

Dungeon S 691

Chapter 691 A Puff Of Smoke

"Please tell me you have some information about the north. I'm desperate to hear some actual news about it." Jin beckoned Hou Fei to follow him to the Dungeon Maker where they had enough privacy to talk about this.

"It would be bad if you actually heard anything about it yet. Considering how serious the government is suppressing every bit of information about this at the moment. It has reached a level where they have banned a few reporters who stumbled on this." Hou Fei said as he laid back on a chair and took a cigarette out.

"You mind?" Hou Fei asked, and Jin shook his head. "If you have heard any rumours about the monster horde, then they are right on the money."

"I've heard multiple rumours, but the scale of them is a bit frightening. For you guys to insist on using my untested portal devices to keep up the secrecy, kind of shows that you all must be more than just a little desperate."

"We are. In fact, we're also considering sending Demon Exorcists in the vicinity to take a closer look at the situation. While it falls in our jurisdiction to eliminate the threat, we have no idea how the hell they have managed to increase their numbers this quickly." Hou Fei took the first puff, and he felt his lungs finally relax.

"Hmm, it just so happens that I've sent out a small group of demon exorcists on my side to take a look at the situation. Technically, their mission is to check out something probably unrelated, but I suppose they could examine the problem and provide us with some perspective on it while on site." Jin suggested, and Hou Fei squinted his eyes.

"You have a group of demon exorcists under your command? That is... quite a surprise. They're an elite bunch of pricks who always undermine the military or police, thinking that they are the best of the best." Hou Fei complained, seemingly having had too many encounters with them to comfortably rely on them.

"So do you think they are all that bad?" Jin asked as he showed Hou Fei his own Demon Exorcist badge. Hou Fei laughed, but not in a funny way, probably to cover his disgust for his master.

"You joined them out of your own volition or was it forced upon you?" Hou Fei questioned back as if he had an inkling of what must have happened.

"Erm, Grandma Yuan made me joined her...after all-"

"Yeah, Big Sis Yuan can be a royal pain in the ass. She has ways to... 'convince' us to her bidding." Hou Fei thought back on all the times and how he was roped into performing errands for her. Not always willingly and not always even being aware of it until he finished.

"There shouldn't be that much bad blood, considering you called her Big Sis...?" Jin suddenly recalled about the crumpled piece of paper that had been thrown into the Black Tortoise of the North. Perhaps, he could pry a little on the relationship between Ming and Yuan from Hou Fei through this conversation.

"Oh, you didn't know? Ming and Yuan were childhood friends... And guess what? This was actually supposed to be a secret which he leaked out when he was drunk. Considering that he isn't here anymore, I don't mind sharing it with you. Your old man Ming had been head over heels for her, but Big Sis Yuan never treated him as such. Hahaha! And Yuan never knew his feelings for her, as she always thought that he was behaving as her equal."

"You mean not a little bit?"

"I eventually got more out of Ming even though he obviously lied claiming it was just a short periodical moment that he had a crush on her. After which, he found the love of his life and Yuan became only a battle companion of the System." Hou Fei felt a little nostalgic over the whole conversation and decided to take another stick. Thankfully, the Dungeon Maker could make an impromptu ventilation system, so the place was not stuffed with smoke.

"Is Yuan married or something? What was Grandma like? Do you happen to have a picture of her?" Jin asked, and Hou Fei felt uncomfortable from the sudden bombardment of questions. He then realised that Jin knew nothing about his elders at all.

"Ahhh. I can't believe those two continued to be this secretive throughout their lives, even to the extent of misunderstanding each other at times. That's really their shared bad point." Hou Fei lamented as he flicked the burnt butt on a cigarette dish which the System had prepared.

"Tell you what, I will be happy to gossip about their private lives when we are less busy. For now, let's concentrate on the matter at hand." Hou Fei promised as he took out his phone and showed him an email. It contained a series of satellite images that showed how the Monster Horde was growing exponentially.

"We have a few private contractors that have reduced their numbers significantly, but a group of them can only do that much. If the horde is coming towards them, I trust that they can handle themselves. However, for some reason, this horde displays remarkable intelligence. After their first encounter, the private contractors were forced to search and hunt them down despite their growing numbers. It was just like they knew someone was out there to hurt them..." Hou Fei started his report despite the need to keep them secret. Besides, he believed Jin would learn about it sooner or later anyway.

"We have restricted the airspace above it in case of any flying creatures or those sorts but as of now there are no signs of this, yet we are remaining on alert. Though the border guards are on full alert, they have yet to increase their manpower unnecessarily." Hou Fei continued as he asked for his phone back.

"Also, the disaster committee had mandated that we will start our operation next week, so you are lucky that my troops and I will be free for the fight."

"Heh! If not for the portal device thing, you guys would have been travelling up north already." Jin countered Hou Fei's 'benevolent' behaviour.

"Aww shucks, can't you let me play a saint once in a while. I have always been the bad guy for quite a lot of stuff." Hou Fei sighed with a pleading tone.

