

Dungeon S 621

Chapter 621 Interworld Traveller?

Rei shrugged his body and said that magic never existed in his world before. The only magical stuff he knows were the superior technology that was barred from him to interact.

"That is all I know. My body is still the same, but I am not in the spacesuit, nor the people around me knew what I was talking about. They nearly wanted to throw me in an asylum for saying rubbish out."

"Only then, a male nurse came to talk to me and asked if I was having some weird condition called the 8th grade syndrome. I refused and told him I was sane until he came close to me, and told me that it's fine to act that way."

"As long as I do not show it during the real test he will teach me the ropes on how to 'blend' into the 'real' world and ironically because of him, I managed to pass the psychiatric exams." Rei later said that the male nurse revealed his true identity as the 'Dark Dragon Slayer'.

"I guess that was how I learn about this world's manga and the animation scene. Dark Dragon Slayer was also my sensei when it comes to drawing, and those were the days how I became a mangaka artist." Jin was totally speechless upon hearing the story and sometimes guessed the world worked in different ways to help somebody out.

"In any case... that spaceport I died should now be in the United Federation's territory," Rei stated, and Que Er nearly wanted to send her birds there immediately until Rei stopped her verbally.

"The spaceport should be in ruins from the previous skirmish. Knowing the United Federation, it would leave it a dead space of floating debris to remind the Xeon Union not to mess with the United Federation." The engineer reasoned.

"Oh, come on. Here I was hoping your information will help us out." Jin leaned back on his chair and sighed.

"Look at the bright side, at least we have a space coordinate. Maybe build a spaceship ourselves?" Que Er inquired, and somehow both Rei and Jin laughed at the same time.

"Impossible. Impossible! There is no way we have the technology to do it! And do not look at me! I never browse at any spaceship blueprints before!" Rei said, but Jin laughed for a different reason.

"We are at a ruined spaceport, surely there must be parts floating around, and most importantly, you are an engineer. Fix it." Oddly enough, Jin always wanted to say that to a fellow engineer, especially since his university friends used to berate him in those multi-disciplinary projects.

"You can't just fix broken space ship parts to one space ship! That is not how Astrospace engineering works! And I am a Mecha Engineer! Totally different field of speciality!" Rei exclaimed at the absurdity of the request. Maybe, his master was not as rational as his monsters advertised him to be.

"That is assuming you are dealing with only science, but we have magic," Jin smirked as he snapped his fingers and fire appeared. "And do not worry, if you remembered Ayse, she had some experience in time-space engineering as well as being skilled in other areas. I am sure we can work something out. For

now, I will loan you three Sandroku Golems, modify it to make it work in space. After which, haul any parts back to the System, and we will figure out something." Jin ordered Rei.

"Even if I want to, I still have my deadlines to handle. If I can't complete it by the end of this month, the movie studio I am working with, will go broke and might declare for bankruptcy. We are pinning our hopes, our everything by the end of this year!"

"System wished to remind that there are debts Mecha Engineer Rei incurred from Yun too after you have used it to pay the Yakuza." The System responded in retaliation of Rei's defiance to work.

"I... I..." Rei understood the chains that had bound him, and at the same time, he yearned to cut them off because of his passion.

"System, find out the operational cost of the studio. We might potentially be Rei's sponsor for that movie he was making. Heck, we might even be able to help him create scenes that he can never imagine." Jin ordered the System as he himself was searching on the internet for his trailer.

"User, are you proposing to use the Supa Robot Warz mini game instance for the movie?" The System asked which caused Rei's eyes to suddenly light up.

"If you can really let me use the Supa Robot Warz instance, that will be great! In my opinion, I have reservations for the studio that I hired to create the 3D models for the mecha models. It is unsatisfactory work and did not live up to the hype for the movie." Rei spoke out his fears and in turn, his hidden desires.

"So you want to remake your movie? I thought you say your movie is near completion?" It felt like Jin managed to bait him.

"Yes...but I do not want my fans to recognise how terrible the overall animation could potentially be. The overall scenes are great, but it is a Mecha movie! The 3D animation must be on point! Currently, it did not have the poof I wanted. If we used the Supa Robot Warz, it will be so realistic that the fans would love it! Something like a mix of Live action robot fights and 2D animation together!"

"Surely, other animation studios could have done better, right?" Jin managed to search the studio that was doing Rei's work. He might not know much about the animation scene in Japan, but he knew enough about the reputation of the studio Rei employed. (Because he was a fan of Japanese animation himself in the past.)

As what Rei had said, Studio Mashi's 3D animation work had never been their top product although their past 2D animation works were considered to be notable in the past. Not too famous, but its name was still regarded as a contender within the industry.

Yet, it was also because of their insistence of staying their style of animating while other studios moved to 3D computer animation made them not as popular as before. (Which was also why Rei could make employ them to adapt his works.)

"So is it a deal? While it might be a hassle for their HR to push the dates further, it's still doable since we did not announce the dates yet." Rei told Jin that the movie was still kept under secrecy and not much advertisement was made except for a few teasers. (Mainly due to budget issues rather than wanting it to be a surprise for the 10 year anniversary of his manga.)

"Deal. Handle what you need to do by the end of tomorrow and give me the estimate of the studio's expenses for the next few months. After which, start working to make the three Sandroku Golems viable for space." Jin shook Rei's hand hard to confirm the deal even though he could have ordered him otherwise.

Perhaps, just perhaps Jin secretly wanted to see his dungeon instance in the movies too.

Chapter 622 Operation Gatecrasher - Part 1

For the remainder of the downtime, Jin had decided to use it to spend on making the renewed Shop Instance. Lately, the System had not created any further mission rewards for Jin's efforts, but it had been giving him a few new benefits.

One of which was that it had quietly levelled Jin to a Level 4 Dungeon Supplier, allowing him access to the black market items at cost prices without any duty tax. It had decided that the Astral Panda Cultivator had sufficiently proved itself worthy without completing the mission.

Unfortunately, it would only affect the products and raw materials required for the dungeon or shop related Instances. The rest of the items not used for dungeon instances would still be at full cost or through negotiations.

This, in turn, gave Jin a bigger bang for his buck when creating his new shop instance. The System had also given him a limited amount of funds for the dungeon supplier to build his new shop instance. (In hindsight, it was actually sufficient to cover half of the estimated cost of the revamped instance.)

"How did you even have additional money? Didn't you not said that our accounts are dried up? Or ARE 'OUR' ACCOUNTS separate or something?" Jin asked with a bit of emphasis.

"Indeed, the System had its own financial reserves to make sure that it would not go broke should User ever fail and some are seed money for the next incoming generation of Panda Clan members. Fortunately, through the current User, System had been amassing a decent amount of money for us to graciously provide you with an additional budget at our own discretion." The System stated.

"I guessed you placed self preservation as the number one priority." Jin shrugged as he prepared the shop instance revamps in the Dungeon Maker. After spending some amount of time on it, Jin was notified by the System that it was about time to start Operation Gatecrasher in the Giant World.

With Que Er's new abilities granted by Muninn and Huginn, Que Er had become Jin's latest monster for scouting purposes. During Jin's downtime making the shop instance, dozens of Que Er's birds bid their time to survey the Salamander castle and its surrounding exterior.

Whatever the ravens, crows and magpies saw, it was transmitted to the System where it started to recreate a hologram of the castle based on different viewpoints.

