel kinda sleepy." Qiu Yue, who was at the sideline listening to them talk, made her bored. Returning back to the discussion with regards to the defence of the dungeon's entrance, it had already been filled with hundreds of clay statues as ordered by Jin. The manually crafted clay statues had already been thoroughly analysed by the System, and a factory had started to produce them with the aid of the Goblin Craftsmen.

As the new clay statues were mass produced, Qiu Yue and Moloch who were the temporary mayors of the city had continued to utilise the goblin clay craftsmen's expertise to correct the moulds by inspecting the quality for every batch of fifty. This way, each and newer bunch of clay statues would be more detailed through the moulding process while the System finetuned the methods to make it cheaper.

The runes, on the other hand, was still a bit of a manual process but Jespa had managed to scout for a few Orc apprentices, and with a mix of lost technology by Ayse, they had managed to create a simple 'Animate Dead' rune to be mass produced. Of course, the crafted rune by Jespa was still superior though she began to fear her work would eventually be lost to automation.

However, Moloch convinced her that automating her craft would then give her the time to explore the effects of new rune combinations, or maybe craft new ones. Eventually, her increased depth of knowledge could never be outstripped by automation. Jespa hesitantly agreed to it, but when she did find out that she had more time for herself, she gave more freedom to the orcs.

With the defences within 500 metres of the dungeon entrance secured, Jin looked at the other matters. The Pand-Atlantis City were in the final stages for Dome 1 and 2 while the rest were still in basic construction.

However, the glass domes were readily secured, and along with the pipes and tunnels required for the underwater transportation network. Moloch had stated in his reports that all that was left was to pour seawater and procure possibly defensive sea creatures. He had recommended the Fishing World where he found the Deep Ones as well as the ocean water from there.

Likewise, for the Floating City, each sector were all shielded with a gadget created by both Peppers and Research Team's effort. A magical shield generator that used oil, magical crystals as well as Jin's black sludges. The System estimated that a litre of black sludge was as efficient as 1 ton of oil.

With it, the power generated will be able to hold and produce a magical force of five megatons for each of the platforms that were equipped with the Lost Tech inspired Magical Shield Generator.

This was partly due to the experiments on expanding Peppers' explosive powers. It had allowed Ayse to understand and apply her understanding onto a few Lost Tech theories, resulting in tremendous results of the revised production of the Magical Shield Generator and upgrades.

However, she and her team believed that more can be done when the System had investigated that the efficacy rate to turn the black sludge into oil was roughly 4%. While both the System and Research Team knew it was not possible to get a 100% efficacy, bumping it up in the future to at least 20% would be a major breakthrough.

In addition, they had to treat Jin's black sludge as precious as gold. What if Jin one day does not produce the black sludge anymore? Therefore, they had been using oil as a substitute until they could improve the efficacy of the magical shield or find alternatives to the black sludge. Nevertheless, in the event of an offensive or defensive battle, the generators would automatically be switched by the System to use the black sludge.

While the Dungeon Core could essentially protect the Dungeon Fortress City, Jin believed that the power it routes throughout the entire grid should only be used as the last resort for the magical shield generators to be utilised. This was mainly because the core would have its hands full powering up floating city and an underwater city.

That was when Qiu Yue questioned Jin's decision to retrieve the additional broken dungeon core. It was supposedly be used to power up a city wide barrier and used along with the magical shield generators or at least reduce the burden of the current dungeon core.

That was when he begged to differ due to an email Ayse recently sent to him which he did not read until this morning. (Ayse did scold him in subsequent emails for not reading it any earlier.) He found that it could still be used for defensive manoeuvres but just not for mere shielding purposes.

The Dungeon Core which Lord Wolte possessed had a hidden function which the System and Moloch did not know until Ayse's research team accidentally stumbled on it while they deciphered the broken dungeon core.

They eventually required Lord Wolte's aid to activate it, and he told them that he knew about this all along. Only to not use it because of the lack of magical powers on his side.

It was the ability to create phantom soldiers.

## **Chapter 606 Phantom Soldiers**

Moloch pressed for more information, and so Jin called upon Lord Wolte to enter the discussion too as he was not too sure about the ability himself.

Once a reigning Duke in King Baal's ranks, the clanky metal anthropomorphic tank was delighted to see that he was in part of some seemingly important meeting especially with all the big shots around.

"The Phantom Soldiers are as what they are. Ghostly kind of beings which can do damage and only be killed with magic. I used it once and damn, it brought swift deaths to the adventurers while I distracted their wizard." Wolte was excited to speak in front of everyone and continued to ramble on.

