

Dungeon S 611

Chapter 611 Expectations of Glass Dome 1

As it was Qiu Yue's precious pet project, she made sure that Jin listened to all the nonsense that she rambled out. (After all, she had to listen to his for the other parts of the meeting.)

"Alright, alright. Fire away. I like to know what you had in store for us." Jin surrendered and got to hear what she what to say.

"Before I carry on, I like to clarify on a few things on the record. From the past visions of this city, you eventually want Pand-Atlantis as a place for the cultivators to stay, right? Or do you wish to change to something similar to a hotel style kind of feel? Because, at this point, I can still make some amendments to suit your goals." Qiu Yue inquired as she liked to know whether would Jin regret his decision. But ultimately, the Empire Building Sub System User did not want all her and the monsters' work to go to waste.

"I am not entirely sure, to be honest. Initially, I wanted people to have a place to stay, especially for those who felt that the housing prices are too painful to afford. But when you mentioned hotel getaways, I feel that the scenario was entirely possible as well." Jin said, but Qiu Yue punched him at his arm.

"Make up your mind! That answer you gave is too wishy washy!" Qiu Yue pouted as she hated this part of Jin badly. He always wanted to have a compromise between solutions while that kind of attitude worked for several cases of his, it was not entirely the best way to work in life.

Sometimes, Jin have to choose a side and now was one of the few times. With the remaining budget and time left before the opening of the city, his decision was critical in deciding how Glass Dome 1 works. The forceful reminder by Qiu Yue did eventually shook Jin a little.

For once, Jin quietly sat down and stared at the hologram layout of Glass Dome 1. He did mention that he wanted to create this as a place for the cultivators to stay. But there were other thoughts in his mind too.

After all, this was a city in the Dungeon World, and it was also his chance to possibly make it famous. How so? If King Baal's army did invade Jin's Dungeon City Fortress, news would spread like wildfire how the almighty King Baal suffered a crushing defeat.

After the sounding victory, Jin could send out a call of arms to both monsters and adventurers. This potentially leads to an influx of immigrants hoping to join his city that defended against King Baal.

Given this world's taste for blood and war through dungeons, the inhabitants would love to fight against the infamous King Baal army and make a name for themselves.

And since only Glass Dome 1 would be the first to be available after the opening of the Dungeon City Fortress, he could take 'preorders' from wealthy adventurers and monsters to build their houses in Glass Dome 2. With a series of empty land plots all around, it provided space for other monsters with various sizes too.

But that was just one particular scenario in his head which he loved to achieve. If the first battle was a failure or if Jin could not attract the Dungeon World's inhabitants to his city, he would then had to rely on the cultivators in his shop to buy the apartments or at the very least rent them. With such a dilemma, he decided to pour it out for Qiu Yue and Moloch to hear and asked for their opinion.

"Oh? I did not expect you to think about the adventurers and monsters in their world. I always assumed that you will only cater this Dungeon City Fortress of yours for your cultivators." Moloch responded with an interested look in his face.

"I can only assure you that what you said was more or less accurate. Cities with reputation do indeed attract adventurers and monsters of all sorts."

"Mmm, Actually I beg to differ." Qiu Yue raised her objection without hesitation. "I will suggest you stick to the plan where you provide the city to the cultivators and treat the adventurers and monsters as the tourists."

"Why? Aren't we building a city in the dungeon world? Wouldn't it be natural for those adventurers and monsters to enter?" Jin asked.

"System prefer Qiu Yue's plan too. While adventurers will go for raids too, they are a source of inconsistent amount of income. Monsters might be a cheap addition to the city defences, but System and the Dungeon Core had to pay them for their services." The System spoke out its opinion for once.

"Not just that. People tend to fear change instead of embracing it. The technology we utilised, the creativity we put into this place. Only cultivators with the assumption that this is some sort of dungeon instance would appreciate it." Qiu Yue explained.

"The adventurers also have an inherent bias against Dungeon Cities because they always assumed they are ruled by monsters. And monsters are their livelihood to live and survive. If you do not remember, Moloch said that only a fraction of adventurers would be willing to stay in dungeon cities."

"Unfortunately, I did say that." Moloch smiled weakly.

"And like the System had said, monsters who settle here need to be paid. We have enough on our plate, and I solely need an accountant to run our money properly despite the fact that we have a System."

"...Because our cash flows go in and out too quickly?" Jin asked, feeling a little guilty.

"Heh, glad you know. The System can calculate but cannot predict our windfall, our potential assets, and most importantly, we do not have any investments. All of these building...of great wonders, we rely our expenses on trading in the black market and our store-"

"We have the Tree Mall now, we can increase the number of tenants to-"

"Not the point! You are charging them cheaply that if not for the 3% commission of the net sales that I had written in the contract, you would only be receiving peanuts from them. But what I want to say is that if we only have someone that can play the stock markets and have multiple connections with other businesses, we could be better off." Qiu Yue said, and suddenly a thought struck on her and so did Jin.

"Mr Know-It-All? I saw him playing stock markets on his phone a number of times and judging from the way he analysed battles, I think he could be a good addition to our team." Qiu Yue suggested, and Jin was in a lurch.

"System, can you create an NPC that plays the stock market? Or maybe Kraft to do it?" Jin requested and totally ignored Qiu Yue.

"Hello? Why did you suddenly change the subject? Is there something wrong with Mr Know-It-All?" Qiu Yue questioned, but Jin gave a half-ass response saying that it would be better to have the System to create an NPC which we can fully trust since investments involved with boatloads of money.

"But you roped me in? I am a stranger who did not know anything until I was exposed to the System, and it taught me things? How about that Amura Rei? He is even more of a total stranger to us!" Qiu Yue said and saw Jin's face filled with dilemma again. She then stopped arguing and took a breath in.

"Fine, get an NPC from the System and made us owe it an abyss worth of debt." Qiu Yue said with a bit of spite.

Chapter 612 Creating Value

"Calm down, everyone. There is no use if we argue about suggestions. Qiu Yue, I understand your concerns, and you want Jin to improve, but perhaps he might have some reasons he could not reveal." Moloch tried to quell the uneasy atmosphere in the Dungeon Maker.

"Heh, so much for transparency. He promised that I could work unhindered and would not lie anything to me." Qiu Yue knew Jin enough to see that he was hiding something.

"He did not lie to you, Master was merely omitting some information from you. Do not confuse the sin of omission and lying. The latter is one I do not tolerate and trust me, I know when he is bluffing." Kraft suddenly entered the Dungeon Maker room, and somehow Jin felt even more uneasy.

"But understand this, little Red Panda. He is your boss. You can advise, guide or even beat him to a plummet to make him see your view, but you can never overwrite him." Kraft spoke each and every word in a slow and menacing slur while glaring into her eyes, reminding her that she gave her life to the System and Jin the moment she accepted to be a Sub System User.

"Then what if he is misguided? What if he is wrong? What if he is adamant about being right even though his actions are unjustifiable and deserved to be punished? All I know is that the System will not do anything unless Jin affects its agenda." Qiu Yue did not back down.

"I will punish him. Harshly. And trust me, I been through enough to see if a User is bad or not." Kraft said as he placed his hand onto Qiu Yue's shoulder and suddenly a burst of his memories flow through the Red Panda Cultivator's brain. If not for the protection of the Sub System, Qiu Yue might have already passed out.

Tears involuntarily flowed out of Qiu Yue, but as she came back to reality, she quickly swiped them away and looked at Kraft with a more trusting look.