The pieces of information were later collated and compared with what Salamander Edwardio had reported as part of the verification process before Jin could plan a proper assault into the castle. However, as Que Er was about to recall the bulk of her birds back into her 'care', Peppers suddenly

appeared for a brief moment at the top of the castle. It prompted Que Er to inform Jin, but before she could send a message via the System Channel, Peppers had already shot a beam of her magical energy towards the roof of the grand castle.

Surprisingly, instead of an explosion spell, the beam spread like a rotary fan before closing up into a thin line and subsequently dissipated. When the beam disappeared, so did Peppers at the very next moment, making the Magpie Queen suspect if she ever saw the Demonic Queen Sage.

If not for her birds confirming that they also caught Peppers in their sight, Que Er might have believed she was experiencing a delusion. Even weirder, she returned to the Dungeon Maker room seeing Jin giving Peppers a pat on the head.

"Que Er, thank you for the scout, you and your birds have provided a lot of information!" Jin said as he pointed at the hologram of the Grand Castle.

"Can I have more sweets than? Milk says that you will promise me more of those Vanilla Cream Candies if I do good! And Potato chips too!" Peppers questioned with a purpose. From a pat on the head, Jin gradually turned it into a pinch on her left cheek.

Que Er later realised that Peppers had taken the initiative to cast a Scan spell at the castle. She had managed to get the visualisation of the interior structure. The System also created a 'screenshot' of the locations of every Salamander currently stationed in the castle at the time Peppers cast her spell.

It even used Edwardio's guard rotation table as a supplement to the hologram and predicted the guard's patrol path on it. This provided Jin with a clearer understanding to plan his assault for Phase 2 of the operation.

Jin eventually told Que Er that Milk had somehow convinced Peppers to give something Jin needed and he would potentially reward her even more. She added that there would definitely be other times to test her explosive magic on something... more substantial.

The Priest Bellator lied to Peppers outright that Jin was possibly saving her firepower for the coming days, especially the fight to obtain the Mechanical Brain. (That really hyped Peppers up a lot more than destroying a stationary giant city.)

Of course Milk had used a few spells to soothe Pepper's anger and much pep talk to remind her that they were under Jin's service. But at the same time, Milk also thought that maybe if she could get Peppers to act in alignment of Jin's wishes, she could get another bottle of Lynn's precious sake wine. That 500ml that Jin bought vanished in an instant which Milk knew it was clearly more than just intoxicating. It made her yearn for more.

Hence, when Jin got to know why Peppers was suddenly so helpful from the System, he could not help but to continue treating her as his younger sister he never had. (Considering she sometimes acted like a spoilt one despite the Bellator position she held and the immense knowledge she possessed.) And as Peppers whined more when he pinched her cheeks playfully, Jin had already requested the System to place more snacks into her room.

"But remember this is a one time exception! I am not so gullible as you think I am to be!" Peppers announced when she got what she wanted. "I am merely doing this because I want to know if Ayse's

advice applies to my legendary Scan ability too. That castle target of yours was suitable for me to test that!" The Demonic Sage Queen stuck her tongue before disappearing from the Dungeon Maker.

"That is more than enough for now." Jin smiled at that silly mage before turning serious once again.

"Que Er, are your birds still in place?"

"I had hidden a number of them in places the Salamanders should not be able to notice. Not too sure how potent that King lizard with a keen sense of smell could be, so I placed most of them in the surrounding perimeter instead. They can proceed to attack at your command." Que Er said as she stared at the hologram.

She never saw a castle with that many hidden getaways and the scan that Peppers performed, did not even reveal the entirety of it all since her primary focus was the castle itself. But that alone unveiled untold numbers of tunnels and escape routes inside the castle. She suspected that it would lead out not to just the inner noble districts, but even to the outer common districts of the ruined kingdom.

"Since we now have the essential information to conduct a proper operation, let's have our main star to the scene." Jin officially commenced Operation Gatecrasher with Gaeru's impromptu appearance at the front of the castle once more.

Chapter 623 His Broken Blade

The usual night duty.

Two Salamander Guards were sitting at the corner of the broken main outer gate of the castle and with only a meagre amount of food served as dinner due to the tightening of rations, making them rather irritable because of the hunger. It was not because they did not manage to hunt any monsters, but the King seemed to be angry that they had failed to catch the black and white spotted bear that creates portals.

Sometimes, they felt that their King was unreasonable as the Giant Monsters could be somewhat unpredictable. Not to mention, they were rather ill equipped to fight against the bear. Most, if not all of their ranged items were of limited quantities, had already been used in the recent fight against the frogs.

They have yet to replenish their military supplies before another sortie, and most of the Salamanders who were supposed to craft them were drafted to process the food rations. The rest had to scrap the remains of the defeated Frog Tribe to feed their King or aid the injured they incurred from the hunt of the Portalling Bear.

In addition, their King had reduced the morale of the Salamanders significantly by restricting their food rations while he ate like a true glutton in order to gain the powers from the things he eats.

As the guards at the outer main guards were complaining to each other about the current situation at hand, they heard a scratching sound from a distance, as if it was a piece of metal being dragged along

the grey brick path. So, the guards immediately took their weapons out and brought their torches out to better illuminate what was in front of them.

What they found right in front of them was a silhouette of a frog holding on to his broken sword.

"Isn't that frog the one that got bitten by that portalling bear? He survived and wanted to return to exact revenge on our kind?" One of the Salamander Guards snorted as the other chuckled at his friend's comments.

"Hey, maybe we should defeat this frog and eat it for supper. It had been a long time since I had a good meal." The Salamander Guard rubbed his growling tummy.

"Hahah! Maybe get the Butcher to cut the meat up. It would definitely be tastier. At most, we allow him to keep some meat as compensation." The other commented.

"Are you mad? You remembered how the King's sense of smell had gotten stronger by the day. If he knows that we kept frog meat from him, he would surely come after us!" The former guard retorted as he continued to keep his eye at the frog.

"So, we should just eat him immediately and dispose of him when we are full? Well, that's better than nothing." The Guard shrugged his shoulders and decided to charge in front to attack the quiet frog.

They thought it was too easy. The frog did not move a single step nor made any noise ever since it appeared on their sights. Its stance was also wide open for attacks compared to the last time when the frog made a huge ruckus. The Salamander guard believed it was too good to be true, yet it went for a straight cut through its neck.

Shinnnn!

The frog silhouette was left standing while the Salamander that attempted to cut it down was split into two halves. Blood was spraying from both parts of the body as the guard struggled to have a last look at the monster that killed him.

There was no mistake, it was none other than Gaeru who killed the Salamander with one clean cut. But what happened to the noisy frog who the Salamander Guards thought they knew?

Before the start of the operation, Jin sought out for Kraft and Pei's assistance. At some point, Jin believed that Gaeru's anger stemmed deeply from the anguished loss of his tribe and perhaps, the burden he held might possibly cause to him to perform poorly.

Kraft and Pei then agreed to take a peek at the sleeping frog's memories, only to find out that he made a promise to return to the Frog Tribe when he was competent enough after embarking on a personal journey.

The sword he carried was the first gift to a hunter's son, and due to an incident which nearly killed his close buddy, Gaeru decided to repent by searching atonement all by himself. It was a mere coincidence that the day he returned was the day he found his tribe in utter ruins.