"It comes with the position of a general, I guess."

"Props to your granddad for being so capable in raising a successor." Hou Fei grinned. He laid his head back on the chair and took his last puff before the cigarette died out.

"So, is it true, your portal device truly works? Or are you just using the System's magic to make it happen?"

"Yeah, it does work even without the aid of the System, but I have also placed a few failsafe methods just in case of people trying to sabotage or copy our designs. Oh yea, the System has been upgrading the activation key with the help of Kraft. Now we will know exactly who uses which portal device and when. You should warn them not to pry in too deeply into our secrets. I think you know how trigger happy Kraft can be, especially after being bored for a while..."

"Sounds like you are stricter than the government. But the big daddies will love you for such tracking information."

"No matter what they do, they can only control people up to a certain extent. It's more of the act itself than the actions it could perform. Besides, the failsafe key now acts more as a guarantee for me." Jin said as he typed a few things on the screen and showed Hou Fei.

"Ke Loong is the main honcho for this matter, and while I believe they should be contacting your Human Resources soon enough, this is what's going to happen," Jin explained to Hou Fei about the container trucks he was going to insert the portal instances in, and asked if there were any specifications that needed to be followed.

"Ah, I will get the biggest dimensions of the tanks, 3-tonners and other miscellaneous vehicles and get back to you asap so you do not have wasted your time remodifying the container trucks. Other than that, I believe your plan should be fine. I honestly hope that you won't get involved in this mess any more than you already, seeing that you have your hands full with other nonsense."

"I hope so too." Jin agreed. (Hardly believing it though)

Chapter 692 Extra: Checkpoint

"BORDERS CLOSED, TURN BACK." The signs were wide and clear for the team of exorcists who were driving towards the checkpoint. Soon after the Border Guards demanded Lein to stop the car and present their IDs for verification.

"The roads are blocked because of some reconstruction issues. Please divert back to the main road and try Exit 34B and upwards. Account at least two more hours to your travelling time." The Guard told them like it was a rehearsed response. As if Lein knew what was going to happen, he stopped as instructed and prepared himself mentally. Aside from the standard IDs that Lein had collected from the group, he had also shown their Demon Exorcist's licenses.

"We've heard about the 'matter' and had volunteered to investigate the cause of it." Lein lied with a straight, yet confident look on his face. The Guard took a quick glance at the Qilin Demon Cultivator before scrutinising their ID cards once again.

"I'll get back to you. Go through the first checkpoint and turn left. Wait for further instructions." The Border Guard stated and shouted at his comrades to lift the roadblock for their car to pass through.

"Looks like what Milk said is true." Su Zhen scanned around the vicinity and saw that the guards were in their full battle garments despite pretending this just being a typical 'reconstruction' roadblock.

"Heh. This Jin is as cunning as Grandma Yuan. He must have a sixth sense knowing that there was something going on here. I'm starting to think whatever is there, it won't just be some standard bone demons." Rong felt elated that they were not doing some pathetic errand to catch these demons.

"That does not mean it deviates from our mission," Lein told his companion as he thanked the Guard who removed the roadblock with a nod. "Whatever the demon, we have to grab samples of it. If possible capture it alive, otherwise kill it and hand over the corpse to Jin."

"Assuming whatever they are afraid of is not a ghost type, grabbing samples might still be nigh impossible. You know how quickly demon bodies erode. We have, at best, two days to bring it back for cross-examination." Lian reminded them while she stared blankly out of the window despite the constant activities of the border guards.

"In any case, we should concentrate on getting in first and meet Milk at the aforementioned location." Lein told the rest to stay in the car while he settled with the next batch of guards.

"Man, if Ms Milk can get into the compound undetected, that means she must be quite a high-level cultivator," Rong mentioned casually while he helped Lein turn the car into idle mode, reducing the activity of the engine further. "Just where did Jin get to know all these people?"

"Jin this, Jin that. You must be really jealous of him." Lian commented while Su Zhen snickered believing it was more likely the other way around. He wanted to be like Jin.

"What?! No way! Who would want to be like that scammer! He could have told us that the spider was the exam!" Rong argued and tried to defend himself.

"Ookayyy. Whatever rocks your boat." Lian shrugged her shoulders since she could not be bothered to turn her head from the front seat and quarrel with Rong.

"Captain Samsu." The captain introduced himself as he extended his hand for a simple greeting. Lein returned the greeting but noticed that the captain's grip was weak and he had heavy black eye bags on his face, making him look more than just haggard.

"You claim to have volunteered yourself here. Please explain." Captain Samsu asked, but a sudden phone call interrupted the conversation. He quickly picked up and walked away for a moment to answer the call. Even without any eavesdropping, the expression on the Captain made the situation he was handling rather obvious, and Lein did not like this one bit.

"My bad. Where were we?"

"You asked for an explanation of why we're here. I am afraid I cannot go too much into the situation, but you can regard it as a simple recon mission." Lein tried to make up an excuse, but Captain Samsu felt more irritated than ever.