"Very good, that is one thing I like about you, Little Red Panda. Your resilience is commendable. Now, continue on with the meeting in peace, okay? I will just seat at one corner and use your blabbering as a lullaby to go to sleep." Kraft's lips curled ever so slightly to give his approval to Qiu Yue before going to the corner of the Dungeon Maker.

"...Well, so where are we?" Qiu Yue asked, and Moloch managed to steer the conversation back. As for Jin, he had been thinking what Qiu Yue had in mind and decided to appease her by offering an olive branch.

"We can make Glass Dome 1 as a place for cultivators to stay. Since we are using this city in the long run, its best to foster a collective identity than picking up stragglers from the Dungeon World." Jin said, but Qiu Yue was not as excited as before.

Still, she did her job with professionalism. "If we are letting cultivators stay here, we need to let them know that this is not just some Dungeon Instance Hotel. It is a place where they could really stay for an extended period of times."

"But I have a few questions on my part. If we want residents in the place instead of like erm hotels. Will there be an issue with our local government? Like deliveries of official letters, their housing tax etc? I mean, we are providing them 'a dungeon instance' to stay." Jin asked sincerely, and Qiu Yue seemed to have all of this covered.

"I had the Empire Building Sub System to look into our by-laws and housing estate regulation. What we do is technically a loophole because no one had ever created a dungeon instance real enough or substantial to hold for decades. We will be the 'first' to do it." Qiu Yue said and added that they need to be convincing enough to let people know that living in the Dungeon City Fortress is an alternative.

If they had fooled cultivators into thinking that the Goblin World and to some extent, the Farming World is a dungeon instance, there should be no exception for this too.

The only problem is that their land had no real value at the moment.

"So, we have to create the illusion of value on our side. Usually, people buy a place is because of a few criteria." Qiu Yue showed four fingers out. "Privilege, Comfort, Space, Convenience and lastly price."

"I assume, the concept of Privilege is how luxurious the place or unique the area could be?" Jin asked, and Qiu Yue nodded her head.

"The Pand-Atlantis Glass Dome itself is already a very unique concept, and staying in here will definitely be a notch better than all the other places out there. We have the illusion of comfort because the System will always be monitoring the area, so crimes can be quickly resolved." Qiu Yue started to explain the criteria they had achieved.

"As for Space, the Sub System is still fixing the prices per square feet to make it competitive rate among the ones in the market. After which, we will mark it up. Lastly, convenience is definitely not an issue, I have placed all the basic amenities we needed, like shophouses etc. Else, they can teleport back to the Tree Mall and have their meals."

"In fact, we might have something that stands out to attract buyers which no one in your world will ever have," Moloch spoke out, and he took a card out and place it on the table.

It was a picture of a clown walking into a cave.

"The chance to bring them to various dungeons in this world. We will have the last laugh for taking their money and making them fight to earn more resources for the city." Moloch said, and Kraft who was nearly asleep, half smirked at that opportunity.

"Ah, that sounds really a devious plan you have there!" Qiu Yue began to be filled with happy anticipation.

"Have the cultivators pay us money to stay on a monthly basis and organised a large raid to nearby dungeon caves at a small cost. If they win, their dungeon cores will direct remit money and resources to our city while we pay the cultivators in Panda Medals. If we do this on a large scale, it could be possible that we might earn ourselves a Metropolis in less than five years." Moloch stated, and that made Jin stared at Moloch.

"Won't it affect the ecosystem of the dungeon caves around the area? To have an influx of ...outer world travellers using the resources here?" Jin questioned the viability of the organised dungeon cave 'outings'.

"Hahah! Never! There are always more dungeon caves dying to have some business than cities around."

"Heh! Not to mention, there is not a need to create too many instances too! We save money, earn money and get more resources! That is a totally a win win situation for us!" Qiu Yue replied, and Jin seemed to like that idea a lot.

"Oh and if we ever have an invasion, we can call on the cultivators to aid us as well. On the plus side, we do not even have to pay them money, just Panda Medals." Moloch added.

"Fantastic! Let's do this then. I will get Kiyu to start thinking of the advertisements ideas while we continue to prepare for the impending invasion." Jin said, and he finally wrapped up the meeting for the Dungeon City Fortress.

Chapter 613 Beyond His Reach

Qiu Yue and Moloch left the Dungeon Maker first since her Empire Building Sub System would compile what needed to be done into minutes of the meeting. Lord Wolte was also teleported back to his followers while Kraft was still at the corner, seemingly sleeping rather peacefully. As for Jin, he continued to stay in the Dungeon Maker while he looked at the ceiling to collect his thoughts.

The issue with Mr Know-It-All still bothered him and for the old man not to appear ever since Kraft went to infiltrate the database was a bit too much of a coincidence. Jin even messaged Mr Know-It-All a few times, telling him about the new Tree Mall and such in the Pandamonium App.

Yet, there was no response at all.

"User, for your request to create an NPC to predict the stock markets would cost an astronomical amount which you have no money to pay for at the moment." The System stated

"Isn't it just mathematical models and prediction? Why would be such an expensive NPC to create?" Jin queried while he leaned back on his chair.

"Because of the potential value it will bring in the future, and the System needs to weave a few souls together to create said NPC for there were no such NPCs nor Bellators in System's possession that can do such a job." The System responded, causing Jin sighed.

"Can I get Kraft to hack the stock market and manipulate it?"

"Don't bother thinking any further. I am somewhat a hacker through the System's abilities and not some real life maths or economics whiz. Besides, I am also not willing to learn something so useless for the future." Kraft mumbled from the corner. If not for Jin's acute hearing, he would have thought Kraft was merely slurring in his sleep.

"Then I just abandon that thought and earn money the hard way," Jin said to comfort himself.

"Alternatively, you can find Mr Know-It-All and get answers from him." The Fox Bellator suggested as he stretched his arms a bit.

"You know where he is?" Jin suddenly stood up upon hearing Kraft's response.

"Something like that." Kraft yawned as he lazily eyed towards Jin's direction. "Ayse's aid to infiltrate Sea Mesh brought me some very fascinating data. System, pull me nearer to Jin. I am too lazy to move myself."

The System did what Kraft requested, and the Original Bellator tapped on the digital console, bringing up a map of Shenzhen. But it was no ordinary map as Jin could roughly see that it was similar to the pictures he saw when he had the cheapskate satellite in the Goblin War.

"Apparently, Sea Mesh has a private satellite which was for their servers and communications purposes. However, I found in its logs that they were also used to track a few individuals. At first, I thought they were just monitoring some of their key competitors, you know, the usual business spying stuff." Kraft babbled, but Jin was surprised by what he said.

"They are rich enough to buy a private satellite? I know they are the leading few companies in Dungeon Tech, but I did not expect them to be that rich!"

"Yeah? You think your dungeon servers are that cheap? Not to mention those high tier dungeon suppliers always buy their stuff from Sea Mesh, including software, technical support that kind of stuff. Now I AM surprised how little you know about your partner before reaching out to them." Kraft said, and Jin was a little embarrassed. He admitted that he trusted Ke Loong too quickly when he was recommended by Mr Know-It-All.

"In any case, judging from the train of thoughts, I assume that this private satellite somehow tracked Mr Know-It-All as well?" Jin asked since he did not need a full version of the story from Kraft.

"What?? You don't want to hear how I impressively cracked the code and managed to find what Ke Loong was tracking? Perhaps, some conspiracy that the Sea Mesh is related to some sort of shady organisation and he is aiding people that are worse than the Triads?"