"The Dungeon Core utilised the freshly dead souls and used them as to our advantage. The only problem about these phantom soldiers is that they are ethereal in nature and require a lot of soul essences to make one strong enough to hold a metaphysical body."

"Therefore, I used this ability something akin to cavalry charging formation. I summon the phantom soldiers temporarily and cause havoc in the front lines of the adventurers, later disappearing five seconds later. That was enough to wound both their body and mind." Lord Wolte described the

procedure and subsequently explained to the rest that the broken Dungeon Core he obtained, had previously controlled a graveyard of the Dungeon World.

"Graveyards? There are graveyards in your world as well? I thought everything was recycled. I mean resurrected again and again." Jin then openly queried whether it had to do something about the Harbinger issue they brought about a long time ago.

"In a way. It was introduced after the 2nd Harbinger Catastrophe and most Dungeon Graveyards are a place of desolation handled by Gravemancers. They are an occupation that siphoned soul essences in order to make sure that those monsters or even adventurers who did not have a place to belong...ehhh ...They give them a peace of mind." Moloch knew a thing or two about the Graveyards.

"Yeah, and those monsters and adventurers can even go into suspended animation for say 5 years, and the Gravemancers who siphon their soul essences would return a majority of their soul essences as a transaction in terms of dungeon dollars. It's all very transactional, but it also significantly reduced the chance of a Harbinger appearing." Lord Wolte added that adventurers who did this were looked down upon as outcasts, too incompetent to earn their living through dungeoneering.

For the monsters, They acknowledge it was a desperate measure for those who did it since their society was based more than just meritocracy and being a competent monster.

"Ahh..then with cash, they could find a place to stay and start anew or something like that?" Jin asked which both the lords nodded their heads (for Wolte, it was his turret.)

"Guess it feels like our society." Qiu Yue sighed at the similarity and discrimination of their culture.

"Anyways, as I was saying, the Gravemancers sell those soul essences to live as well by exchanging it with the dungeon core. Thus most adventurers and monsters respected the Graveyards as a neutral zone." Lord Wolte said and Qiu Yue realised where the story was going.

"Yet, that did not mean they cannot attack it." Qiu Yue surmised, and Lord Wolte gave an approving grunt, which allowed them to conjure how he got this particular dungeon core.

"So, what does this Graveyard thing had to do with this broken dungeon core?" Jin roughly guessed the connection but preferred to get a confirmation answer.

"Dungeon Cores in a way can develop a sort of ...you could say attribute. Or in looser terms, personalities. A Graveyard Dungeon Core would no doubt be able to utilise soul essences better than the dungeon core that I was governing currently." Moloch stated that his Dungeon Core was significantly capable of making other materials, especially after its upgrade to Dungeon City Fortress.

"So Lord Wolte's dungeon core could make phantom soldiers, my dungeon core can make monsters or adventurers who die into ...mini treasure chests. Literal treasure chests" Moloch added that when an opponent dies, it had the chance of becoming a treasure filled with raw materials or items that the adventurer/monster was holding on.

"I don't exactly remember that happening when I was fighting with you," Jin asked as he tried to recall seeing any chest lying around.

"That is because it was just a Dungeon Fortress. The treasures are all generated to the treasury room. Now, this is a city, it does not have a treasury room per se, but you can assign one, and those treasures will pop in there." Moloch said, and Jin immediately looked at Qiu Yue.

"Understood. Loud and clear." Qiu Yue smirked when their eyes connected, knowing what both parties want. Lord Wolte, on the other hand, was a bit confused when the Red Panda Cultivator statement but he was ignored thoroughly.

"Does treasure appear in King Baal's treasury room too when its army killed our comrades?" Jin questioned once again, which Moloch shook his head.

"If it is a defensive fortress setting, yes. Because it is made that way, both parties only had two definite outcomes. Win or lose. So, when the attacking army lost, they received resources too, just not much and those come from the coffers of the Dungeon Fortress." Moloch answered and later added on that City setting was slightly different.

"However, for us, it's of a different predicament. Cities are not meant to be besieged on a daily basis like fortresses because the aim of invading armies for cities was to fight for territory, rather than resources. Hence, cities earn rewards from invading armies because they needed the resources."

"Other cities would have their own unique attributes too, but not many have the similar attribute as mine since we converted this into a city from a fortress dungeon core. But this brings a flaw too." Moloch said with a lower, slightly depressed tone.

"Lesser resource regeneration as compared to a Dungeon City fortress?" Qiu Yue, who had to study a lot to know what she was governing in the future, gave an answer she was hoping that her readings paid off.