"'Simple' recon mission? What the hell? Is that how they treat all of this and the reason why they only sent newly promoted exorcists to us? Ah, whatever. Those government dogs are always thinking about their face." Anger was seeping out of the Captain's face as if he was waiting for something more optimistic as Lein pretended to be nonchalant to the complaints.

"Regardless, four fresh able bodies is better than none. You said you wanted to see what's inside, right? Be my guest, but know this. I'm in no way responsible for you. You come back with everyone missing, it's none of my business." Captain Samsu stated and shouted for one of the guards.

"Make them sign the indemnity form and record their ID cards in case they don't come back within the next 72 hours. After which, let them pass." Captain Samsu ordered, returned back to his office and continued to make calls for the guards.

While the rest were doing the paperwork, Lein casually asked one of the guards about Captain Samsu's lousy mood.

"Not enough manpower and insufficient ammunition. The injured are getting more numerous, so they are being sent to various hospitals to lower the suspicions. But despite the increasing casualties, we still don't get any reinforcements. Not to mention, none of us here had the luxury to spend any Christmas or the new year because of this fucking horde." Guard A ranted out loud, in poor hopes that the 'infamous exorcists' could write that in their wretched report back to their higher ups.

"Yeah, if not for the private contractors, this wall would have already been broken through many times. And here we thought there would be more help coming in the way." Guard B badmouthed the situation. It was clear that they had enough with all of this damned secrecy.

"Didn't they tell us the army will come by this week?" Guard A asked, but Guard B corrected him that they wouldn't come here before next week instead. Even though Lein knew a little from Milk's leaked information, he decided to keep his mouth shut for now and calmly fill in the rest of the paperwork.

"Not to say you are useless or anything, but I doubt you'll be of much help, considering your ranks. So please, do a quick recon and ask your superiors for reinforcements. We sorely need it." The first Guard requested. But as luck would have it, their own supervisor shouted at them to hurry up with the paperwork and get back to their guard positions.

Lein took the border guard guest passes as proof of identification for the roads and subsequent checkpoints ahead. As he drove the car through the first line of inspections, the team quietly but vigilantly looked out for any damages done by the demons around the area.

To their surprise, there was not much damage to the infrastructures, but there were obvious signs of firefights at the forests right beside them. Rong also managed to sieve out the scent of gunfire smoke, and it felt recent.

Considering he could have a whiff of it from a moving car, indicated that the guards were not lying.

Chapter 693 Extra: Camp For The Evening

"Yo, you guys finally arrived!" Milk waved at them from above a tree while the rest were weary from the hike from the checkpoint.

"Did you like, erm fly in here or something? And what kind of location is this? We are standing practically in the middle of nowhere with no landmark to follow." Lian complained as she was not used to the traditional methods of searching for someone using a physical map. All four of them were too reliant on technology to even understand the basics of survival.

"Actually, I got bored at the real location some time ago, so I decided to search for you guys instead. Why didn't you prepare better? It should've been obvious that you're going into a massive jungle with no Wifi? Next time at least get a GPS receiver or a compass." Milk lectured them since she had wasted an hour waiting for them at the particular location she assigned. There was no apparent reason why Milk wanted to use the site she chose other than asking System for a coordinate to teleport.

However, she did encounter a Bone Spirit Demon that was lurking around the area and had already plummeted it to death before sending it to the System for analysis. After which, she slept above a tree branch peacefully with a variety of alarm spells placed in her radius to alert her of movement either from the demon exorcists or any other demons.

Milk honestly believed there was really no need for the kids to be here. If all Jin wanted was to find out about the monsters to create in the new advanced training centre, then there were better candidates for that job.

So, she guessed he wanted them to learn and grow from the experience. After all, aside from Su Zhen, the rest still needed to prove that they had actually killed a few demons and solve a case or two to get promoted to full-fledged demon exorcists. This particular exercise could potentially allow them to gain such a reputation immediately.

"Ms Milk, your information about a possible demon invasion was right. The guards were all dead tired and blabbering about how they needed reinforcements and weapons. However, as we travelled here, there were no demons in sight despite the tell signs. Was that your doing as well?" Lein queried.

Milk's information had been correct, and her criticism was valid from the way they were behaving. But there was no apparent threat at the moment. They wondered if Milk was secretly protecting them by giving them a seemingly random meeting location as an excuse.

"Nope, I haven't seen anything yet." Milk lied as she covered it up with another yawn. Su Zhen judged that their observer, as well as the team, were tired so it would be best to break camp for the day despite still having plenty of daytime left. (She had no idea how much sleep Milk always enjoyed.)

"Ms Milk, is there a river stream or some other kind of water source around?" Su Zhen asked. She decided to scan the area for a place to rest by activating her sensing ability of the White Demon Snake.

"Ehh, further up, there is a small stream. Enough to get some water." Milk pointed upwards, and Rong laughed.