He could not keep his promise to his buddy nor his family and had been in a state of depression ever since that day. The only thing that mattered to him right now was the revenge against the Salamanders.

Though part of him knew that it was a mere excuse and knew that exacting vengeance would not bring him peace, his heart and mind were narrowed by grief.

Knowing this and the fact that he was an essential piece in the upcoming operation, Kraft and Pei had unanimously agreed to tweak his train of thoughts. It was a mild form of psychic driving, turning his guilt into resolution.

However, it's Kraft that Jin asked for help for and he always needed a little fun factor to be added into the mix. The Devilman had requested one of his foxes, Evon for a little bit of clarity inducing drug to be injected into the unsuspecting frog.

What they did not expect was that Gaeru was indeed a bona fide swordsman when he cut the Salamander Guard into two with his broken blade. At first, Jin thought of increasing Gaeru's strength by inserting inscription charms into Gaeru's blade, but the sword automatically rejected the offensive charms by itself, as if the weapon had a will of its own.

The remaining Salamander Guard was horrified by the sudden change of events as it decided to run away to notify the others. However, before it could take another step backwards, the frog dashed ahead of him with just one leap, slashing his head off with another stroke from the blade.

"Masamune, sip their blood into your steel and let them be part of your backbone," Gaeru whispered to his sword with bloodshot eyes.

Chapter 624 Operation Gatecrasher - Part 2

With Gaeru steadily working his way up to the main gates, the System was already calculating and readjusting the probability of the frog swordsman's success rate.

The initial plan was to let Gaeru get captured by the Salamanders since Jin wanted the Salamanders to lower their guard. By fighting the only enemy, he hoped that the Salamanders could concentrate their attention on that one odd ball event rather than doing an all scale assault which could spit the enemies up.

He thought that Gaeru would make much of a ruckus to attract as much attention as possible to the Salamanders, giving Jin time to employ the next phase of Operation Gatecrasher.

After all, Jin's goal was the annihilation of the Salamander's family so they could peacefully search and rescue the other village tribes and hopefully prevent a slaughter like what the Salamanders had done to the frogs.

Little did he know that Kraft's little modification drug made Gaeru into an astonishing killing machine, veering the plan to another planned scenario by the System. (Jin initially thought Gaeru would never make it happen, but the System begged to differ and demanded its user to prepare such a possibility.)

Now that the System predicted what Gaeru had done, the frog swordsman would not only be the centre of attention but attract the ire of the King Salamander. While that would definitely bring a better crowd pull to Gaeru, the System was concerned if it needed to switch the next phase of the operation soon.

One of its concerns was mainly the properties of Gaeru's broken blade. It had changed attributes the moment the frog managed to kill the Salamander guards.

Though its name was revealed as the Masamune and categorised as a living weapon (which was considered as a unique item in the Giant World), it might potentially increase the threat level of the Salamanders should they managed to get hold of it.

However, it is not uncommon to see a living weapon throughout the universe. There were other worlds which had an abundance of Living Weapons and had similar attributes to the Masamune. But due to the nature of the Salamander King, grabbing whatever powers it could grab on to, the System find that it becomes increasingly dangerous to let Gaeru be caught.

"From the System's deduction, the Masamune is a living weapon that absorbs the blood of its fallen enemies. The System could not deduce what other powers it might contain, whether it is a temporary buff or a permanent increase in attack power." The System warned Jin about the attributes of Masamune and the consequences it had if it ever fall to the Salamanders.

"I understand the change of situation. Instead of executing Phase 2, call forth Sandy first and tell her to start preparing for Phase 3. The rest can wait for a while." Jin gave his instructions to the System which instantaneously portalled Sandy, the Sand Witch at the most bottom of the Grand Castle.

It was in the deepest basement based on Pepper's initial scan, and there should not be any guards in the area according to Edwardio's guard rotation timetable.

Yet, she still wore a black hooded cape and a full mask which was capable of night vision, hiding herself in one of the dark, damp corners in case guards were to appear. Sandy knew what she needed to do, and her priority was not to engage against the Salamanders until given the signal. Till then, she was ordered to prepare a few spells for the upcoming phase.

As for Gaeru, he had managed to slaughter another three more Salamanders, prompting a senior guard on duty to engage against this unknown menace.

It managed to parry the frog swordsman's one stroke strike, giving the rest of the Salamander guards who were shocked by the amphibian intruder a split second to sound for the alarm. Gaeru however did not take this too favourably as he took a step back and pointed Masamune right in front of the guard.

The broken blade howled in anger as a bloody looking phantom of a Salamander emerged from the edge of Masamune. Even as the Senior Salamander Guard raised his shield to protect himself from the unknown, the ghostly bloodied Salamander swoop towards him.

As the phantom came into contact with the shield, it splattered hard against the thick rusted metal, causing the visceral, bloody apparition to spill its content all around.

Just when the Senior Salamander Guard thought that he was safe from the attack, he realised that something was gnawing him hard accompanied by an intense burning sensation. He could not believe his eyes when he saw that that sensation began to spread through his entire body. The Senior Guard then realised that whatever the bloody phantom came into contact with, it gradually corroded like acid, even the ground.

Its iron shield was being melted into half, and his body parts which were exposed to the reddish liquid was already eating into his muscles and into the bone.

The affected armour plates became scorching hot, to the point he felt the metal liquefied and came in contact with his skin, painfully fusing the both as one.

Masamune's attack immediately rendered the Senior Salamander Guard paralysed by the immense pain coursing throughout his body, and it gave the frog swordsman an opportunity for a daring counter attack before more guards emerged.

Unfortunately, the Gaeru knew that the effects of the bloody phantom could burn him too, even though he supposedly should have the protection of the living weapon. Thus, in order to end the Senior Guard's life, he threw Masamune towards him without hesitation, causing it to fly and stab cleanly through the forehead.

After which, Gaeru used his tongue to forcefully bring his sword back to his two hands. At that point, the Salamanders who on perimeter guard duty had begun to steady themselves and attempted to shoot their arrows towards the frog the moment he threw his sword away.

Oh, they were sorely mistaken if they think he was defenceless for even just a second.

Chapter 625 Operation Gatecrasher - Part 3

Since Gaeru knew he was grabbing onto Masamune tight with his tongue, he power jumped vertically, avoiding a couple of arrow shots with much ease. He then swiped his weapon around the battlements of the castle's high walls by using the tongue as an extension of his weapon's reach.

Still, it was a long shot considering he could not see too clearly anything too far away in the darkness. Gaeru was estimating his attack on the torches that were lit up as a guide, but in no way the frog swordsman could know whether he was able to injure or kill the archer guards.

Yet, his broken sword now imbued with the Senior Guard's blood unleashed a terrifying energy wave that shook the battlements. The bloodied energy wave had the same damaging effect as the bloody phantom which Gaeru had previously triggered, causing his attack to corrode some of the high walls along with the destruction done by the initial wave of energy.

The frog swordsman wanted to continue, but Jin called out to him via the System Channel to keep going into the inner bailey and towards the castle itself. "They are not dead yet. I have to make sure they are dead." Gaeru retorted which Jin told him to calm down.

"I have competent assassins to make sure that they never have the intention to harm another tribe," Jin promised Gaeru as the frog reluctantly proceeded towards the inner bailey. The Salamander Guard Archers who survived the initial shockwave deemed that the frog was now the problem of the guards further into the castle.