"Aye. That is why it's also good in a way that the System took over half of the ownership. It aided a lot, and the incoming assault would definitely prove to be a bountiful supply for us too." Moloch replied.

"Okay, and I think we sidetracked a lot from the main conversation. If Lord Wolte said that the phantom soldiers needed a lot of soul essences to make a metaphysical being, how would it be a good thing for us?" Qiu Yue inquired, and Jin laughed.

"I do not know how to say this, but it was a blessing in disguise to have the foresight to make those clay statues?" Jin did not directly answer her question, but she managed to figure it out. Those phantom beings the dungeon core produces upon the deaths of the invading army could be used to animate the clay statues and made them more potent.

"I never think of that. Would that make Jespa's runes obsolete?" Qiu Yue asked as she looked into the detailed hologram to see the variation of clay statues in the area.

"Nope, it was also because of Jespa's 'Animate Dead' runes that made this combination work. Ayse research team had managed to put the mass produced basic 'animate dead' rune and the clay statue into test while using Lord Wolte's broken Graveyard Dungeon Core. It worked spectacularly, and the System was the one controlling it without a hitch."

"That means we have a reproducible fodder army!" Moloch was delighted, and the other two System Users were holding their laughter at the Minotaur Lord's odd choice of words.

## Chapter 607 Porkcupine-B

After focusing on the entrance, Jin started to look at the other parts of the cities as he reviewed the defences of the floating platforms. An overhaul of the Agriculture Sector 1 and 2 was proposed by Weslie, the Scholar of the West.

Based on the System's predictive analysis, Weslie's plans increase the overall output by at least 200%. Still, Jin had decided that to place that priority in the further phases since the opening of the Dungeon City Fortress was more critical. At the very most, he would play the 'demand and supply' card if the store owners at his Tree Mall would to request for more of his food stock.

The overhaul would be a significant renovation of both sectors. Weslie had proposed that sub dungeon instances be used for the animals to better handle their rearing needs. This would undoubtedly increase the Jin's overheads significantly since he had to build a server as well as placing a portion of the System's processing capability to handle the rearing of animals in the Dungeon World. However, she continuously emphasised that the animals needed the utmost care to provide the best quality of meat.

At the same time, Weslie was very curious about the cultivation ability of animals in Jin's Earth. She noted that the meat's quality was indeed more satisfying with the spiritual chi flowing throughout the animal. (Of course, the way to cook it matters too but the ingredient always play a part.)

However, it was deemed inefficient to rear cultivated animals as they could not meet the demands unlike the use of giant monsters from the Giant World.

That was where Half Ghoul Lord Derek's research of combining animals or plants into monsters might have an impact of Weslie's plan. Therefore, Jin called upon Derek and Weslie into the dungeon maker room to have a proper discussion while Lord Wolte quietly (or as quiet he could be) look through the defence layout of Jin's city.

Weslie was a bit annoyed that she was summoned out of nowhere when the scholar felt that she had some ideas with regards to the vital 'instrument' for Operation Pied Piper. But when she saw Derek and Jin in the room, she controlled her temper a little.

"Sorry to disturb both of you and without any advance notice." Jin apologised when he noticed the expressions on their faces. They quickly shook their head and asked what the matter was. "While I had set the priority to the Agriculture Sectors overhaul in the future phases after City's opening, I need some input and clarification on the overhaul. Particularly on the research, you were working on Derek."

"Ah, the fusion research? Yes. With regards to that, I had a few things to announce. Firstly, I can say that the research had a partial success." Derek said, with a big smile on his face. "One of your giant porkcupines had been infused with vegetables, mainly broccoli and its individual spikes had grown to a broccoli plant. This increased the feasibility of it being a source of vegetable and meat at the same time."

"That's great to hear but since you said its a partial success, what is the bad news?" Weslie asked in a curious manner.



"I read on your request about the animals with natural cultivation in Master's world. So I had tried to ...ehhh inject the cells of Porkcupines and Grade 1 pigs together, and see if they could be cloned and grow. To my surprise, it worked, but it seemed that the pig's cells ...in a simpler term, overpower the cells of the broccoli modified porkcupine." Derek started to explain.

"So the in vitro fertilisation worked? Wait, before that, I am prying a little into your past. You a scientist or something? I never really thought about it despite your fascination in broken body parts and fusion of these food stock Jin asked, and Derek's lips curled.

"Was a life science student in university before I got a job in as a bank analyst. The pay was sadly more lucrative ." Derek added, and Jin vaguely remembered his world was similar to his.