"We have more than enough water to supply ourselves. I bet Su Zhen is just looking for a clearing to settle for the evening." Rong pointed out as he took out a bottle of water and flaunted it in front of Milk.

"Just...don't litter the place or I will wallop you." Milk said casually as she beckoned the rest to follow her.

Soon, they found a small clearing further up the stream and decided to camp there. Only instead of cooking dinner, they were busy setting a few basic trap formations and subsequently tents to rest. After which, all of them prepared to sleep despite the sun still being up.

Seeing the curious look on Milk, Lian assumed she did not know much about the demons and explained that the demons were more active in the night: "They're a little scared of the light, but that doesn't mean they won't attack in the day."

Meanwhile, Lian took a spray can and started moisturising her skin from the intense heat. In fact, it also served as a sort of low level repellent so regular demons would not be able to sense the chi emanating from the Demon Exorcists as they rested.

"The three of us will be resting up, while Rong will take watch for us until the evening." Su Zhen interjected and asked Lian for the spray can and criticised she should get the new lemon concoction from the Exorcists Shop online.

"The Trap Formations also has an alarm spell to alert Rong and should keep us safe inside," Lein said as he properly activated the trap formation. It caused a faint greenish light to appear in the distance, and eventually, the trap formation blended with the surrounding environment.

"So instead of using it offensively, you are using it defensively?" Milk concluded, and they nodded their heads. Usually, it was used to trap and prevent the demons from moving out of the formation, thus allowing Demon Exorcists to close into the demon and kill it. But at the moment, they were trapping themselves in so they could have a quiet and peaceful rest.

Rong would be on standby and protect the group in case any demons accidentally destroyed the formation.

"But most of the time, if the demons were able to destroy the trap formation, they are usually sentient in nature, and that means we'll be big trouble," Lian added, but Su Zhen calmed everyone else by stating that there were no tracks of the demons on the ground she had trailed.

'You cannot track them because...they are using the trees to travel.' Milk thought to herself when she recalled the Bone Demon infused Monkey diving down to attack her. Still, she decided not to say anything and allow these kids a bit of rest.

Milk predicted that soon enough, the young demon exorcists would be in one of the hardest battles they would remember for life.

Chapter 694 Weirdest Accommodation

"This is the weirdest accommodation I've ever heard of." Meng Ruo grumbled as he stared at the Tree Mall right in front of him. "You sure the Sarge's order is correct?"

"Please, even Sarge thinks that this has to be some mistake." Zhang Min replied as he stared at his phone from the Mechat messages he had with his superior.

"Well, that's why we've been sent here, isn't it? Besides, according to Sarge, General Hou Fei also wants us to do a warm-up exercise before going up north. He kept emphasising that we're too inexperienced at fighting monsters after the last training exercise." Wei Yi added as he beckoned the guys to follow him into the Tree Mall. Their sergeant had forwarded a message from their higher-ups stating that they were to stay in a dungeon supplier store.

Not only did the three corporals wonder if this was the right decision, but a lot of their higher-ups were inevitably showing doubts of their usually capable General's orders. Had he suddenly gone insane to tell them to stay in a dungeon supplier store?

It was to the point, many were starting to consider pre-booking some of the hotels around Shenzhen just in case that order was some sort of mistake. Especially when he gave the directive for them to mobilise into Shenzhen for the 'mass training exercise' in five days time.

As Meng Ruo, Zhang Min and Wei Yi happened to be assigned for a cross-state training workshop in Shenzhen by the 4th Royal Zodiac Snake Battalion, they had been secretly ordered by their sergeant (Actually it came from their Commanding Sergeant Major) to verify what the General had said before they decided to mobilise the entire battalion into Shenzhen in plain sight.

"Welcome to Dungeons and Panda! According to your registration, I believe you must be here under the command of General Hou Fei?" Mr Patsu, the Penguin Announcer, turned guide for this impromptu accommodation situation greeted the three who had entered the shop simultaneously.

"Eh...Yes, that's us. They've been told to ask for Jin? ... or Qiu Yue?" Wei Yi, who was the most senior among the three, had stepped forward to give Mr Patsu more information.

"Ah, no worries, Jin, the Boss of this place has left me specific instructions to bring you to your accommodations first." Mr Patsu replied upon seeing the screenshot from the Mechat message. "Please follow me and do not hesitate to take pictures."

That sentence alone had made the three soldiers suspicious. It was not due to the penguin NPC talking to them but mainly because of how shocked they were coming into a shop instance like Jin's. Although the Christmas decoration themes had been removed, they still needed time to acclimatise to the 'ordinary' look of the shop instance.

"How did you know that we wished to take pictures of the place?" Zhang Min asked while also taking one photo of the penguin himself.

"Boss Jin reminded us that it would be understandable for you esteemed guests to doubt the orders of your general given the content." Mr Patsu smiled as he always loved to see the surprised faces of new customers.