Never did they know that it was not the end as Meomi slowly crept behind one of them and took its head off. Flame Ripper was doing the same on the other side of the outer bailey while his brothers took

the further end of the outer bailey. Wyrstriker dived in to stab an unsuspecting archer who had its eyes on the commotion while Dread Reaver slaughtered without a sound.

But not all Salamanders were that oblivious to the sudden deaths of their comrades. They noticed that there were other invaders too but could not make out their build nor species due to the cloudy night and lack of light. So, they activated the alarms to further alert the Salamanders.

Unfortunately, their cries for help were hopeless.

As Gaeru entered the inner Bailey area, the attention was focused towards him alone. The rest of the Salamander Archer Guards had to fend for themselves, and sadly it seemed like they were fighting against shadows. Despite the fact that Salamanders prided themselves to subterfuge and stealth warfare, these archers were considered as rookies in terms of combat, which was a reason they were given patrol duties.

In less than a few minutes, the entire outer bailey was utterly decimated by the goblins and Meomi, which Jin immediately called them back via the portals. Gaeru was now facing a large group of Salamanders, though some suggested waking the King up to suppress this external threat.

Even though the frog swordsman was still holding well against a crowd of heavily armoured Salamanders who now stormed to surround him, Jin knew that there was a limit to his stamina.

The System also recommended that some external help should be given before the Salamander King stepped in. "Should I have a get-go at it?" Hamatarou who was uneasy sitting in the Dungeon Maker waiting while the System continued to report what was going on at the frontlines.

"You are our trump card against the Salamander King. I believe he would do the most harm, so making him sleep and subsequently teleport him to a secure area for battle would be a better decision." Jin said as he wanted to capture the King as quickly as possible and used him to rally the rest of the Salamanders.

The dungeon supplier wished to do it with as little people knowing that Hamatarou came into the picture to knock the King out. That way, it would be more believable if the King decided to issue a few orders out of the norm, making the gathering of Salamanders to progress smoother without too many hiccups.

Nevertheless, Jin had seen enough of battles to prepare a few contingencies at hand too, but he knew that there would always be something startling enough to make his contingencies useless. The dungeon supplier could only hope that was not the case for this time around.

"Penguins, your debut," Jin said through the System channel and from the cloudy night skies, four penguin ninjas including Kiddo plunged towards the encroaching circle of heavy armoured Salamander knights.

Each of the penguin ninjas began clapping their flippers together and executed their Elemental Jutsus against the enemies beneath them.

Four streams of elements, Fire, Ice, Lightning and Water was unleashed on the Salamander Knights, giving Gaeru the chance to jump out of the encroachment. This further permitted the penguins to attack without prejudice, disintegrating the knight's formation and went ahead to disrupt the other guards.

The Commander Salamander Knight on the scene could not have imagined that the frog swordsman had a devastating capability after recalling that he was rather harmless in the previous engagement. What was worse was that Gaeru had allies to rely on, making him more formidable.

The Commander Knight had also heard about the penguin tribes before but had never seen any of them wielding such magic. He did not know that such a weak flightless race of animal people would be one of their deadliest enemies to date.

"Men! Steady yourselves! Go for Formation Delta! Archers, switch to those crossbows you found at the Frog Tribe Village. We have to take down these penguins, and that damnable frog before the King wakes up!" The Commander Knight shouted before he was confronted by Kiddo.

But the old Salamander had wits and instinct to rival against Kiddo's incoming short blade. The only drawback was the slight electric shock the Commander Knight received upon defending himself. He hazarded a guess that if the strike hit somewhere vital, the commander himself could be paralysed for an easy kill.

"Men! Switch to Formation Sierra! A hit from those blades might incapacitate you instantly!"

"Heh, they fall for your trick, Kiddo." One of the penguin ninjas whispered through the System Channel.

"Yeah, did not expect you to single out the Commander that quickly." Another penguin Ninja sneered at the order.

"It was mere luck." Kiddo smiled under his face scarf as they continued to distract the Salamander soldiers, so they had trouble regrouping themselves into various circles formation. Seeing that they were going defensive, Jin was on the System Channel kept telling them to press for the attacks.

A quick succession of slashes and kicks to made them feel uneasy, hurrying them to belay their Commander Knight's orders. Eventually, their weapons were drawn out like a sea urchin with its spikes aiming outwards, while at the same time providing the archers with a reliable cover to shoot.

Basically, multiple mini domes were formed within the inner bailey as the archers prepped their bolts and crossbows and ready to shoot when their enemies got into their sights.

The Salamanders would not go down without a good fight, and in fact, the Commander Knight believed he got a decent chance to catch his prey for the night.

Chapter 626 Operation Gatecrasher - Part 4

"Regroup!" Kido said to the other three Penguin Ninjas while he pulled Gaeru with him.

"Let go of me, Honourable Penguin! It is not the time to fall back yet!" Gaeru mistook the regrouping as a sort of retreat when it was pretty obvious that they still have the upper hands in the situation. With the penguin's ninjutsu, they could force open those Salamander's defences wide open.

But because of the retreat, the Salamander's mini domes of spikes took the opportunity to force their invaders to the centre of the inner bailey.

The Salamander Commander Knight became even more ballsy when he noticed that the frog's special weapon was useless against metal.

"So as long as he could not have a hit or kill his weapon cannot activate, huh? Kind of useless of a weapon. As for those penguins, they might be annoying, but the arrow attacks from behind the cover of our shield dome formation proved to be formidable in scaring them." The Commander Knight said to himself as he decided to appear out of the dome to demonstrate the superiority.

"Do not worry, Froggie. We have something more fun, just follow us for now." Kido said as he clapped his flippers once more and a wall of mud and sand emerged from the ground. The other ninjas did the same, forming a box to protect themselves. It provided them with a temporary reprieve from the constant shots coming from the multiple shield dome formation.

"Do not falter! If we can push them, we can kill them! Avenge our dead!" The Commander Knight was eager to remove the threat before the Salamander King arrives at the scene. If he managed to kill them, he would have three magic wielding penguins and a frog carrying a magic imbued sword as a tribute to the Salamander King to feast upon.

"Any injuries?" Kido performed a quick check on his teammates to ensure they could continue with the next phase.

"Just mere scratches." One of the penguins commented as it started to unroll a long scroll it had behind its back. The other penguins were also doing the same except for Kido.

Gaeru felt that the penguins had some plan in defeating this current shield domes formation they encountered. It was true, his blade was broken to the point that Masamune was unable to damage their heavy armour. But as long as there was physical contact with the body, Masamune could absorb at least a portion of their blood and wreck havoc to them.

Unfortunately, the living weapon had an inherent time limit on the duration the blood of its enemies could be contained before releasing it. Any longer than 10 seconds, Masamune would automatically be absorbed whatever blood it took in which Gaeru would then be unable to unleash any attacks.

The odd thing was the more Masamune absorbed the blood of his enemies, the durability of the blade worsens. It reduces not only the sharpness, but Gaeru had seen how the metal at the side of the sword broke apart. So upon learning such a constraint during his travels, Gaeru always tried to release any pent up blood energy within it to reduce the chances of it breaking. (There were definitely instances where he could not have done so, and hence the condition of his current sword.)