"Anyways, The porkcupine's broccoli grew more vibrantly since it had some form of cultivation. I still do not know how it worked, but hey, it works! Guess sometimes all you need is a bit of magic dust to play the part." The Half Ghoul Lord was delighted to possess some magical powers to perform this miraculous act along with the scientific knowledge he had.

"Don't tell me you scrapped your skin or something to make those magic dust." Qiu Yue shuddered at the thought which made Derek laughed heartily.

"That's a good one Ms Qiu Yue. Perhaps it might have happened when I was not attentive. I shall keep a lookout in the future." Derek replied when he continued on with his story.

"But because of the activation of its cells to allow cultivation, I hypothesised that the porkcupine became more violent. I mean it can even shoot out Broccoli projectiles that appeared like mini missiles."

"You must be kidding me," Jin said, and Derek knew that only seeing is believing. So, he asked the System to create a temporary area to hold the cultivated broccoli porkcupine to demonstrate its powers.

Suddenly the place which Que Er used to demonstrated her new raven powers was transformed into a gigantic platform which the Mini (still giant) Porkcupine was rampaging around the moment it got teleported. Derek then asked the System to produce multiple dummies where the Porkcupine could perform its attacks. True enough, broccolis were shot out of its back, and it even had the power to manoeuvre around like a heat seeking missile to damage the dummies around it.

Not only that, when more dummies appeared to see what else the extent of the porkcupine's ability, it even had a move which Derek was never seen before.

A stem of broccoli stood among the rest of the broccoli on its back as it started to grow longer larger and larger to the point, the tall stem was not able to hold its own weight of the 'umbrella' of the broccoli. As it falls, the porkcupine grabbed it and used it as a blunt pole.

Every time the umbrella portion of the broccoli hits the dummy target, it seemed to explode a burst of chi energy towards it. While Derek could vaguely recognise the significance of the attack by having the dummy blowing up in front of them, Jin and Qiu Yue could see how dense the chi energy was. Thus, Jin quickly took his phone up and requested the System for its attribute. The phone promptly activated the monster app and revealed to Jin that the porkcupine was at least a Grade 2 Peak.

"...Had it been rather violent recently? How about its diet?" Jin asked, and Derek said that it always wanted to smash the cages apart and the System had to use a stronger grade cage to contain it.

"A Grade 4 Stage had been used, but the System did not expect the exponential rise of its grade. Food given were of the standard high quality meals System give to the porkcupines in Sector 2 for rearing."

"Oh my god, then this is indeed a miracle find. Derek, is this the only genetically modified porkcupine?" Jin asked which Derek mentioned that he had a few more ready samples in the ice in case this did not work.

"What do you mean it did not work? It worked perfectly well! I am already thinking about how succulent the meat will be." Qiu Yue said out loud to everyone as she leaned forward. "Won't it be funny to use these pigs as the perfect practice training for the people low in cultivation grade? Or at the very least, train our monsters up with this especially for those that do not have a dungeon role yet?"

"That could potentially be a good idea after all." Jin nodded his head with delight.

## **Chapter 608 Gods and Demons**

Weslie was very impressed by Derek's research that it rendered her severely speechless throughout the most part of the reveal. It was then she broke out of her daze and asked whether if the 'fusion' of cells were only to certain species or could Derek had mix and match randomly.

"I did not consider such options. Guess, I based it on logical instinct? I took the species most similar to the monster found in the Giant World and combined them. I never tried considered combining like Jin's Pigs with broccoli, but even if I do, I believe it will fail." Derek replied, and Weslie wondered why since he could do it with the broccoli, porkcupine and subsequently the cultivated pig specimen.

"I think it had something to do with the laws of nature. Like how a human can never impregnate an ape because we have 23 chromosomes, they have 24. To put it bluntly, there is already a system in place, and a certain order had to be met." Derek try to give a reasonable and sound answer to Weslie.

"However! What if it is from another world? I am deducing that the worlds that Jin travelled are from a separate timeline, or maybe a separate dimension. Thus, the rules and order of that dimension do not apply to Jin's Earth laws of nature. It's just like how the Dungeon World had its set of rules."

"I guess what support your hypothesis is the close and yet distinct similarities between my world and yours?" Jin asked and remembered how he recognised the ruined Shanghai tower when he caught the zombies.

"Indeed. There is no way in chance that the very same Shanghai tower can be built the same way in two different worlds when both of our worlds had not reached a technology level capable of transiting space and time." Derek said until Weslie recalled what Derek noted previously.