"You gave just me your impressions and summary of the story already, so no," Jin answered making Kraft all pouty too.

"Heh! No wonder Qiu Yue was angry with you just now! BYE!" Kraft said as he stood and directly walked away from Jin.

"Hey! Wait! You serious?!" Jin got a bit annoyed by Kraft's playful behaviour, but he knew he had to play along to learn more.

"Yeah, I am serious. I have decided that it is best not to let you know about this yet. It's too dangerous for you, kid." Kraft turned to smile momentarily before waving goodbye.

"Then why did you dangle that carrot in front of me for?" Jin felt like throwing his weapons at Kraft even though he knew he was not up to match.

"Because I want to let you know, like the stock market, there is always something ominous hiding in the shadows of the water. A fish that will always be bigger than you. Right now, you are still nothing but a pawn in this field of business. You think that you have grown a lot? Think again. This is merely the beginning." Kraft turned and told Jin off how naïve he still was.

"For now, I suggest you swim under the fishes that had bestowed you with some safety. When you have sufficient power, money and prestige. Then you stick your neck out and risk it all." After reprimanding Jin a little, the Original Bellator's pose relaxed.

"Still, it's your life. Like I said to Qiu Yue, I can advise, guide and maybe provide an illusion of safety. But ultimately, you are still the Boss. You can do whatever you want." Kraft then stopped what he was saying as he tilted his head slightly to the right and lifted his index finger up as he provoked Jin by calling out to his Master to go against him.

"That is if you writhe that information out of me."

Chapter 614 Extra: Agent L

"How long do we have to be their cleaning crew?" The lady said as she tied her shimmering aquamarine hair up to a small little ponytail. There was no need to hide her hair colour at the point of time when they were in the northern mountains of Dongguan and Huizhou which were neighbouring cities from Shenzhen.

"Because our sponsors pay us well enough to do this?" Mr Know-it-all peered into the distance as he glanced at the overarching night sky. He was in his jeep, taking a rest and drinking his wife's oolong tea as usual.

"Meh, I thought you did not want to do anything with them anymore. Or are you using this as an excuse to go out with me? Won't your wife be jealous that you are spending the Christmas night with a sweet young thing?"

"You? Sweet young thing? Please give me a break, Li. You are anything but that. Besides, if you know this is a boring task, why did you join me and not go investigate that dungeon supplier? You always wanted to know the location of your Master since you are now an independent contractor. I believed that it is a good place to start." Mr Know-it-all mocked his partner.

"Heh! As if my master is that young. He should be about 40 to 50 odd years old by now. And besides, if no one takes care of you during missions, who will? Your leg does not work as well as it used to." Ryuli sniggered towards Mr Know-it-all as she clenched her fist to feel the chi coursing through her.

Though her memory of that incident was a bit foggy, Ryuli had always remembered how her 'master' passed her the very thing that allowed her to survive before someone else found her struggling inside that god-forsaken place. Yet at the same time, she was curious why did he merely leave her inside the dark, filthy underground cell when he broke open the ceiling.

Was it because he wanted to test her? Just give her the means to survive? Or did he encounter someone along the way and was killed in the process? Too many questions which Ryuli had pondered over the years. She was neither grateful nor bore any malicious intent towards her master ...Just curious.

Thankfully, it was none other than Mr Know-it-all who discovered her and decided to take Ryuli under his wing. He initially wanted to send her to an orphanage but finding out that she had cultivation powers activated within her as well as the fact that her father killed an entire temple full of innocent people, Mr Know-it-all changed his mind.

Mr Know-it-all also later realised that her cultivation was not inherent to what her family was known for. Her mother was from a family of Dancing Dragon Style, a subsidiary group under the Dangerous Dragon Triad. She was subsequently excommunicated from the Triads after she decided to marry a commoner for her spouse.

However, she paid the price a little too harsh considering she had to strip all of her fortune, name and even artificially sealing her Dantian to ensure that she could not cultivate. Still, she persevered and be with the man she loved.

So, Mr Know-it-all was remarkably interested upon seeing what Ryuli had in her cultivation was not a dragon but instead, a panda. Not only that, the chi she exuded had traces of mana in it as well. While he cannot adopt a kid due to the sensitive nature of his job, Mr Know-it-all decided to enrol her into the Special Training for the Young and Talented within the Chinese Military.

In that programme, he knew that she would be well fed, educated and trained to be a competent field agent. The only problem was that she would not be living like a normal girl. However, Mr Know-it-all had a hunch that even she could, the society will blacklist her, scrutinise her because of the history of her family.

In a way, this was Mr Know-it-all's method of showing concern to her, and when he occasionally entered the programme as a special instructor, he will make sure there everything was fair to her in the most reasonable way. (After all, it was a strict programme, there was only so much he could do.)

In retrospect for Ryuli, she figured that she could have gotten worse in the normal society as compared to the training programme that she was drafted to. Some of the students in that programme had been in an even more obscure situation which Ryuli felt that she was rather fortunate.

"Seems like we picked up some static noises. Agent L, go take a look." Mr Know-it-All said as he observed the various monitors in the jeep that they were in.

"Understood, Agent K." Ryuli got out of the jeep and checked her combat umbrella at her back as well as the short sword she held at her waist. Other than that, she had a standard battle jacket with a unique heat tech ability, along with long sleeved combat shirt that kept her warm during the Christmas Winter. It was made with nanofibres that are capable of withstanding a few monster hits along without an inscription.

"Here, take these inscriptions and placed them on your shirt and jacket. As well as your weapons. I do not want a repeat like last time." Agent K said to Ryuli as she took the temporary offensive and defensive inscriptions to observe for a while before applying them.

"That incident was not my fault, and I guess these inscription charms are from that dungeon supplier? Looks decent enough." Ryuli replied and noticed one of them was a little different from the others. She queried whether if it was from the same dungeon supplier store as well.

"While I had not been there for some time because of this 'cleaning', I got a few of my lackeys to buy whatever they have so yes, they are all from there. Even the limited edition one that you are holding. Apparently, it's their Boss' Special for Christmas. He infused his chi into it to bring a sort of Panda attack out regardless of cultivation style. Sold in limited quantities so it's one of a kind...sort of." Agent K replied.

"And I thought you might want to have some fun killing those monsters since its Christmas, and I am interested in what it will do especially since my lackeys had already spent money on it."

"Aww, so sweet of you. Thanks, Agent K. I will make sure it will go with a bang." Ryuli winked at Mr Know-it-all as she patched it onto her Combat Umbrella.

"That charm contained the very same chi that I have. How is that possible?" She thought to herself as she pretended to check her sidearm and the items in her storage ring before departing. "Could that Master be working for the Dungeon Supplier? Is that why K always lurked in that small store?"

"The static noises are getting louder. Go. Now." Agent K ordered, and Ryuli snapped out of her thoughts as she nodded her head and disappeared in a flash.

Chapter 615 A Polite Gif

Obviously, Jin did not fall to Kraft's provocation and decided to do a little bit of work before he returned to his room for the rest of the night. But instead of sleeping, he put on his outerwear and walked along the streets in the middle of the night.

After what Kraft had said as a grim reminder not to get success over his head, Jin guessed a bit of time out would do him good. He initially thought sleeping would help, but he remembered Ming was waiting

for him with a Black Tortoise at hand. Thus he decided a walk in the freezing night could help with his mind.