It brought him joy that there was this 'magical' touch that Jin's store still possessed no matter the age of the customers. Soon, the trio readily followed Mr Patsu into an elevator at the edge of the shop instance which had a sign with 'restricted access' written on it.

Mr Patsu jumped to tap the 'up' button with his keycard, and the elevator opened, revealing a pretty, petite chandelier at the centre of the lift. Its slight yellowish glow gave the lift a bit of a comfy luxurious feel. The spacious elevator included a white marble interior that blended nicely with the chandelier while slow 80s music was played in the background.

"It will be a short ride to the lobby, but please hold on to the railings in case of jerking." Mr Patsu instructed them and pressed the only button on the elevator. True enough, there was some vibration that came from the lift, but the soldiers felt that it was not because of any infrastructure failure and rather the speed that the elevator was moving at. They could feel there was a slight gravitational force in play and it was similar to the elevator rides going from the 1st floor to the 80th floor in less than 10 seconds.

In no time at all, the doors opened, and the sight was entirely different from what they had expected.

A row of animal looking people at the elevator's entrance welcomed their first-ever group of guests they ever received. The animal people tribes who had signed the contract had been employed as auxiliary support staff for the current humans, and they had been drilled madly by the penguins. In terms of management, Lynn was handling the animal tribes rather than Qiu Yue since she had experience training the penguins for service support. (Though the System was using her more for the total obsession to clean stuff.)

Still, with Lynn only being apt in training others to become a cook she had left it to her peggies to train the staff for hospitality. The System had agreed to it as well since they were the epitome of her standard in cleanliness.

Some of the tribe people had initially been unable to handle the intense training. Still, the System (along with Lynn) had decided to use the same incentive programme the penguins were using to entice them to do better.

Unfortunately, the standard they had achieved so far, was not exactly what they had hoped for, especially since the penguins had had more time to learn and train. Yet, the Animal Tribe people preserved mainly because of the abundance of food, comfort and shelter they had been provided with in return.

They enjoyed their new lives without the need to sacrifice themselves hunting for the chance of getting food. Some of the older members did complain that this could potentially erode some of their tribal tradition, though the penguins did indirectly reinforce the fact that Jin would always satisfy the thirst for battles when the time was right.

Furthermore, the System had also bestowed them with cultivation styles based on their animals to further develop their strength, dexterity and vitality. After all, being able to stay awake longer meant working harder, and it would ultimately prove to serve better for the System and Jin.

In the meantime, the three soldiers could not believe their eyes and their mouth were still left hanging. The lobby was grandiose in nature with comfortable chairs right beside the counters for guests to wait. The porters were around to carry any heavy luggages. Despite the soldiers' insistence, they eventually gave way for the animal tribe people to hold them.

Registration was just a form of courtesy as they were presented with not just the keys to their hotel room, but the information brochures about the hotel they were going to stay as well as food vouchers for the breakfast buffet. The guests were also brief that their physical keys were used to turn the circuits on in their room, but the locks could be open with the digital key affixed to the Pandamonium account. Thus, there was no need to worry about losing their physical key.

Yet, another shocking sight awaited them after registering for their hotel room as Mr Patsu led them to it.

Chapter 695 Hotel Room

"Am I still dreaming?" Wei Yi asked as he opened the door to the hotel room on the eighth floor. It was not some measly one bedroom like he had expected but instead turned out to be an enormous suite.

"Don't get too happy now. I'm beginning to suspect there must be a serious caveat for such a luxurious stay. General Hou Fei wouldn't just book us something as fancy otherwise." Zhang Min replied as he opened another door which revealed an individual room with a personal toilet. On further inspection, it felt more like a well-furnished five-room apartment with accessories attached to it.

The living room was equipped with air conditioning, a 55" 8K HDR Television with a modest surround sound system at the centre of it all. From the looks of it, the brand of the sofa was just as expensive as everything that was placed alongside it. Even the carpet and tiles they were standing had a different feel. It felt like their feet did not deserve any of this.

And hell, there was even a Playbox 720 in the living room ready for them on the top shelf of a cabinet filled with the latest games for them to try out. If they wanted party games, the Nentendo Switch Pro was also available but they had to prebook it at the front counter.

It was mainly because of the limited quantity the hotel have in stock. (The hotel could not possibly cater to each and every guest with a set of Switch Pro) Aside from gaming, it also had the latest streaming premium services on demand. Sports, movies, dramas and even salacious programmes were available.

Of course, the last one was a definite pay per view with the use of Pandamonium App and the users were reminded to keep it a secret since censorship controls were still rather tight about it. (On the side note, the System ensured that no such programmes were available for families with kids around.)

Separately, the bathroom was filled with a large bathtub enough for two to enjoy a jacuzzi session. A somewhat smaller TV with anti-fogging and water-resistant technology was also placed within the room for a person to simultaneously enjoy their soapy bath and remain up to date with any show of their choosing.

Talking about baths, the soap selection would put many five and even six star hotels to shame as there was a touch screen to select the kind of soap for dispensing. If there was no time to enjoy the tub, the occupants could always use the shower area right beside it. The most unique thing was, that it was a virtually simulated room which meant that it could simulate any environment the occupant wished to bathe in.