"Then what about those creators you talked about. Those God like soldiers?" Weslie asked, and Derek could not make heads or tails to that argument. Only Jin who knew bits and pieces of information could see a connecting picture.

"The plane of gods and demons....? Wolte, you said the demons are from a dimensional plane right?" Jin shouted at Lord Wolte, who was quietly snoozing after going through the battle plans.

"Huh!? Yes, Master! The plans are fabulous!" Lord Wolte got up and tried to lie through his teeth which Jin ignored and repeated the question for him. "Oh, that. Yeah, all Gods came from the same sort of dimensional plane similar to us."

Lord Wolte embarrassingly came forward and told them more to make up his snoozing during the meeting. (After which he stared at Lord Moloch who did not aid him but instead sniggered at him.)

"Those gods manifested however they like and changed their appearances like us. They loved to 'save' people the way we like to kill people. In the end, it's all about control. The only difference is that we are honest to ourselves, and many did not like us as much as those sugar coating salesmen."

"That is a rather interesting perspective to take in." Qiu Yue chuckled when she thought about Lord Wolte's description of Gods.

"It's true. To us, Gods and Demons, worship can come in various forms. Acts of blasphemies are on the same side of the coin as acts of faithfulness. Our followers themselves wish to copy us -or in a more glorifying term, illuminate us in their acts of desires so that they could portray themselves as the gods or demons which they worshipped." Lord Wolte preached.

"Is it because people like priests want the ability to control or influence people like the way gods do?" Derek asked, and Lord Wolte shook his head.

"It is something even more simple...more primitive." Lord Wolte gave them a chance to try and guess, but only Moloch responded.

"It is because it made them feel good."

"Exactly."

"System will like to remind that the meeting had once again digressed from its original objective." The System suddenly spoke out, and everyone felt a little embarrassed.

"Looks like we always go out of topic." Qiu Yue, however, did learn a lot within this hour that she had forgotten she wanted to sleep. Perhaps the curiosity got the better of her.

"Where were we? Oh yes. So Derek, continue to monitor the modified porcupine and get Weslie to aid you in it. As much as we do not know the species well enough, its good to monitor it to get more information. Also, try and raise the other few that you put in ice as well. I like to have a better sample size and a better understanding before I recreate the Agriculture Sector 2 to place them with sub instances without too much changes." Jin said, and they both nodded their heads.

"With regards to Weslie's proposal to Agriculture Sector 1, I will discuss a bit with Gold for his opinion when he is free. Right now, I think the food stock from Sector 1 is moving along very nicely with the robot crawlers automating the planting and harvesting. Ke Mi's music had improved to give them the required magical energy to improve their taste."

"Not to mention how strong she had become. Just a four minute song is enough to accelerate the growth in conjunction with Time Compression magic placed in Sector 1. Though I wonder if she ever grew older." Qiu Yue asked, and System corrected her opinion.

"The System only used the time compression magic if there are no monsters around to tend it. Thus, Ke Mi is not subjected to any effects of time compression." The System stated, and suddenly it made Jin concerned about himself. Would he get older in no time?

"Time is a complex factor but based on System's analysis of User, the System had reasoned that User does not have anything to fear. The balance of User was not affected due to the constant usage of both time magic. User used time dilation magic to create dungeon instances but at the same time, the Sleeping Capsule which utilised time compression magic had compensated the time he slowed down."

"That is messed up. I do not even know how the math worked out." Weslie said which Derek concurred.

"As long as the System deemed that the User is fine, I all good. We can't have him dying on us with so many projects on hand." Moloch commented, and the rest laughed except for Jin.

He was the only one who knew that he had too much in his hands.

## **Chapter 609 Fortress Knight Golems**

Once Derek and Weslie were dismissed from the meeting, Jin moved onto reviewing the industry sector, which was still relatively unruffled. Most of the workload still centered in Industry Sector 1 with the mass production of clay statues and the other defensive equipment as per Lord Moloch's guidance.

Industry Sector 1 also handled the construction and design of Sandroku Golems. For an amalgamation of metal pieces whose humble beginning was to be an explosive hauling machine against the Ogres, it subsequently became an enhanced figure of mechanical greatness by the brains of Orcs and Gobs. The System even stated that it could potentially rival a Mecha Worker that dealt with specific construction uses.

Recently, the Goblin Mages and Orc Engineers had been creating prototypes of a defensive Sandroku Golem, aimed to be a powerhouse against the various types of oversized monsters that King Baal was going to throw at them.

They had perused Amura Rei's blueprints and worked out a few modular types of equipment which would help to build a Guardian Mecha. As it was meant to defend the city, the mage and engineers placed more armour to increase its durability in combat.