The streets were rather quiet, but the stroll in the cold winter night was a refreshing change of environment instead of the stifling air conditioned Dungeon Maker room. Jin walked aimlessly for a moment but eventually found himself in front of the police station. The lights in the station itself were evident, with Jin believed a number of them would still be on night duty.

"Ah, I never really thanked them for their services..." Jin said to himself and asked the System to purchase and teleport a large metal container filled with an assortment of food into his storage ring.

"Done. The necessary amount had been deducted from your account." The System stated as Jin pulled it out from his storage ring. A policeman who recently came back from a patrol suddenly shouted at Jin. Since he could not see clearly but a silhouette from the bright street lights near the police station, he wondered suspiciously whether the man was plotting against the police.

"Only at closer inspection, both of them realised they knew each other."

"Se Lang?" Jin asked, and Se Lang extended his hand out to greet and congratulate Jin.

"Boss! What are you doing here? You scared me for a moment that you are planting some bomb or something!" Se Lang said as two police officers came out of the station upon hearing the initial yelling.

"I just thought to send some appreciation gifts for the effort you guys done for m- the district. Wanted to place here so I can be a bit anonymous and not feel too erm you know, look as if I am bribing the police." Jin said to Se Lang as the two police officers came down from the stairs. They realised Se Lang had it under control, but Jin told them not to go away just yet.

"What is inside?" Se Lang asked as Jin opened the front compartment of the metal container, revealing a series of delicious looking food.

"Just something to warm the stomachs a little," Jin said, and the three police officers were cheering. "Call the other officers to get it, and return the container to me tomorrow or something like that."

"You not going to stay and eat as well? Its looks like there is a lot of food in this container!" Se Lang said as the other police officers agreed that the metal container which looked like a library cabinet stacked with bowls of delicious smelling foodstuff.

"Nah, I am just strolling a little before going back home," Jin said and Se Lang told Jin not to be shy. Even the other police officers told Jin to join them for the food.

"Yeah, you aided us in our training, and we even heard a rumour about an incoming Joint Police Military exercise! Tell us a bit more about it!" The officer beside Se Lang said.

"If not, we have to arrest you!" One of the officers joked and later told Jin that he needed to be somewhere else, then it's fine.

"Alright, alright, I will join you guys for a while. I am hopeful just not behind bars!" Jin finally decided to stay behind for a while, and Se Lang escorted Jin to their cafeteria after he kept the container in his storage ring.

When the rest of the officers were notified that there was a metal container full of food from Dungeons and Pandas, most of them did not delay any further and rush to the cafeteria for it. (Less the essential personnel on important posts.)

"Jin! I heard this is your doing. Thanks for the treat!" Inspector Lee An said as he saw Se Lang and Jin sitting in one corner of the cafeteria. Almost everyone in the police station knew who he was and did not mind just this once for him to stick around for a while. Of course, with supervision by Se Lang.

"Try the cheesecake, it's terrific." Se Lang said as he pushed a slice of it towards his pal.

"Belated Merry Christmas to you, Inspector," Jin said to Lee An as the inspector realised this was an excellent opportunity to introduce Jin to the Captain of the Tiangong District Police Station. Thus, he went off for a while and grab the Captain Mao Pai Huo to Jin.

"Ah, Jin. Nice to see you again. I did not expect to meet you at the Police Station." Pai Huo extended his hand to shake his hand.

"Captain, Merry Christmas to you too," Jin replied which made the inspector a bit curious.

"You two met before?"

"Just briefly. I was off duty and decided to see the Tree Mall opening ceremony. Tiger Head Hu Yuan Ba incidentally saw me and introduced me to him. It was a brief meet, but I must say, the Tree Mall was indeed a spectacular addition not only to the district but Shenzhen as a whole. Because of you, Central considered revising our annual budget and in turn, our training budget and sales with you." Pai Huo said with a delightful grin.

"I look forward to more business. Oh, and it also comes to my understanding that you guys were not allowed to budge into the scene as ordered but still did your best to capture most of the Rat Triad Members." Jin thanked the Police Captain and subsequently, Pai Huo requested the dungeon supplier to come into his office.

Upon reaching his office with a few slices of desserts on his plate, Pai Huo closed the blinds and locked the door and placed a magic scroll on the walls, activating an anti acoustic barrier around the room.

"Seems serious concerning the things you wished to discuss," Jin said as Pai Huo settled to his office chair and tasted one of the cheesecakes.

"I like to strike a deal." Pai Huo offered.

Chapter 616 Contingencies Needed

"Didn't Inspector Xue Ping made a deal for the police already? If you wish to revise the deal because of better budgeting, I do not think we need all this sort of secrecy." Jin tried to ease the tension a little since Pai Huo looked rather adamant to seek for his help.

"Heh. I am not looking at that deal. Xue Ping is fully capable liaising with the HR people to get the numbers and present you with a revision of the training deal. What I am here to ask is actually with regards to the Joint Police Military exercise that you would be performing in the coming month." Pai Huo said as he started to type something on his computer.

"What I am about to show you is classified, but at the very least it will show you the severity of it. I am entrusting you because Tiger Head Hu said that you now have the clearance to know some things and he actually wanted to schedule a meet early next month." Pai Huo continued. "However, to my surprise, here you are in the station when I am doing the obligatory night shift of the month. Might as well take the chance to brief you."

Pai Huo then turned his laptop around to Jin and showed him the current situation that he wished to brief the dungeon supplier. "I understand from Head Hu that you expressed a bit of hesitation in creating the joint Police Military dungeon exercise early, but this is the reason why Head Hu wanted to fasten the pace."

What the Police Captain had shown Jin was a map of the northern borders of Dongguan and Huizhou. And when he later tapped on the keyboard, it revealed a congregation of colours in the forested mountains. It seemed like it represented the intensity... the magnitude of an observed event and Jin inferred them to be the accumulation of the Monster Horde based on their conversation topic.

"The border guards are doing their best to suppress the monsters, and we even have private hire recommended by the Chinese Military Intelligence to reduce the threat. Hopefully, they find the leader of the Monster Horde."

"And? How does the joint exercise have any bearing with the suppression of the Monster Horde? The way you say it as if you have control over the current situation."

"We have to prepare for contingencies even if the border guard manage to annihilate their leader. Besides the exercise does matter. We do not want any sort of panic to be happening for no reason, especially the accumulation of military power in the cities."

"With the Chinese New Year looming in February, productivity will double and possibly a 24 hour work shift for most companies. Evacuation of Dongguan and Huizhou will have moderate to significant economic impact." Pai Huo said, and Jin still did not get why they need his help.

"Please don't beat around the bush. If you do not tell me what you want out of me, I do not know how to help you." Jin said, making Pai Huo stared into blank space for a while. He snapped out of it quickly and eventually appreciated Jin's honesty.

"Guess, I have been dealing with too much bureaucracy. My bad. Alright, I shall give you straight. We have information that you and Sea Mesh developed a mass produced portal device which is successful in transporting people." Pai Huo started the explanation of his request so bluntly that now it was Jin's turn to be startled.

"I guess, Ke Loong demonstrated it to the police and military?" Jin queried, and he quietly nodded his head.

"He wanted to sell it to us as part of his future business endeavour. Usually, this kind of tech, we will love to use it for military purposes first and later the public but Ke Loong was insistent that he had a promise to fulfil first. I assume that promise was you when he mentioned that he needed to meet his dungeon supplier request before meeting others."

"I assumed the money was not that great?" Jin joked, and Pai Huo shook his head.