While the penguin ninjas were chanting the lengthy inscriptions of their ten metre long scroll, arrows were being shot into the boxed up monsters which they voluntarily enclosed themselves in it. Luckily, Kido was the one in charge of blocking all incoming projectiles by parrying, grabbing, or whatever means possible to not disturb the chanting.

Gaeru assisted too by using its tongue to grab some of the projectiles as well. Still, Kido was more perceptive in predicting the shots' trajectory, which made the frog swordsman respected the Penguin Ninjas even more and showered Kido with compliments.

"Preparations are complete, Kido!" The Penguin Ninjas said in unison the moment the scrolls glowed a little.

"Get your ass at the centre Froggie! We might not have the Totem of Atem like Sage Hamatarou, but we have our very own enlargement Jutsu!" Kido smiled as the penguin performed a roundhouse kick to reflect one of the arrows away.

"Aye!" Gaeru did not fully understand the plan Kido created, but the veteran penguin ninja later admitted that he was improvised the plan along the way. They initially created the sand walls to show weakness, hoping that it would spur them to break formation. Kido understood that destroying the mini dome formations one by one would prove to be straining and they need to conserve energy should they wish to fight against the Salamander King.

Thus, the penguins pretended that they had no way of destroying their shield wall domes.

It indeed prompted the Salamanders to be cocky, and even though they were still in their mini shield dome formations, many relaxed their guard when the Salamanders could not see what was in front of them.

A sudden poof of large smoke emerged within the box of sand walls, and the Salamanders shortly fell back, finally considering that it might potentially be a trap. However, their current formation reduced their mobility tremendously, and the Salamanders were not as used to it since they hardly used it for battle.

Before they knew it, a large blade came forth from the smoke, splitting the sand walls into two and attacking anything within range.

Both Gaeru and Masamune had grown at least ten times larger, proving to be a giant similar to the monsters they had previously encountered. This sudden transformation shocked the Salamander troops as most were still in the process of moving, resulting in them to be unprepared for the attack.

A number were smashed sideward by the enlarged Masamune, and it instantly absorbed whatever blood it came into contact with. At the same time, Kido and the rest of the ninja penguins perched themselves onto the giant size frog and began to throw shurikens and kunais to the exposed flank of the Salamanders.

There was also an additional surprise to the penguin attacks. Out of the three Jutsu scrolls, two were used on Gaeru and Masamune, allowing them to be of a colossal size to deal an immense amount of damage to the heavily armoured Salamanders within the inner bailey. As for the last scroll, the Penguin Ninja cast it similarly to an aura spell, enhancing any projectiles thrown by his fellow comrades.

So the size of the kunais and shurikens that were thrown immediately expanded to such a dangerous size that one hit instantly kill a heavy armoured Salamander. Even if it was not dead with a direct hit, Kido was confident that death was at its side with the impact from the amplified projectiles.

This sudden turnaround from the enemies made the Salamanders panicked even further when they found out that enormous weapon swipe killed their Commander Knight who was conceited enough to leave his shield dome formation to check the status of the Sand Walls.

Their remaining Salamander Captains tried to rally whatever troops but even now the arrows and crossbow bolts were ineffective against the Giant Frog. (His skin got thick enough to ignore them) To Gaeru, the desperate attempt to rain bolts proved to be meaningless.

"Come out now, Salamander King! Come out now and face the wrath of the Frog Village!" Gaeru's booming voice was enough for the surrounding castle walls to vibrate. He needed the King to appear as soon as possible before Masamune absorbed most of the blood he attained or else he had to waste it towards the castle.

The Frog Swordsman did not dare to underestimate his upcoming opponent but yet desperately hoped he could finish him in one shot.

Chapter 627 Operation Gatecrasher - Final

"Noisy frog." The Salamander King yawned as he walked into the inner bailey and witnessed the destruction caused by the Gaeru and the Ninja Penguins. The Frog Swordsman had no hesitation in unleashing all of the stored energy within Masamune and focused them towards the Salamander King.

The King himself stood there, nonchalant about the incoming wave of bloody projectiles flying towards him but Gaeru did not take much heed to it as well. They both believed that each of them had underestimated one another.

However, Kido knew that something was amiss right away and told his fellow comrades to be on guard. The energy projectiles not only scored a direct hit against the Salamander King but its secondary impact destroyed the area surrounding the final 'Boss'.

Suddenly, the System noted an intense spike of energy within the area, excluding the ones that came from Gaeru itself. Jin knew it was never this simple with all these 'Boss' monsters but continued to restrain himself from doing anything drastic until he saw what was happening.

"It's a Fey..." Hamatarou said as he watched the smoke dissipate after the attack and the Salamander King was still standing as if nothing had happened. A small little white faerie was standing right at the side of the King himself, protecting him from the devastating strike from Gaeru.

"Not just any Fey. It's...It's the daughter of the Winter Court Queen, Maeve!" Hamatarou exclaimed when the pictures from the Dungeon Maker became clearer.

"What powers does she have?" Jin asked, and the Sage Hamster shook his head violently.

"It's not the powers that matter - okay fine, she had loads of strength as well, but its her attitude...her behaviour! For the Queen who is to come, the druid gave her an uncanny nickname." Hamatarou took a deep breath in before saying it out.

"The Evil Kinkstress."

"Her love to pull strings from behind the scenes and her eccentric definition of fun. You will never understand how much of a hassle Queen Mab, the current Winter Court Queen had to deal with Maeve's behaviour. Druids told me that there was even once that she was so bored that she pulled the wings off a fly just because it came into her sights." Hamatarou explained.

"Right now, I can vaguely understand why the new Salamander King would behave in such a cannibalistic way when they were previously more upstanding in their ways despite them being arseholes for being the highest of all nobles. For them to suddenly slaughtering both Giants and Animal People alike just to have fun was not in their nature at all." Hamatarou was finally able to link all the pieces together.

"There is no way Gaeru can defeat the daughter of the Winter Court Queen, even with his unique sword. Please get him to withdraw, it would be even worse if the Salamander King ever gets hold of the sword itself." Hamatarou pleaded with Jin, and it also seemed like the plan to make the Salamander King fall asleep would turn to moot.

"So, you have no way of defeating this Maeve as well?" Jin questioned the Sage with a tinge of anger dwelling within him.

"If Master asked me to distract Maeve, then yes. I can do that. But to defeat her? You need the powers equal or more powerful than the Evil Kinkstress to overwhelm her. Either her mother or the Faes from the Summer Court. And trust me, you would not want to go into a promise with either the Summer or Winter Courts. If you associate them like businessmen, they would be at least thousands times more corrupt and cunning than any business partners you have ever forge. The twist of words and promises are their forte." Hamatarou emphasised how dangerous the fairies were.

"The System also acknowledge that it would be unwise to go against a known Fey without knowing the extent of her abilities. It would definitely be wise to retreat while we still can and attempt another approach." The System stated which made Jin slammed his fist on the table.

"Damn it! Kido! Remove the spell of enlargement from Gaeru and pop a smokescreen to escape your way out of that situation. We do not want Maeve to suspect there is an external power helping them for now." Jin ordered through the System channel which Kido acknowledged.

The other Penguin Ninjas forcefully removed the enlargement spell from Gaeru, and they took the necessary precautions by knocking him out cold so that he would not retaliate against the Salamander King despite his failed efforts. However their enlarged projectiles aura was still active, so Kido threw a kunai towards the Salamander King with a smoke bomb was attached to it as well.