With the advent of improved Sandroku Golems, that also meant that they are not going to fight fair. King Baal might have the numbers, but Jin currently had the technological edge against them. Submachine guns, missile launchers and other assault weapons were enlarged based on Hou Fei's weapon blueprints to fit the new golems, and they were reproduced as such in Sector 1.

Meanwhile, Hespesta, the Goblin Blacksmith had already began building melee weapons as well as automated crossbows and arrows for the first batch of defensive Sandroku Golems which later Jin

nicknamed them as Fortress Knight Golems. (Since they were in a Dungeon City Fortress, the name was rather apt, and Moloch liked it as well.)

But because of their bulky build, the Fortress Knight Golems had lots of flaws. (Considering they were the first few iterations of the prototypes, it was normal.) The first on its list was their engine. The motor they used was a replicated Lost Tech that was converted to be constructed with Earth's raw materials to save cost, and that itself provided restricted mobility to the Fortress Knight Golems. (Which incidentally reinforced their names further.) Not to mention, their battery pack could only last them at most half an hour each, and even with spares, it would be a strain to the sub-par lost tech motor should they wish to pursue their enemies.

Therefore, ranged firepower and defence were used to make up their flaws in mobility. The first version of Fortress Knight Golems was equipped with anti ballistic composition armour from Rei's blueprints. It was designed to stop a gigantic bullet in its tracks.

While the System was unable to buy the raw materials required from their Mecha World due to their rising costs, it had analysed a few of the raw materials obtainable in the Goblin World which match similar parameters. Hence, the modified armour was built at a cheaper cost but gave lesser protection than the supposed set of armour.

The modified armour was not as effective according to the System's review since it did not meet blueprint requirements, but Moloch had tested it, and he saw some satisfying results.

He had utilised a number of varying weapons he knew King Baal had in his arsenal (After all, Moloch had once served under him.) From arrows to a crude ballista shot, the armour plating was able to hold up. The Lord Minotaur also tested it out against an advanced level fire spell and the Fortress Knight Golem was able to fend it off with a shrug. (or actually several shrugs)

Even though it seemed invincible, it is still a combination of metal chunks which the goblin pilots were piloting. Thus, there were concerns by the Orc Engineers about the use of lightning spells which could render potentially render the golems useless or at the very least its internal systems.

That was when Moloch chuckled and asked if anyone fought in the northern frontier battle of Gob Gob Bu. Only one was raised his hand, and Moloch inquired if they remembered a tank able to tolerate an electrical based energy blast.

"I vaguely recalled something like that. The officers were panicking that the Lost Tech equipment was not working as intended." The Orc Engineer said which made Moloch grinned.

"That is because there are magic resistant charms which Master Jin and his other minions were able to create. Let me worry about the Golem's inherent weakness. Continue to work on improving our golems." Moloch replied and swore to the rest not to worry about its weakness to electricity.

And improvements, they did.

The Orcs and Gobs had managed to overcome the energy consumption issue by creating an electrical outlet which a thick, durable electric cord could be utilised that the Fortress Knight Golems could be plugged into a stable source to fight. With a stable energy consumption, golem pilots did not have to

worry about the power to their engines and fight to their fullest. It would be one less issue to worry during combat.

They could also potentially be plugged into mobile electrical generators which could be transported around by a pair of standard Sandroku Golems. Otherwise, for the Fortress Knight Golems guarding at certain chokepoints, the System had asked Moloch to install sufficient electrical power points in the places where the enemies could potentially flood in. Even if the enemies don't 'naturally' move to those areas, the military commanders will make sure they do.

And speaking of Military commander, Hou Fei was the overall in charge, and the auxiliaries would be Qiu Yue and Moloch. Jin had already passed Qiu Yue the portable tactical machine, so she had been practising on it via simulations created by her Sub System as well as some mini live exercises with the battalion she was bestowed with.

They were none other than the orcs who assisted with the construction. Most of them took turns to take part in the live exercises which Qiu Yue had commenced within the Military Sector 1.

However, she did not do it without the help of Orc General Nubwort. Their general knew that his underlings would not die and hence, they were subjected to the strictest combat training the orcs had ever since. Some of them who were considered special forces previously felt that Nubwort's training was worse than the living hell they been through. They had no doubt that the title Black Disaster was earned with much brutality.

On the other hand, the three sons of the Goblin General had their own military platoons as well. Previously, the goblin soldiers were aiding with the construction as a way to keep fit. But their main job was military duties when they signed the contract with Qiu Yue. Hence, they were exempted from construction the moment Military Sector 1 was established as the Goblin Soldiers assisted with the base's logistics until everything was set up.