Zhang Min tried it out by pressing the 'random' button, and the shower room simulated the surroundings of a traffic cross junction. It was the most hilarious and 'voyeur-icious' way of taking a shower, but the soldiers understood that this was more than fulfilling quirky desires. In a way, they got where the designs were coming from.

It was really an escape from reality.

The individual bedrooms were another example of such a design. Similar to the shower portion of the bathroom, those bedrooms had the exact same function only this time, it was even more extravaganza. The bedroom virtual simulations scenes were able to portray different well-known movie sets and allow the occupants to live in the moment. And if the guests did not like such fanciful scenes, there was the option to sleep beside a waterfall or waking up on a cliff. Else, the guest could simply turn it all off. The possibilities were numerous (although limited to 100 virtual scenes at the moment) made the soldiers already agree that this was the best decision that their General had taken for them.

"After all the shit we've gone through, General really kept his promise of giving us a decent vacation!" Meng Ruo was crazily taking photos and uploading to his Mechat group.

"Don't forget we'll still have to survive the North? This is probably a teaser since we have a joint dungeon exercise to do with the other Royal Snake Battalions." Wei Yi reminded his buddy, but he couldn't be happier that they would all get to stay in such a crazy hotel room like this.

Last but not least, Zhang Min opened the curtains and doors right beside the living room. It revealed a spacious balcony enough to fit a BBQ pit, dining table and a few chairs for sunbathing. If needed, the balcony could be covered and be converted into an extension of the living room. Two full-body massage chairs were also present in the balcony overseeing the beach from a distance. Zhang Min took a broad scan of the area and found several other similar hotels like the one that they were staying in. (Though most of the hotels he saw were blurred out with the some presence of fog except for the one right opposite them.)

However, the most mystical thing of all was that they were currently in a dome. Outside it was covered with water and fish instead of space and stars.

"Holy shit, either this is some big ass virtual simulation in the works, or we're really in a dome deep under the sea." Zhang Min said as he took more pictures to send to their Mechat group. Obviously, people were responding faster than usual, most of it claiming how jealous they were.

Suddenly, the bell rang. Meng Ruo opened the door, only to see Mr Patsu and a pair of Croc waiters ready to serve their dinner. The soldiers graciously allowed them to enter, and the Crocs professionally arranged the dishes on the dining table on the balcony for them to partake in.

"Today's menu consists of boneless chicken chop, served with Portobello mushroom sauce with a dash of pepper. Sides include freshly cut chips and a pinch of salad, enough for a healthy meal and I believe fulfilling for hungry soldiers like you three." Unlike waiters who loved to exaggerate, what Mr Patsu had described was more of an understatement.

The portion for the chicken chop was humongous, and the fries were aplenty. Not to mention, the salad was mixed with a variety of vegetables that the soldiers swore they could still smell the freshness from them, unlike the ones they purchase in supermarkets.

"Wine, champagne or any other drinks?" Mr Patsu asked. The trio was chuckling at how sumptuous the spread of food was, and they decided to go for a classic, beer.

"Ah, my apologies. Yes, some icy chill beer should certainly go well with a meal like this." Mr Patsu agreed with their choice and asked for their flavours before dishing them out magically from the dining trolley. What's more, this wasn't the end as Mr Patsu subsequently introduced the various amenities Hotel Pandastic had for them as advertised in their information brochure.

If this was any kind of indicator for Hou Fei's appreciation for his troops, the soldiers believed the rest of the battalions would be dying to serve the Snake General well for the upcoming exercises and also the rest of his career.

Chapter 696 Jin's Forum Pos

While others were busy preparing for the incoming assault of the Demon Army, Jin and Kiyu had been producing promotional materials for the cultivators to join in. Jin usually didn't disturb the creative process of Kiyu, but this time he had been forced to step in because she had asked him to help out... as a Panda Mascot.

The Vixen of Seductive Advertising stood behind the camera to take pictures and videos of the new Dungeon Fortress City. She had cunningly decided for Jin to act as the 'hero' of their advertisement. Obviously, not as himself but as a PandaMan wearing army slacks and holding a gun while randomly shooting at Moloch's minotaurs who acted as the baddies for the videos.

It was a fun shoot for Kiyu, but a damningly stressful activity for Jin. He had never expected Kiyu to be so strict. At the slightest extra movement or slip of the tongue, she had yelled 'CUT' and forced a reshoot.

The cosplaying minotaurs were already used to her demands and told Jin to buckle up. It took no more than two hours before it could go to editing, but it felt like 2 draining days of retakes until Director Kiyu was satisfied with her final product. However, to be fair, she was not just stern to them but held herself to the same standard, and the results spoke for themselves.

When Jin had watched her previous videos, he had seen how cheerful and happy she had been acting during the whole advertisement. It had looked so easy and natural... until he realised how much practice shots she must have diligently taken to reach that sort of 'fake' natural happiness.