"I do not know the full figure, but rumours said that the military was willing to pay three to four times the price for priority usage. When Ke Loong refused, they even up the offer to another two times and yet he was adamant about keeping his promise." Pai Huo explained.

"That is why we are going to you. You are the only one capable of letting us use those portal devices for a sudden raid in the northern mountains."

"Wait. So, you guys are not interested in the dungeon instance in the first place but wanted a teleportation portal while disguising the intention as a gathering to test out the dungeon instance?" Jin asked, and Pai Huo had no other way to sugarcoat the truth.

"Head Hu will provide generous numeration for the police side, and I believe he is trying to contact Snake General Hou Fei to discuss the details. I wanted to let you know earlier, and at the very least, you might have some time to talk to Ke Loong on shifting the portal devices for the dungeon instance raid."

"And I assume I cannot refuse this?" Jin was filled with anger though he did not show it out openly. But he finally realised what Kraft was talking about all along being just a small fish in the ocean.

"It would be wise to accept the deal. We are facing a national crisis, but I did mention previously that we have private hires and the border guards trying to deal with the situation before it escalates even further. The date that Head Hu gave you is already a generous estimate. He probably wanted the police and army to mobilise as soon as possible. Yet for some reason, he respected you and was willing to wait until the start of New Year." Pai Huo replied.

"Also, if you do accept graciously, I can guarantee that you will maintain your prosperity for the upcoming year." The Police Captain later emphasised that he was merely a messenger trying to perform some goodwill for Jin.

"...I understand." The dungeon supplier said slowly, but the police captain told him not to give up.

"Assuming if the border guards can destroy their leader before the appointed gathering time, we might be able to proceed with your dungeon instance. If that happens, please be merciful to the Police teams." Pai Huo said with a little smile on his face as he thanked Jin for the wonderful dinner gift.

Jin was given a lift home back by Se Lang in a patrol car as he happily told Jin how his two girlfriends had bought him a new Scythe weapon as well as a plushie from his store. But even with all that rambling, Jin only beamed at Se Lang as he started to formulate the course of actions that needed to be done in his head.

There was no time for moping or feeling betrayed. Jin had to use whatever opportunities he had at his disposal and make the best of the situation. Hopefully, someday he will rise above them, and all this nonsense might go away.

Now he understood why Ming potentially harboured more than just animosity against the Royal Zodiac clans and for good reasons. "I will not care for revenge, but I will make sure one day I will be the one utilising them as pawn pieces on the chessboard." Jin thought to himself as he thanked Se Lang for the ride.

The total revamp of the shop instance can wait for it was time to get new allies before the new year, and hopefully an upgrade for the System.

Chapter 617 The Northern Bulwark

After a quick rest in the sleeping capsule, Jin woke up to check the status of the Farming World. The Dungeon Supplier needed to know if he could utilise any additional monsters for the raid in Giant World.

That was because it was the first place he had in mind for new allies. He kept it from Peppers for now since her intention was to obliterate the entire city into dust.

That would be madness, but so was coordinating a search and rescue operation, in addition to the intent of defeating the reigning Salamander family. If all else fails, at the very least he would still have the Salamanders in the worst outcome possible.

Jin invited Gold to give him a debrief and the latest development was that he had managed to evacuate most of the towns they had liberated to the Trading Town of Wecha, the place where the three goblins had a massive fight against the Demon Rats.

This was because Town Wecha was the biggest and had the most defensive features a town could have. Not to mention it was the closest to the seaports where the remaining Northern Military forces were guarding.

The liberation of Wecha had led to the remaining general in charge of defences convinced to aid the townfolks. Silver, Gold's cousin, was the diplomat to make it happen. While he might not be a very good fighter and a bad temper to top it off, his tongue was as silver as it could be.

He not only convinced the remaining Northern General, Matt Umiterus, to send its military forces to Wecha, Silver had also given him an open channel to the Southern Stars Organisation and Western Skies.

With the two other organisations done scouting and sabotage missions respectively, they had provided the information for the general to organise his troops. They hoped that bigger raid attempts could be executed in the areas near the seaports so they might have a safer perimeter.

Silver and Meomi subsequently discussed with the two other organisations on hiring more of their members, but also came with a cost to borne. Fortunately, General Matt also being the remaining official representative of the Northern Kingdom, he had agreed to take on the expenses.

Silver did not know how the situation would pan out at first, but according to his soldiers, General Matt was considered as the few sensible and honourable general as well as an incredibly lucky chap.

Because of his budding talents, the newly appointed young general was being sent to Western Region for a military training exercise which none of the Northern Generals liked.

They felt that the Western Military was too ...wilful in nature. They did not have the rigidity of the Northern Military, but the bilateral military exercise had to be participated as a show of friendship between the two regions.

Thus, they made the general Matt to go instead.

Little did they know, the young general was able to accommodate to the Western Military attitudes and even became drinking buddies with the top brass of the Western Military.

That was why when the Western Skies recognised that General Matt was in the negotiation table, the adventurer's guild agreed too readily to provide assistance to him. (The head of the adventurer's guild was one of the Top Brass and was all the more happy to aid Matt compared to any other Northern Generals.)

But that was the only easy part General Matt had. For the past months, he had been struggling against the Demon Rats the day he returned to the Northern Kingdom. He and his army fought bit by bit, inch by inch to get back a seaport town.

Some of the veteran soldiers even recalled that the fight started off the shores when the rats attempted to swim and board their ships. Subsequently, the other seaports were liberated by using the various surprise tactics he learnt from the Western Military.

It was through his valiant efforts it was able to secure the seaports days after it was dominated by the Demon Rats. By denying the Demon Rats the seaports, General Matt was able to contain the Demon Rat infestation within the Northern Region.

And for that reason alone, the remaining townsfolk in the seaport worked hard to support the defending army.

Trade might have been reduced, but having a sea trade route meant that food and replenishment of armaments were available ...just at a higher cost. Yet, the other regions knew the implications of this untold horror after General Matt gave the other region's representatives a glimpse of the grim reality. Consequently, they lowered the cost of trading essential food and arms while some trade companies even donated for free to aid their cause.

The only thing the other regions did not offer was manpower as they too were busy shoring up their coastal and sea defences. Patrols were done regularly in their oceanic borders, in case the Demon Rats learn how to swim. Some of the Western Military wanted to send their men, but their government was quick to shoot that down. (That was mainly the reason why Silver initially used organisations as a proxy to reach to them. Soldiers of fortune were still better than no soldiers aiding the North.)

Ironically, not one of the region ever thought of conquering the Northern Region. Perhaps they were scared of the unknown, or maybe they wanted the Northern Region to be entirely infested with Demon Rats without any Northerners left.

If not for the fact that General Matt needed to protect the remaining free Northerners, he would have personally sailed a ship towards each kingdom and punch the leaders for being such heartless cowards.

However, all these constant doubts and worries were being washed away with the tide of good news from Silver. As Gold and the other monsters had previously raided foodstuff and armaments from the various towns, the army in the seaports was restocked with adequate supplies. The gold they stole were also given to General Matt as a supplement to his war chest.

Townfolks from the evacuated areas were also inspired to join General Matt's army, the Northern Bulwark, thus replenishing the manpower to train new recruits as well to fill in miscellaneous jobs like logistics and administration.

In return, the Northern Bulwark extended their defensive borders to Wecha though General Matt was extremely apprehensive about stretching his forces too thin. But he had to show his gratitude in some way or another.

Silver laughed and told him not to worry.