Now with the military base up and running, the trio made their military platoons join Nubwort's training 'resort'. Furthermore, they did not abandon their men as they stripped their officer ranks in front of their goblins soldiers and joined the practice too. With the goblins added into the mix, Nubwort did what he was taught through these weeks in Jin's 'captivity'.

Instead of pitting Orcs against goblins, he had mixed the groups up, making it pretty even in terms of team size and variation. True enough, he saw tactics he never knew his Orc leaders could take, but he did not say a word of praise to them and instead, made them work harder.

When everyone was trained to the degree that Nubwort found it suitable, Qiu Yue then started to incorporate the Fortress Knight Golems into their training exercises and later challenge Nubwort to a battle of wits. There were inter sector fights, intra sector fights and even simulated fights at the entrances. (Of course, they did not use the real dungeon cave entrance. The System created teleported them to a temporary dungeon instance for them to test it out.)

As much as Qiu Yue was surprised with Nubwort tactics, thinking he would be more of an aggressive straightforward general, the Black Disaster learnt even more unconventional styles of tactics from Qiu Yue which broaden his horizons even further.

At this point, if the Orc General still felt any regrets being under Jin, he believed his father would rise from the dead and personally end his life for being ungrateful.

## **Chapter 610 Outsourcing Work**

Although Jin now possessed advanced Golems and competent soldiers at his disposal, he did not think of discounting standard military defences. This was primarily because the first few hundred metres of the entrances were restricted. He was not able to fill it with clay statues and it sort of bothered him to the point of mild paranoia.

Moloch explained to him that it was an open ground designated by the Dungeon Cave itself for the invading armies to assemble. Because of this, it prompted the dungeon supplier that he might potentially lose the element of surprise of getting the clay statues to attack on sight against any invading armies.

The Dungeon Core had affirmed that the few hundred metres of the entrance were not under its jurisdiction which the System had no way to tweak the rules of the Dungeon Core. Therefore it was unable to allow Jin and his minions to place any personal property in the open area.

Even if they do, the ground would naturally corrode anything that was in its path, as if Lady Gaia of the Dungeon World did not allow any defilement of her land. Hence, Jin decided to be more assertive in his surprise tactics should King Baal invades.

The dungeon supplier had ordered the goblins to transport the artilleries he used in the Goblin World to the Dungeon World. Those WW2 artilleries would be reused to aimed at the direction of the open area, which was at least three hundred metres wide.

As for the next couple hundred of metres that bordered the 'restricted' zone, it was massively cramped with the clay statues, waiting to pounce on the disarrayed army when the artillery bombardment begins. Flak guns were also brought into the Dungeon World to counter King Baal's air forces which Moloch described it as one of the most offensive superior troops in his disposal.

However, the Minotaur Lord had seen how those flak guns worked, and those wyvern riders would definitely be of no match towards Jin's air defences, a scene Moloch was personally dying to see.

Other than that, Qiu Yue did not wait too long to get the approval from Jin for the goblins to create the M4 Sherman Tanks. Regrettably, most of the engineers Qiu Yue had contracted were already busy with either the construction of the city or the production of the golems.

So, she had decided to outsource it to the goblins and orcs in the Goblin World. The adventurer's guild manager, Zhi Nu had placed an urgent job notice for any adventurers willing to earn a quick buck to come forth. Since Qiu Yue had provided Zhi Nu with a standard stack of contracts which, when filled up, the manager would be able to reveal the details and open a portal for them to enter a restricted factory zone to begin work immediately.

A few of the experienced engineers on site would teach them how to assemble the final parts of the tank which an abundance of manpower, brute strength and to a certain degree of precision.

Of course, the System had provided the necessary tools and machinery to lessen the workload of these temporary workers, so the assembly was not the main issue. It was the quality checklist that needed to be cleared and subsequent logistics after the tank assembly.

The transportation of spare parts like caterpillar tracks, armour plating and other components into various outposts required manpower, and that was where the adventurers came into play. And as the Orc adventurers assisted in doing the manual labour of transporting, the goblins were assigned with less strenuous tasks such as filling ammunition and stock taking. (The humans did a combination of both.)

Manufacturing of the ammunition was simple for the System to do, but the filling of the ammo clips required time and energy to be wasted. Although the process could be automated, it needed more investment in advanced machinery which the System felt it was a waste of money at this point in time. Thus, those goblin adventurers with deft hands were suitable for such jobs.