To get perfect shots did not just require talent but also effort and a little bit of luck. At that point, Jin had considered if he should perhaps take a few shots or even clips of Kiyu hard at work as part of a 'behind the scenes' kind of video he hoped to make in the future.

After his work was done, Jin decided to post some snippets of the advertising video in a new forum post. Being an 'admin' on the Pandamonium forum as well as the 'developer' of the Dungeons and Panda, Jin's posts always caught much attention in a short amount of time.

The post informed the masses that a one-time special raid would be running on Saturday and there would be no repeats for that particular raid. Thus those who participated would be earning the rewards Qiu Yue had painstakingly prepared as well as a few unique stuff from Jin's creation.

Since the squad function was not fully ready, Jin had to create a few special items such as limited cosmetic inscriptions and even a set of promotional cosmetic weapons. (Let's not forget about the plushies. Those plushies sell so well, Jin would not be letting go of them easily.)

He told everyone that a sign-up application form would be placed in the forum post as well as in Pandamonium's app main page's noticeboard. (Which was later linked to the forum post.)

Jin described the raid as realistic as he could and revealed the true hard facts about why the raid would happen. Those people who were reading it naturally assumed that all of it was just the raid's lore and some even complained that Jin used such a cliché.

However, most were not really concerned with the lore. The famed gameplay of Dungeon and Pandas with its realism and the fighting scale has always been the real reason cultivators loved the shop and repeatedly visited for the experience.

Jin promised that this would just be the first of many massive defence raids he planned to conduct. He even stated that the attendance of the cultivators would be used to judge how the dungeon supplier would proceed for these events in the future.

Some thought that it was nothing new until they read that cultivators would be assigned into teams such as frontline fighters or backend support when they were filling up the registration form. And the readers viewed that this might be more than just a simple raid story since Jin had prepared to separate the cultivators into different roles.

Jin clarified in further posts that though the Pandamonium App had data on each of the cultivator's way of playing the dungeons and recommended certain positions to the cultivators, they did not have to stick to such recommendation strictly. His customers could choose what kind of gameplay they would serve to play in for the subsequent raid.

What's more, there might be a mock raid that would simulate the actual raid's plan if garnered enough attention or participants, but Jin heavily emphasised that the computer's algorithm was very likely to change in the real scenario and things might not go have to deviate from the plan. While losing was not an option, heavy losses are expected on their side.

Unlike previous raids, this particular Demon Army Defence Raid had a rather expensive price tag pegged to it. It was set at 50 Yuan, 80 Yuan and 150 Yuan respectively.

50 Yuan was the most basic tier which gave the cultivators 3 chances of reviving. What this meant was that even if they were killed in the raid, they would be teleported to an express clinic where top Panda Nurses would examine if the user had any major complications.

If there were none, they could be teleported back into the raid at a 'relatively' safe location to continue the battle. However, the rewards they could choose would be capped to the bronze tier which Qiu Yue had introduced.

For 80 Yuan or the Silver Tier, the customer would be able to access a price from either bronze or silver tier. Six revival chances as well as a T-Shirt to commemorate the first-ever Demon Army Defence Raid. (Subsequent tickets would not reward the shirt again.) As for the highest tier, the gold tier price ticket allowed them to redeem any possible price, the t-shirt as well as a permanent limited cosmetic item for their pet.

Under the explanation, Jin wrote a big disclaimer that the ticket tier decided the rewards for that particular run. So, for example, if one bought the gold tier ticket first, all points would be tallied until the cultivator ran out of revivals and they would have to redeem a price from any tier with that amount of points.

But should they wish to continue and buy only a bronze tier ticket on their next try, the silver and gold tiers would be locked out. Needless to say, those bronze, silver and gold reward tier had a ladder of rewards to them, and until they reached the top of every tier, there should be no qualms to the type of rewards being given out.

A few customers scrutinised the reward tier lists hard and indicated that there was a big discrepancy for certain levels of rewards. Still, Jin iterated that due to the new technology he used for this special raid dungeon, the ticket prices were rather fair.

The reward list itself was enough to make everyone talk for hours. This wasn't limited to the Pandamonium App as people started talking about it on their socials and #DemonArmyDefenceRaid became one of the most trending hashtags of the day.

Chapter 697 Hotel Pandastic

As more of Hou Fei's soldiers arrived after realising that their General had not been joking about providing them with an exclusive hotel stay, they began to take their R & R leisure time seriously. Given their sheer number, not all soldier could fit inside Hotel Pandastic, so the latecomers had been settled in the currently only other open hotel, Hotel Penguinton.

Like their names suggested, the hotel's architecture of each building was actually shaped close to the animal's outer appearance. Hotel Pandastic had a wide curve exterior that placed the rooms outwards while there was an extensive inner garden in the centre of it all. (Qiu Yue seriously did not spare the reserves at all.)