True enough, days after the agreement, ships mysteriously appeared to the various seaports carrying the Dark Templars' insignia. Dark Templar Commander Zieg introduced himself to General Matt and told him that the Eastern Dark Templars would be helping the Northern Bulwark in exchange for authority to operate on its own. They even passed on more foodstuff and supplies to the Northern Bulwark before marching on.

At first General Matt was worried that these zealots would be a hindrance to the Northern Region future, but he figured that was a problem for a later date. The Northern Bulwark agreed, and the first place the Dark Templars went was officially reinforcing Wecha.

By then, most of the townfolks had already acknowledged them as their saviours and protectors since they were also the ones who escorted them during the evacuation. (Just not officially.)

Jin was impressed by Gold and his teams' work and felt that the evacuation was a decent tactic to stall time against the Demon Rat armies. However, he was saddened that the Demon Rats could potentially utilise the resources left behind in those deserted towns.

"Some of the citizens stayed back to gather whatever valuable resources they could find and pass it to the respective evacuation teams. After which, we used those metal carriages erm ...Jeeps to send them back to their groups." Gold explained that he had already thought of that.

"While we gave the impression that we are going to burn them underground, we actually teleport the goods and supplies to Commander Zieg as teleported the ships from the Eastern Regions to the seas of the Northern Region to make our actions more believable. System nearly killed us for using so many resources with the portal efforts."

"That's great to hear!" Jin replied knowing that all did not go to waste.

"And Boss ...you should have already known that Peppers will not give a pass to such sweet, vulnerable targets when their armies reached the towns for a pit stop." Gold said with a smirk on his face.

"You don't mean?" Jin started to chuckle a little.

"Let's just say Ayse had a wonderful field experiment with Peppers." Gold winked at him and continued to debrief Jin the finer details of his report.

Chapter 618 Angsty Frog

With a few pieces of pictorial evidence by Gold and video recordings from Ayse, Jin saw the destruction left by Peppers. Without a doubt, her explosion spells were as impressive as ever.

"Heh, I remembered that her something, something super explosion was being thrown by a giant human silhouette in our time at the Fishing World. So I expected the same kind of spells, but now there are so many variations." Jin said as he glanced through the videos.

There was a human silhouette shooting an arrow causing the explosion, another that used a large gigantic hammer to 'flatten' the entire town, causing explosive aftereffects and the last was merely a sword punching out of the ground and subsequently exploding.

Ayse even placed some afterthoughts and commentary in the videos and said that the more creativity Peppers was with her creation of the explosive spells, the stronger it was. At first, Ayse had made Peppers cast her explosion spells in the simplest possible manner and improve on it.

Oddly enough, casting a simple explosion spell had a reverse effect on both the mana consumption and the damage effectiveness, which made Ayse wondered what kind of magician Peppers was. With some minor tweaks to her spell commands, as well as a detailed analytical breakdown of her mana consumption, Ayse had made Peppers improved her magical powers.

The result was plain obvious with the obliteration of the three towns, but Peppers wanted more. (Thankfully, Ayse was able to beat some sense into her.)

"While we have annihilated a bulk of the Demon Rat forward armies, there was still a large portion of them heading to Wecha. At the very least, we can expect they won't have any reinforcements from the East and West. Too bad, the townfolks had no place to return at the end of the war...should we survive this ordeal." Gold sighed with a heavy heart.

"What are you talking about? This is the best time for us to aid in their construction and even improve their lives significantly. We can then use these workers to help out with our Dungeon City Fortress in the future since they have the know-how. And for those towns which were burnt to crisp, I will suggest for Silver to create propaganda flyers and you can use the military to send it out through the seaports and the people of Wecha."

"Meanwhile, I suggest that you start to create rumours that the Demon Rats were so evil that they burnt the entire towns down," Jin told Gold alternatives to turn this into their favour.

"But won't this create more fear?" Gold asked, and Jin nodded his head.

"Yes, it would but what we want to inculcate in them is not the idea of fear. Instead, influence the people's opinions to look at the other side of the picture. Fight for the resistance, fight for their homeland. Fight at all cost. Right now, they are more than just enemies of the state." Jin explained the rationale of the proposed propaganda.

"Not only they were willing to burn the towns down mercilessly, but they also did not hesitate to enslave the humans, eat them or maybe even use the townfolks as toys for all their own pleasure," Jin said with conviction which astounded Gold.

Jin then told the Scholar of the East that he merely stated the things he got from Sebastia's report. After the fight against the two Elder Beast Demons, she had been secretly scouting the Northern capital. Gold could not believe his ears and eyes when he briefly read the report.

"Those bastards!! North and South! I know you might imprison people and treat them as your petty slaves but allowing the rats to eat them?! That is a whole new low! You will get definitely get your just punishments!" Gold slammed on the table as he crushed the report into a paper ball. Seeing how his current battle commander for the Farming World was not thinking straight, Jin allowed him to vent his emotion before asking him to calm down.

"That is why I want to get more allies from the Giant World. If those villagers could be a fraction as good as the penguins through some basic training, they would be a great help against the Demon Rats. Thus, I would like to know if there are any people we can spare to perform a dangerous operation in the Giant World." Jin spoke, and Gold understood his need for additional reinforcements.

"I see, I will check who is available as we brace for the incoming Demon Rat impact. I might get the Mousefolks to help us instead. They seem more than ready during the Grand Feast." Gold acknowledged Jin's orders and disappeared back to the Farming World.

Hamatarou and Gaeru were the next who Jin asked for a meeting as well as the Salamander which they previously captured, Edwardio. "Salamander scum! If you do not die today, I cannot call myself Gaeru!" The frog swordsman shouted at Edwardio, who seemed rather lax in his attitude towards Gaeru's provocation.

Yet, Jin was interested in what was to come next, but to his surprise, Hamatarou stood right next to Edwardio, preventing Gaeru to attack him.

"Sage Hamatarou! Please move, or I am forced to cut you too!" Gaeru demanded. The giant hamster sighed and chanted a spell out, causing the agitated frog swordsman to sleep even before he had the chance to swing his broken sword.

"Apologies, Master Jin for the ruckus." Hamatarou bow as a sign of apology but the Salamander remained indifferent to the situation. Only when the hamster noticed Salamander's inaction, he forced Edwardio's head down.

"It's fine, may I ask the history for Gaeru's animosity against Edwardio?" Jin inquired, and Hamatarou briefly gave a summary on the whole situation. "But did you guys not meet after teleporting into the System and mend out the differences especially now that we are now in the same team?"

"For Gaeru, he had not properly cut any Salamanders down yet, and I suspect he felt frustrated by it. While I believe his skills are on par with a senior guard level, his weapon was not in the condition to fight against me." Edwardio picked up the blade and showed it to Jin.

The edge got even more chipped when Hamatarou last saw and it was so worn out that the System predicted it had not been serviced for a very long time. It added that Gaeru might not have the intention of changing a new blade or repairing it.

At first, Jin thought it was possible that his village did not have the resources or the knowledge to perform such repair services. However, Hamatarou begged to differ. He remembered that the frogs were one of the most meticulous animal people he ever knew. They would have definitely sharpened their swords and arrowheads before a hunt.

"I mean we can forcefully repair it for them, right?" Jin asked, and the System stated that it was usually the case. However, for Gaeru, that blade was considered as a unique weapon, one that was something similar to Kraft's No Mercy or Flame Ripper's dagger and bow bestowed from the Flame Shaitan, Ifrit.