Although Maeve blocked the kunai with relative ease, she did not expect a smokescreen to pop right in front of her.

Kido initially feared that it would not work and had already prepared an additional smoke bomb to cover their current location. Fortunately, the smoke bomb worked more effectively than he had imagined. Still, it did no harm to throw the one he was holding to provide everyone with more distraction to escape.

Maeve and the Salamander King did not move an inch away from where they were standing to portray their superiority against their pitiful enemies despite the smokescreen. However, they had least expect the smokescreen to be fused with another effect mixed along with the loss of visibility.

Indian Curry Powder.

The smoke bomb mixture thrown at them had a combination of Indian curry powder as well as some unique spices from Farming World mixed into it to increase the effect. It was a concoction made by Penguins and Lynn as part of their research to make their cooking even more delicious (and to some point, deadly.)

This mixture enabled the smoke bomb to another level of potency, and it was funny how they were created this concoction by accident. Seeing it in action, the System took note of the recipe and placed them for future production.

Subsequently, both the Fae and her pet salamander had to withdraw from the smoke. Even when they were out of range from the smoke bomb, they were still suffering from the unspeakable itchiness emanating from the insides of their throat and constant urge to rub their eyes.

Yet, the more they rub, the worse the effect was.

Kido smirked when he heard intense coughing from afar and still retreated further before asking the System for a teleport back to the dungeon maker room. While Jin's minions managed to escape safely, the whole operation was considered as a failure since their objective to kill the Salamander King was met with unexpected developments.

Thankfully, there was a silver lining for the entire operation.

Even if they could not kill the Salamander King, Jin had managed to isolate the Salamander King by annihilating the entire family of Salamanders with the aid of Sandy.

The instant the King stepped out of his abode, Sandy sprung into action by activating all of her spells she had been preparing in the depths of the castle underground cellar. Initially, the Sand Witch was summoned to block all the exit routes found within the castle, but with the drastic change in the operation phases, her objective became something more of a search and destroy.

Sandy's magic spells gave her the ability to connect herself with the ground, allowing her to know where each and every Salamander was within the castle. With the aid of the scan done by Peppers, it was even easier for Sandy to locate the non combatants and the rest of the Salamander Royal Family.

After which, she shot sand spikes through the castle simultaneously to kill all the living Salamanders within the castle without any prejudice. And as for the rest who were agile enough to evade the attack, the sand spikes immediately shapeshifted into a human sand clone and attacked them.

Most of them died by puncture wounds or through suffocation as the Sand Clones smashed into them, entering the enemies' mouth and blocked their airway.

At the very least, Jin recognised that this would provide him with a bit of reprise knowing that the Salamander King would have trouble to find the animal tribes. Even now, there was no one to assist him

with his terribly itchy throat. He had to find the kitchen room which the King barely had any recollection of its location.

Furthermore, Jin suspected that with the lack of support, he might go into a rampage or perhaps depression. Either way that would probably mean the rest of the animal tribes might possibly be safe for now unless Maeve decided to make the Salamander King do something out of the norm.

In the meantime, Jin would get Hamatarou to check on the new captured Salamander Tribe and perhaps they could finally get to the bottom of the truth to exactly know what happened between the King and Maeve.

"Since this is a no go, then I guessed I should concentrate on retrieving the brain of the Mechanical Titan without additional allies."

Chapter 628 Raiding to Distrac

"Actually, I was wondering why don't you make it as a Raid? You never fail to use your cultivators as fodder while earning money. Why stop at the Goblin Raids? Besides, you cannot do anything about the titan thingy until Rei remodelled the Sandroku Golems to be space worthy." Kraft spoke out of turn as he sat with his legs crossed and looked at the current situation Jin was in.

"But won't it be impossible to defeat? From what we know previously, the Salamander King gets his power ups from his defeated foes." Jin replied, and Hamatarou's face immediately lighted up.

"That is If he eats his defeated foes. What I understand from your dungeon shop is that once your cultivators reached to low health or killed, they would be transported back right?" Hamatarou questioned, and Jin nodded his head.

"Then maybe it can work, especially since we need to throw lots of bodies to exhaust Maeve's powers. As it now stands, we might have to throw everything at her in order for her to stop being a threat. If she can induce the cannibalistic behaviour in the Salamander King, Maeve might do worse things when the situation is not in her favour."

"So, you two are saying that I should use my customers as a source of distraction? To keep that Fey occupied so that she would not bother the other animal tribes" Jin started to wonder if it was a good idea. There was no incentive, and in fact, he needed to fork out more expenses to manage the current situation.

"I say it will be best to eliminate him as soon as possible. If Maeve is as crazy as what Hamatarou said, it might be possible that your future allies could be in trouble since her powers are of a different level. And if not for them, do it for my village." Kido, who happened to return and listen to the conversation, gave his opinion.

"Basing on the assuming that he is a stereotypical tyrant, King Salamander would definitely smash and destroy stuff in his castle to vent his anger and rest momentarily before acting again. This is no doubt the best time to quickly gather people to pester him."

"If you sending people in, I want to go as well." Gaeru declared as he still did not give up the idea of defeating the Salamander King.

"User, it will be more beneficial for you to send customers to defeat the Evil Kinkstress. Monsters defeated require souls, but customers who were killed will immediately be sent to the Luxury Recovery Instance. While resources would no doubt be used, they are at a lower cost compared to sending monsters in and spending money on souls." The System stated that because Jin specialised in supplying Dungeons, the System had already attuned its resources his shop so sending customers would be the optimal choice.

It also reminded that as his monsters are growing stronger and the number of souls to replace them increased exponentially compared to using them in dungeons or utilising the cultivators.

"I see. I always thought the maintenance fee that you keep asking me to pay for, was partially due to the number of customers fainting." Jin replied as he recalled paying a lot more money when the number of customers skyrocketed.

"As previously discussed, the System used the fee User paid to upgrade its processing capability and kept a portion for rainy days." The System answered with a slight glee in its tone, which was rare for the rest to hear it.

Jin took a quick glance on his watch and laughed at the opportune timing given by fate itself. "Saturday morning. 4am. In a few hours, I will potentially have a load full of cultivators coming in." Jin said to himself.

"Heh, don't forget about the oldies. Their bones might be popping, but god damn, when I saw them fight, it was a sort of refined art." Kraft joked, and Jin did not know whether he was sarcastic or not. "That is if your pricing still stays the same since they are after all a bunch of grumbling cheapskates. But man, when they fought with Krampus, I was laughing my ass off how absurdly strong they were."

"Hamatarou, any chance you can defeat Maeve when she weakens by the customers?" Jin questioned, and the Sage Hamster shrugged his shoulders.

"I honestly have no idea what kind of powers she has, but the idea given by your monsters and the System makes sense. If you throw enough people in, Maeve will definitely be exhausted, and that will be a good time to jump in." Hamatarou concurred with the plan once more while telling Jin that he might have a way to give Gaeru's living weapon a boost now that he knows the existence of Masamune and his ability.

"How will you do it? I previously tried to add inscription charms and even support magic into it, the Masamune rejects almost everything." Jin said which Hamatarou smirked and replied with the following.

"Have you tried blood?"