The pay was good for the adventurers, and it was extremely beneficial for the System too. The conversion for the dungeon dollar to the Goblin World's coins was like exchanging British pounds to a currency of a poorly developed country.

The System was saving a lot of money by using manual labour instead of the use of automation. In addition, many if not all of the adventurers hardly complained since the completion their daily tasks came with a free meal cooked by the Penguins.

Those who wished to earn more money would be allowed to sign a separate contract and help with the construction, but those contracts did not guarantee them any additional benefits other than monetary compensation, unlike the goblins which Qiu Yue had first contracted. (Fortunately, their contracts did cover them for death and injuries, which was why a number signed up without hesitation.)

With a fresh workforce, the Dungeon City Fortress was moving to completion even faster than before. Most of the defences were on par to a minimum standard, and Jin decided to text Hou Fei if he was missing anything else.

Though Hou Fei was a Panda Remnant which could be ordered at any time by Jin, the Astral Panda cultivator still felt a certain level of respect should be given. That was why he requested Hou Fei to come within the next week or so to have a final inspection and if there were any loopholes that needed to be filled.

Else, the only thing left in the Dungeon City agenda was the Pand-Atlantis. A series of high rise Condominiums were constructed within the Domes 1 and 2 as shown the hologram layout along with the assortment of amenities planned.

Unlike Qiu Yue who loved the complex and intricate layout of the Glass Dome 1, Jin was nauseated by it. He remembered why he did not choose civil engineering back when he was in university.

However, he did recognise how much effort Qiu Yue had put in. The details were slightly minute, but each of them had its own purpose as well as why it was placed that particular way.



Through the few years Qiu Yue was in the urban redevelopment programme during her stint, she had access to different building layouts as well as the basic stuff like the roads and piping systems. Thus before she officially quit, she did something similar to Ayse where she stole data from Ministry with the help of Kraft.

Unfortunately, Kraft did not have Foxy back then, but the data security system was so elementary that a piece of customised spyware was sufficient. All she needed was time to transfer the data into the thumb drive.

Similar to Foxy, Kraft's customised spyware left no traces behind nor signs of intrusion, so no one ever suspected her anything. Still, Kraft was also blessed that he now had Foxy when he wanted to conduct counter espionage against Sea Mesh.

The System noted that the data collection from Sea Mesh was somewhat faster and more frequent, indicating that the database was robust but not as groundbreaking as the secret servers the Chinese Military Intelligence used.

And unlike the Chinese Military intelligence incident, Kraft did not programme the second Foxy to terminate and instead, allow it to continue to stay in the shadows to comb for new data while it learned how to counter the latest security patches.

It was an evolving computer virus which Kraft eventually hope that it could potentially blackout their entire servers if there was a need to.

As for Qiu Yue, the stolen Ministry database gave her a plethora of information which she used the Sub System to sieve out the most optimal plans. She then fused and combined the most functional layouts together to create her dream version of Pand-Atlantis.

It was fortunate that even high rise building blueprint designs were in the stolen data, and that was when Qiu Yue recalled a law was made during her early days interning in the Ministry.

With that introduction of the new law, every construction company ought to send a copy sample of the housing plans. Be it existing housings or future confirmed bids, everything must be given to the Ministry of Urban Development as a record. This new law occurred in response to a major accident where an entire row of high rise apartments collapsed because of inferior construction materials. (The Triad Clan responsible for the company was severely reprimanded.)

So in order to hold future construction companies responsible, the Chinese government implemented the new law, resulting in thousands of housing plans to be upload into their database.

The number of overtime hours spent just to upload and index the data was a complete waste of time in Qiu Yue's opinion. Yet now, because of the hard work she had done previously when she was an intern, Qiu Yue had access to the most comprehensible database of housing blueprints the country had.

Naturally, the Sub System did pick and choose the best housing plans to best fit the Pand-Atlantis layout which subsequently Qiu Yue spent nights perfecting the formulae. That was partially why she was grateful for Moloch for taking over the command of the city's construction.

Contrary to the time when she was a salaried worker, Qiu Yue was now able to create the dream district she had ever wanted. All those flaws in the Shenzhen districts due to old infrastructure, budget constraints or management disapprovals were no longer an issue when working for Jin.

Well, there were budget limitations, but Qiu Yue refused to acknowledge it, which indirectly cause Jin to suffer from the shortage of money to build the Tree Mall.

Yet Jin and Qiu Yue did not know about this. They each believed that the shop was not earning enough. Only the System knew about everything and decided to keep its silence. But hey! Everything seemed to work out just fine. :)