"Unless we have Frog Swordsman Gaeru's permission, we have no chance of touching it. When classified as a unique weapon, repairing his sword is equivalent of needing consent to modify a part of him." The System's attempted illustration disgust Hamatarou a little.

"Never mind, let's put him to sleep for now, because I might have a plan which could fully utilise his unkempt rage against the Salamanders," Jin responded and subsequently asked the Edwardio how the Salamanders operated.

The guard did not withhold any information and told Jin everything he knew about them. From the guard rotation time table to the secret routes which he knew the Royal Family had used (although not all of them) and the objective of the current Royal Family Head.

The urge to eat every giant species and animal people to gain their powers for himself. Only then, he had the ability to overcome Sage Hamatarou and retrieve the totem of Atem and reverse Atem for himself.

"I see... But is he a tyrant against his own people?" Jin asked, and Edwardio nodded his head slowly and with hesitation. (He was initially expecting Jin to ask how the new Salamander King had gotten powers from eating giants and animal people.)

"That is also why I am revealing all the information out. I am no longer at my King's mercy and had believed there is a better life right here." Edwardio replied and later questioned Hamatarou if he knew anything about the Sniffer giant monsters.

"Ah, those big dog head giants who are very protective of their territory? I heard they could be extremely aggressive." Hamatarou replied and suddenly realised why Edwardio talked about it. "You don't mean that he wants to eat those Sniffer Dogs for its power?"

"Yes, and the Salamanders managed to cut a down a front paw of Sniffer Dog. The moment the King ate it, he had begun sniffing everyone and trying to differentiate each and everyone's odour. But thankfully because he did not feast on the Sniffer Dogs, his sense of smell were only enhanced to a certain extent. Therefore, if there is any current goal for the Salamanders, it will be to chase after the Sniffer Dogs as well as the Portalling Bear." Edwardio looked at Hamatarou while chuckling softly the moment he mentioned about the portalling panda. He clearly remembered how the Sage had transformed to distract the Salamanders.

"Oh, then what about Hamatarou's claim on burning an entire animal people village?" Jin brought it out as a counterpoint to the Salamander's statement.

"The Frogs were just unlucky. We had a clash with them, and so they panicked and returned to their village without any detours. Easiest find of the century." Edwardio said with sarcasm as he peered at the sleeping frog.

"What are the frogs famous for aside for being meticulous?" Jin questioned, and Hamatarou seemed a little embarrassed to answer it.

"The use of their tongue?"

Chapter 619 Denial and Betrayal

"Hahahah! The use of their tongue! Maybe that's the few reasons why our Queen's temper had improved quite a bit in the recent days!" Edwardio laughed out loud at Hamatarou's deduction.

"Well! I have quite a number of villages to take care, I cannot possibly track and remember them!" Hamatarou folded its small little arms together, and Salamander belittled him further that he should be doing a better job as the Sage.

"In any case, how many villages you had contacted for the past year? I believe that's the easiest few to find." Jin wanted to know, but Hamatarou shook his head as he opened his paw and three fingers out.

"Eight excluding the ones that had already perished," Hamatarou said with a tinge of sadness in his voice.

"The rest never met up with me at the allocated time for the exchange of the Atems. The penguins were the only one that was worth my extension of stay. As for the rest, I can only assume they are dead, gone or missed out the timeline I had given them."

"Well what do you expect? I mean I heard that the penguins had to wait 10 years later for the exchange of totems. The chance of the village missing out that promise was extremely high. Besides, what do you for the rest of the time? Eat nuts?" Edwardio did not seem to buy his answer.

"As for the rest of the time, I had been travelling to the Fey Lands in search of a cure for the Giantism Virus. I heard that there were rumours of them having the only solution to this cause."

"The Feys? I thought the old folks said never to entangle yourself with them? The deals that they demand were out of the world. I heard they can twist the words of your contract to their liking and interpretation. I bet that maybe this Giantism was caused by them too." Edwardio responded angrily, and Hamatarou did not know how to react.

"It's alright, no one is blaming anybody. Like what both of you had said, there could be more villages out there that did not wish to come out because of the Giant Monsters. But let's focus on things that we have." Jin calmed the two of his minions down.

"Right now, with Edwardio's information, we can at least take out a bulk of the Salamanders. Then we could possibly look around the City for the villages in relative peace." Jin hesitated at the last part of his comment as he remembered the ferocity of the Father Porkcupine which he had escaped from.

He knew it was not the last time to see that Giant and there might be other similar predators that may be more menacing. (Or maybe even larger in size.) However, with Hamatarou's aid, there could be a possibility that it would be easier to fight against those Giant Monsters should they ever show up.

"You have to remember that the castle had a lot of secret passages. Even if you wish to surround the castle and siege it with all your might, there is a possibility that the key personnel run away to safety." Edwardio warned.

"That is why I want to use Gaeru as our main part of our plan. The amount of attention he unknowingly portrays will definitely bring many eyes onto him." Jin said as he outlined the basic plan on how to capture each and every Salamander.

Gaeru will appear again in front of the Salamander castle to make a ruckus and that is where he had to either push through into the castle with his own strength or be captured right towards the King. While Jin preferred the former, he needed to create contingencies in case Gaeru failed too badly.

At this point of the explanation, both Edwardio and Hamatarou expressed low confidence of Gaeru winning fights with his personal sword. Jin could only wish that the frog swordsman would be able to accommodate different swords and have some other tricks under his sleeves aside from blind provocation.

"So, assuming he would be captured by the Salamanders, I would need Edwardio to break him out and allow him to generate even more ruckus. Try to lead him to the main throne hall and then we could carry out phase two of the plan." Jin had dissected the main objectives of his current operation.

"Break him out of jail? Do you know that the King personally supervise this kind of 'goods'? I will literally be trespassing into rooms which are under the King's supervision. The senior guards would be a pain in the ass to work with!" Why don't you just give the frog some lockpicking magical scroll? That would be far more easy than me attempting such an impossible task." Edwardio replied with haste upon learning what Jin wanted to do.

"But you two are allies now, no matter how uncanny it seems. I can request the System to place a restrictive order to not let Gaeru harm you." Jin reiterated and tried to assure the Salamander, but Edwardio gave a heavy sigh as if he was considering what Jin was talking about.

"Fine. I can aid that blabbering frog a bit, and I guess that will drum up a bit of ruckus since I am abetting with the King's potential food. Although I honestly wonder if the King would even want to eat him." Edwardio sneered as he briefly glanced at the innocent sleeping frog who knew nothing about the plan. The Salamander guard began to think that the more Gaeru did not know about the plan, the better the execution of Jin's operation.

"In the meantime, I am very interested in Hamatarou's sleeping spell. System, can you make spell scrolls out of Hamatarou's sleep magic? I was thinking of detonating them all around the castle and have some agile monster to perform that feat. That way, we can disable the weak ones and handle the Salamanders

who have resistance against the sleeping magic." Jin queried which the System announced that it would cost Jin a sum of money.

He readily agreed and the System asked Hamatarou to perform his spell on a dummy. But instead of doing as per System's orders, the Sage looked ticked that Jin had undervalued his magical powers.

"Are you underestimating my sleep spell? I jolly well let you know that it is capable of making any Giant monsters to fall asleep, let alone the animal people!" Hamatarou said with conviction, but Jin shook his head.

"I am preparing for contingencies in case they have a way to counter the sleep spells. Besides, like what Edwardio had said, there are some places where he would not have known to exist so there would definitely be Salamanders who could possibly be out of range of your spell."