Jin slowly shook his head with a happy half-smile and could roughly guess how he was going to improve Masamune's strength. He then sent Hamatarou off to see Vulcan, his NPC Blacksmith for his help. "If that is the case, Gaeru. I shall temporarily bestow you with a part of my weapon set." Jin said as he presented Boo to the frog swordsman.

As Boo was in the Wakizashi form, the blade size was perfect for Gaeru to wield. The frog initially did not want to accept it, but Jin convinced him that it was a temporary weapon to use against the Salamander King until Hamatarou managed to upgrade his Masamune for the killing blow.

After that, Gaeru reluctantly accepted and went to Panda Muscles Service Instance to practice the hang of his new sword before being summoned for the raid again.

As for Jin, he courteously asked the rest to give him some alone time to create an impromptu event while Kraft had already recruited Kiyu to make a promotional video with all the data the System had in its system. (Kiyu was cursing madly when she was given urgent requests, but she nevertheless delivered her product as scheduled.)

Jin knew that this would be a one-time event, so he had decided to create a new category of Dungeon type called Emergency Dungeon Raid. When Jin published the particular type of dungeon 'instance' into the Pandamonium App, there will be a buzzing notification that would be pushed to all the users.

Unlike standard notifications, the Emergency Dungeon Raid notification would appear something similar to a vibrating phone call. He knew that it might be annoying to the users, but the vibration would only last six seconds. Should anyone response and accept the invitation for the raid, they would have a free ticket to the raid instance as well as 100 Panda Medals if they manage to reach in an hour.

This was to incentivise users who wish to be part of the shop's hardcore cultivating culture and at the same time, inadvertently help Jin to achieve his objective.

In addition, there was no limit on the acceptance number and the dungeon supplier knew that if they managed to defeat Maeve and the Salamander King in record time, the System could replicate the data for other people to play the event.

Now, Jin could only hope that the suggestions of his fellow comrades would be beneficial.

Chapter 629 Emergency Dungeon Raid Instance

Within an hour, Jin managed to release the Emergency Dungeon Raid, "The Battle in Salamander Lord's Keep" to the public. Considering that he did not have to create the environment nor any monsters, it took him more time than usual.

He spent the time mainly to create the reward system and Jin knew that he needed to prepare an incentive system since the raid would be nigh impossible, especially for the first few waves of cultivators entering.

When Jin published the Emergency Raid instance into his shop, a wave of notifications was sent throughout to the Pandamonium App network as proposed by the dungeon supplier. Unsurprisingly, the first few to respond were a group of elderlies who had used Jin's shop as a place to catch up with friends and relatives.

The reason for this neighbouring group of elderlies to always gather in Jin store was mainly because Jin had provided them with an activity that allowed them to exercise on a regular basis. But most importantly, they had taken a liking for Jin's store due to his food. (at reasonable prices!)

Though Lynn had always provided savoury food with the bulk of the cultivators, she had purposely made an elderly friendly menu that was priced at a reasonable cost and suited the taste palate of the uncles and aunties. (not to mention filled with nourishment!)

Hence, it was a place of convenience to gather for food and exercise while enjoying the modern trend of those youngsters, what was there not to like?

As a group of them was waiting for some of their friends to arrive early in the morning for the usual workout before the crowd comes in, the notification of the Emergency Raid instance came without warning. Accompanied with the shop instance blinking with red lights, the sudden atmosphere change startled the group of 'young' elders.

"What is happening?" Xia Mao, a recently retired 60 year old gentleman, checked his phone when he felt the vibration coming from his phone. He squinted his eyes a little to check the contents of the notification and realised it was from his Pandamonium App.

Zi Dan, a friend which Xia Mao acquainted from this casual weekend gathering, also took his phone out to check the notification out. "Hmmm, Emergency Raid Instance? Is this something new? I thought the current raid was the Christmas one?"

"Should be new, I guess? It stated that if we decided to respond and join the raid within an hour, we would be able to enter for free once and earn 100 panda medals regardless of the raid outcome." Xia Mao replied.

"Seems like everyone in the shop instance is receiving the notification. Some are not hesitating and accepted the Emergency request." Jing Yu, one of the few seniors that had started this casual community gathering in Jin's store, observed the commotion within the shop instance.

"Hmm I think we can give it a try first, it affirmed that this new dungeon is a community raid, similar to the Goblin Raids and of limited time only. Must be Boss Jin trying out new stuff again. Oh does this guy ever stop thinking us as some guinea pigs?" Xia Mao commented which made Zi Dan laughed.

"But you never fail to participate for every dungeon of his ever since you join us! The way I see it, you liked to be part of his experiments! Hahaha!" Zi Dan chuckled as he accepted the notification request too though he did not enter the instance just yet to see the response of his two other friends.

"You don't wish to wait for the others?" Jing Yu questioned, but her intentions were painfully clear for the other two old men.

"Don't tell me you are still waiting for Heng Li to come? Because I know that you do not really give much of a concern to most of our other group mates. Did he not say he is returning back to his hometown to celebrate the incoming new year with his children and grandchildren?" Zi Dan was the first to say it out loud.

"Even though I am not much of a position to say anything but I think you should give up on him. Do not mistake his kindness any more than what it supposed to be." Xia Mao said, and it made Jing Yu flustered for a moment.

"What are you two talking about? Of course, I am definitely waiting for the others to come! You said it was a community raid kind of instance right?" Jing Yu pretended not to care much about the person that they were talking about.

"Say whatever you want, your actions spoke louder than words. We are not young anymore. Just take the chance whenever you can, even though it is going to fail. At the very least, you can pass on to the next life with one less regret." Zi Dan rolled his eyes at the apparent lie Jing Yu was weaving.

"So...are we still waiting for the rest? Apparently, they received the notice from Pandamonium group chat, but we can check the raid out before them. Besides the first time is free and we know how money grabbing Jin's raids are. We need to complete it at least a few times to earn his rewards." Xia Mao asked once more, and the trio decided to enter the dungeon so they could at least guide the rest when they arrive.

"Heh! That is probably your karma for taking other people's money when you are still working! Besides, the food vouchers they offer as rewards is simply too enticing for me as well." Zi Dan saw the sample list of rewards they offered was extensive. There was even once he worked hard to get the Christmas plushie for his granddaughter and she loved it a lot.

The premise for the Emergency raid was straightforward for once. Nothing too fancy and the storyline from the promotional video which came with the notice portrayed a frog swordsman fighting to get revenge from the people who murdered his family and later slaughter his entire village. (Jin clearly left out the cannibalism part to make it more ...community friendly.)

But as the frog fought against his nemesis, the Salamanders, he found out that their King was possessed by a mystical being which had superior powers. Thus, the frog swordsman Gaeru had to retreat temporarily and rallied for aid to come.

That was where the cultivators came in.

His prayers were supposedly answered by a Panda God which decided to reward him for his courage to face the Salamanders alone and made it that far. Most of the customers grasped the concept of the Panda God was none other than Jin himself, and many giggled at the fact that he called himself a god during the promotional video.

"Well, in a way, Boss Jin is a god since he created works to suit the storyline and make it a possibility for the frog to be victorious. Ahh, I assume he is gonna win with our help." Xia Mao chuckled to Zi Dan as he checked his gear once more before going in.

"I just hope this current raid is not as strenuous as the Christmas one. Darn, I recalled hearing my joints cracked a few times doing that dungeon." Zi Dan stretched his back and move his waist a little.