"User, do you wish to have Peppers to scan the castle? That would make things even easier as it could detect the number of Salamanders as well as confirming the layout of the castle." The System told Jin to consider such a possibility.

"Hahaha ...You are kidding, right? I am doing all this because I did not want Peppers to burn this place down. Who knows if her explosion could not reach to the underground depths of the castle should the Salamanders try to escape? Or what about the secrets this castle had kept hidden? Won't that be a more important find than just destroying the whole castle?"

"Besides, I am denying her the opportunity to burn down a city as large as a country too. I do not think she will take lightly to that matter." Jin reasoned, and someone suddenly voiced out her opinion too.

"Yeah, I agree with that. You will definitely be denying Peppers of that chance. And did you really just look down on the newly gain powers of Peppers which she put in much sweat, effort and rainbow vomits to achieve it?"

"YIKES?! When did you appear?!" Jin was taken aback when he heard Peppers talking behind his back.

"At the point where you decide to deny to me of exploding a city as large as a country. The System brought me in for consult. Little did I know that it was to let me hear the blunt truth." Peppers eyes turned all red and teary. She did not know whether this was considered as betrayal since the act had not been taken place but the intention was already there.

"Look Peppers. Listen. There might be some misunderst-"

BOOOOOOOOOOOM

Chapter 620 Shooting Jin's Plans Down

When the smoke clears, Peppers realised that Jin was protected by a magical shield barrier by Milk. She was instantly summoned by the System as an emergency response when it noticed there was a build up of magical energy within Peppers. Predicting that there was a high chance to hit Jin, the System reacted preemptively to block the attack.

The only people left stunned were the rest of the monsters in the meeting room.

"Why! Why can you not let me hit him!" Peppers pouted, and the System stated that this is a very critical period for Jin.

"There are times for fun, games and explosions. Unfortunately, Bellator Peppers, now it is not the moment. User has too many pressing issues to do for you to land him in the hospital for even an hour." The System concluded, and Milk went forward to hug Peppers' head.

"Other days, alright?" Milk said gently to Peppers, and surprisingly the little Demonic Queen Sage nodded her head. If the System and Milk chose to intervene for Jin, there was nothing much she could do either.

"System, buy Peppers an assortment of her favourite candies and Milk a 500ml of Lynn's sake wine. Put the tab on my personal account." Jin said, and Milk winked at Jin as a sign of thanks before moving off.

Hamatarou checked his fur while Edwardio inspected his tail to see if they were burnt in any way. After which, Jin continued to discuss some minor details of the plan with the two of them, but Edwardio continued to point out the various pitfalls of the operation. While Jin found it very irritating he was being shot down at every turn, it showed that the Salamander was very concerned for the success of the plan.

When he was finally done with many revisions of the plan, Hamatarou also felt that it was time for his master to take a break and thus, they left. However, all Jin did was took a cup of Blue Mountain coffee while his mind was filled with details they talked about.

And even before his cup was empty, the dungeon supplier called upon Que Er, the Magpie Queen to check if she had any new details with regards to the whereabouts of the Mecha World.

"I managed to pinpoint some information but you are not going to like it." Que Er said as she noticed the mess in the Dungeon Maker room. Jin quickly asked the System to revamp the area, and with a blink of the eye, the meeting room's table was all brand new again.

"Why what is wrong? Is the base too heavily guard or something? You should at least have aerial surveillance of the place, right?"

"I don't have any at the moment ...And although I technically can do that...it will be too suspicious, so I can't." Que Er did not know how to put it properly, and it only made Jin felt even more anxious. The Magpie Queen decided to put it as bluntly as possible to break the news for him.

"The Mechanical Titan is placed in a spaceship. Like those sci fi films you watched, ehyyy "Moon Wars" kind of massive cruising spaceships."

"I know I should not be surprised but damn. I did not expect that at all." Jin sighed as he asked she had any images of it. Que Er shook her head in dismay as she said her birds may be magical in nature, but for a bird to fly that high into space, it would just bring too much suspicion.

"However, I might have a bit of good news for you. One of the places of interest where Amura Rei had taught included an Air Force School. My birds had picked up some chatter that a spaceship is going to

have maintenance near the Mecha World's atmosphere. I might not have the coordinates of the spaceport, but the Air Force sure does."

"You believe that spaceship would be the one that carries the Mechanical Titan?" Jin queried, and the Magpie Queen laughed.

"Hardly! But at the very least, I thought this will provide you with some insight. I am just an immortal, not some mechanical whiz with all the knowledge about those metal carriages flying around. Your world I can still handle, but their world? I nearly vomit birds at the sight of the technology that they used. My birds barely able to blend in." Que Er complained, and Jin had no choice but to summon Amura Rei in.

"What time would it be in Japan right now?" Jin asked the System, but in no time, Rei was already sitting across the meeting table, drawing something. Only when he realised the table and chair he was sitting at was so different, he decided to take a look around. Que Er smiled at him, but Jin was equally shocked to see Rei.

"I must apologise, I was hoping to ask the System to teleport you with some notification, did not expect the System to do this. Name is Jin by the way."

"Yes I know, we met once during the Grand Feast," Rei said as he calmed himself down. This was not the first time he got teleported abruptly by the System. He could only wish that it would be more pleasant. At the very least, there was no one in the office when the teleportation happened.

"So I assume you called me here is because you needed information about the Mecha World," Rei asked, and Jin nodded his head slowly.

"And I also assume that you had been briefed quite a bit by your new erm... colleagues during the Grand Feast as well from the System?" Jin made an effort to get the rest of the monsters and bellators in the loop to inform Rei about his roles and responsibilities.

Rei knew that the United Federation had always wanted to create superweapon in order to counter the one by his nation, the Xeon Union, but he did not anticipate it to be so soon. The last he heard from rumours were that it would take another 15 to 20 years more. Now he understood why they were so eager to enter another war.

"We found out that the Mechanical Titan is in tucked in a spaceship, and we want to hear your expert advice on how to counter it. Que Er here had suggested that a spaceship would be docked to a spaceport near the Mecha World soon enough for maintenance. I guessed she was hinting that we steal something to fly up to the spaceport and hijack the spaceship." Jin explained the current situation to Rei.

"Impossible. If I am assuming that you are talking about the Air Force Academy, their rockets are for training purposes. While I agree the security could be lax compared to other military airports, their training rocket's top speed is not fast enough to reach space. You will be dead by then." Rei warned and already took the time gap he was not in Mecha World into account. Yet, he felt that even though the Air Force Academy might have been too complacent and cheapskate to change their equipment, they should not take any chances to bet on it.

"You mean it does not have the capability to reach space?"

"Argh, I phrased it wrongly. The anti air defences will shoot you down before the rocket is able to reach the spaceport." Rei emphasised that that plan was not feasible from the start.

"Then have you been to any spaceports before? We might be able to use you as a proxy to point our portal coordinates." Jin queried, seeing how he got shot down again by his minions

"I erm...the last spaceport that I had been was the one I was supposed to die in," Rei mumbled his words slowly. "I do not know how, but I was teleported to this world and found myself lying in a hospital bed. With debts, if I must add. Took me a long time to gain a name and repay all the debts."

"Wait, what? You were really teleported to this world without any probable technological aid from your world?" Jin had also known but never had the chance to clarify this part of Rei. It seemed like there were other forces that were in play, and the System was not the only unique one that could work with interworld portals.

"Are you a natural interworld traveller?" Jin asked Rei seriously.