"If not for the increase in cultivation after attending Jin's store, I don't think I will be so active during my retirement years as well." Xia Mao replied with a smile as they both looked towards Jing Yu's changed outfit.

"What? Anything wrong with my outfit?"

"Sometimes, I wonder why you go to such the lengths to change to this traditional Hanfu (Han's clothing) outfits." Zi Dan questioned, even though he roughly knew why she had to wear that. "But it still looks great on you though despite your age."

"Cut the crap. Use that sweet mouth of yours to younger girls. Not me." Jing Yu said with some irk.

"Hahah, I think it's because she looked funny wielding her two swords in modern clothing." Xia Mao replied with the obvious, but Jing Yu was already ignoring the two old man as she pressed the 'Enter' button for the Battle in Salamander Lord's Keep instance.

The other two quickly followed on and wondered what surprises this new dungeon raid will provide.

Chapter 630 The Battle in Salamander Lord's Keep

When Jin released the Emergency Raid Dungeon instance, he noticed a couple of cultivators had already teleported into the outer baileys where Gaeru was waiting for reinforcements from Jin's store.

The frog swordsman did not waste any time as they move towards the inner baileys with whatever number of cultivators were with him. (Even though Jin told him to wait until he had at least thirty over cultivators with him. Right now, he a little more than a dozen with him.)

That was why Jin had placed Kido and his fellow Penguin Ninjas at specific points of the outer bailey to guide the cultivators the quickest way into the inner part of the castle.

Xia Mao, Zi Dan and Jing Yu were among the first few to follow Gaeru. (They were lucky that when they arrive, that impatient frog was already planning to leave.) So, when they trailed behind the frogman into the inner baileys, they could not believe their eyes at how massive the walls and its surrounding environment were as compared to them. (Since they did not have the slightest idea that they were to be teleported to the Giant World at all.)

The amount of distance needed to travel was annoying far, and though the cultivators persisted, it was not as favourable as Gaeru thought it would be. He initially thought the latest group of elderly cultivator would slow them down, but they happened to be the few that could keep up with his pace.

The younger cultivators were the ones who had trouble maintaining their chi and thus, their pace was hampered. Some immediately gave the excuse that they did not have their breakfast while others said they happened to be around after some night activities and were not expecting this much running.

On the contrary, it was the elder cultivators who gave them a bump in chi and told them how to regulate on the run. Gaeru had to slow down his pace for them, but it was not terrible as they were constantly catching up with him. If not for Jing Yu and Zi Dan's aid, the young cultivators had to stop every few kilometres for a breather.

Jin who was monitoring the progress of the group eventually decided to change the teleportation point to the Inner Baileys in order to prevent the following groups of people from being in the same situation,

and it also gave other cultivators the opportunity to meet up with Gaeru and the rest of the customers as well. The only downside is that Maeve might notice something was amiss, but that was no longer a point of concern for Jin.

The main giant door to the castle was menacing for most of the cultivators considering their size, but thankfully, it remained open.

So, all they had to do was to simply waltz right inside of it and fight against their said opponent as portrayed in the Raid's story.

Nonetheless, it seemed like Maeve and the Salamander King was already expecting them.

With the first step into castle, the old Trio along with the other cultivators were teleported separately into various parts of the castle. When they come into their senses, Jing Yu realised that she was paired with Gaeru as they arrived at the prison cells while Zi Dan and Xia Mao were teleported into the kitchen. For the rest of the other cultivators, she assumed that they were transported to various parts of the castle.

Suddenly, a booming voice reached out to everyone within the castle. "I lost all my servants because of that stupid frog. Therefore, all of you are to be my slaves! Serve me food! Serve me wine! And clean this fucking place up!" A female voice which Gaeru automatically assumed it was the Evil Kinkstress Maeve that was shouting out.

"The person who brings me that frog dead or alive will be instantly promoted to be my personal slave! You will have the best food and service your entire life! Not to mention powers beyond your own understanding!" Maeve continued to advertise.

Jin knew that if Maeve wanted to kill the frog, she already had the means to do so. Hence, what she's doing was equivalent to toying the people that entered her castle. At the moment, all the cultivators were accounted for within her premise with the aid of the Half Masks all of the cultivators were wearing.

He also guessed that at this point, the Salamander King was nothing but just a puppet for her to play. There might be a chance which the King himself was already killed since everyone was dead, courtesy of Sandy and none was left to serve Maeve.

Regardless of the announcement, Gaeru had to get out of the situation he was in. (All of the cultivators thought that this was part of the raid as well and none took Maeve's words seriously.) As for the prison cell Gaeru and Jing Yu was in, the frog swordsman broken the door with a quick slash using Jin's off-hand weapon, Boo.

Up till now, Gaeru never handled a weapon as light as Boo since all he had been with his entire life was Masamune. Of course, Masamune did not appear the day his father bestowed him the weapon, it was something which he found, and it decided to embody his sword and lived within his blade. Hence, Masamune was a kind of spirit which wished to harbour inside his sword.

But how did Masamune came into contact with Gaeru was something which the frog swordsman did not wish to reveal even to the Sage Hamster. The System was not too bothered since it knew of worlds that

have an abundance of Living Weapons and perhaps when Jin had cleared most of his current objectives, it would introduce that particular world to him.

As Jin noted of the trouble Gaeru was having with his borrowed sword, he assisted him in transforming Boo into a shape something similar to Masamune, including the weight and length of it. The only major difference was the crossguard and the immensely good grip which the sword possessed. Gaeru even stated that it was an improvement Masamune should have in the future.

"Perhaps, we might be able to do that in the future, assuming Masamune allowed us to modify it," Jin said to Gaeru before he departed further down the prison cells.

As for Jing Yu, the half mask she was wearing aided her tremendously, and if she was able to applaud Jin for making such a significant Ui improvement to the mask, she would have done so.

The current mask was able to show things that were already implemented during the beta testing by Xiong Da's team in the Farming World and even more.

Right now, since Jin had already scanned the area once, the full castle map was revealed to the Jing Yu, and she could instantly locate her teammates via her mask. So, her immediate concern was to protect the Frog and regroup with her team mates once more. (That is assuming she knew how to convince that musclehead frog to listen to her.)

In usual circumstances, Jin would have placed a fog of war in the maps, but this was an emergency raid he could not afford to lose. So, the dungeon supplier believed that he should be aiding the cultivators as much as he could without too much meddling.

He was also going to use the map function as an excuse to reveal the exclusive new features of the half masks before he used it for other raids or dungeon instances. The System liked the marketing gimmick that Jin employed and unexpectedly praised him for it before returning to monitor the situation.

Even though it was an unforeseen development for the cultivators to be separated, it was not much of an issue since more and more cultivators will arrive and Jin was going to use quantity to squeeze the Maeve's magic powers to the limit. Only when she was exhausted, then Jin will enter the fray as a special guest with his other bellators to finish the job.

All he hoped was that the Queen of Winter Court would not appear and make their lives as difficult as it could already be. Jin did query about the Queen of Winter Court from Hamatarou, but he was not much of a help at all as well, as they were as elusive as they could be. He only knew from legends and his druid teachers that Queen Mab was not as mischievous and ...machoistic as her daughter.

And unlike the Queen who possessed mostly ice magic, Maeve possessed a certain kind of magic that would make the demons under Jin rather jealous.

The haunting capability to summon unnatural beasts into the physical realm.