Within the garden, there were a variety of activities to spend their time on such as sports stadiums (yes! plural!) for baseball, football and even rugby. Worried that there were not enough players to start a friendly bout? No problem, the animal tribes were here to entertain the guests as well.

For the tribes, this was considered their break time. They had learnt these new sports from Jin's world and come to enjoy them tremendously. Somehow, the beavers had come to prefer baseball over any other game and despite their build, they had become rather accurate with their throws and hits, making them a formidable opponent to play against.

The Polar Bears as another example adored rugby to the point that they even pooled whatever money they earned to buy proper equipment from the System. Some of them used this opportunity to further their base cultivation bestowed by the System and built up enough strength that they managed to rival many soldiers in a test of brute force.

While every tribe did have a chance to test out every type of sport that was offered there, football surprisingly turned out to be the only one that was appreciated by all the tribes equally. Each and every one of them had organised a dedicated team of eleven to play it. They even set up a tournament with a point system. This easily made football the hottest event during the soldier's stay.

Although cultivation was also allowed in both Rugby and Baseball, there were restrictions and limits for how much one could portray their cultivations since the rules they played by were similar to the one back in Jin's world. Yet, football was the only exception to this rule. Throughout the day, the football events alternated between 'cultivation only' and 'powerless' matchups.

For 'cultivation only' matches, there were no bars holding any person on the field down. Every team member was allowed and even encouraged to use their cultivation to the utmost limit with no penalty insight to score a goal.

It might sound like an absurd game of power, but that was the whole point of the game. Still, to make it more interesting and to avoid the game turning into a slugfest where the stronger average team would win, whoever scored the goal would be put into a weakened state for five minutes.

The power limitation bracelet, which every member had to equip before the match, would turn on and limit the powers of that person to an average Grade 2 cultivator. This way, each team still had to strategise who should do the scoring and regulate the offensive strikers to pit against their opposing rivals.

The 'cultivation only' matches were so well received, that any soldier who was watching it on the sidelines hoped to give it a try. The game was so popular that the monsters actually reserved the fields so that they could play as soon as they were on their break.

Even the Savants from the Shaolin Football Instance had joined in to pit against the soldiers for honour and glory. It had reached a point that the soldiers requested the 'powerless' matches to be ditched in favour of more 'cultivation only' games.

Other than the fields within the garden, there was a gym and a pool though those were limited. However, should the soldiers agree to pay a little more, they could be connected to the Panda Muscles for privacy sake.

And yes, the soldiers were paying for all these amenities that were on deck in Hotel Pandastic. Aside from General Hou Fei sponsoring the rooms, everything else required cash though it was charged at a discounted rate since they were 'guests' in the hotel.

Hotel Pandastic was more sports-oriented, whereas Hotel Penguinton offered more entertainment-based amenities such as bowling, billiard, karaoke rooms, (they were quite standard so as to not steal any business from the Meow Meow Karaoke instance), ice skating and rock climbing.

The ice skating field was more extensive than one might think mainly because it was a hotspot for the penguins to relax at. There were also ice-skating tracks which featured something similar to a large playground for the penguins to slide around. (Sorta like a skate park but on ice.) And because of the nature of advanced ice skating field, there were certain parts of it which were restricted and only allowed highly experienced skaters to prevent any possible collision with the penguins.

For the rock climbing portion, it wasn't merely a static wall. Instead, it was more like a giant vertical treadmill with more than a thousand combinations for the position of the rocks, capable of posing a challenge for the most veteran of wall climbers. Obviously, the difficulty could be tweaked based on the guest's preference, but there was never a dull moment for climbing.

However, the most unique part of Hotel Penguinton was actually the golf park. It was designed to be more child-friendly for future customers, but the attraction alone made it worth the adults' time. From the average Windmills golf attractions to using the ball to break a domino effect, the soldiers who played this were astonished how a simple game of hitting a ball could be that thrilling. (Of course, some were already planning to bring their girlfriends with them to try it out.)

Qiu Yue had always found creative golf park courses to be a marvel of physics, considering the effort required to get the ball into its goal. Thus, when presented with this opportunity, she had decided to add this as a mini project and a way to explore her creativeness. (Although it was already quite obvious, she had more than enough creativity judging by the way she splurged cash to build the hotels.)

The golf courses had a note stating that they would be changed on a quarterly basis and eventually, she wanted to compile all the courses into one big service instance.

Considering all the fun stuff within the two hotels, not many soldiers had the chance to get out and explore the sea dome 'instance' that they were in.

Yet the few who did, soon realised that they were restricted about where they could go by Qiu Yue and the Empire Building Sub System and thus the message to stay inside had already been spread to their brothers-in-arms.

The only outside entertainment that was currently available was the beach and that itself was a bit of a downer... since the Royal Snake Battalions were filled with guys only. Still, with surfboarding, beach volleyball or just sun tanning, the soldiers of the Royal Snake had their fill of seaside fun before the 'training' commenced.

Chapter 698 Assembly At The Shoreline

After two days of R & R leisure time, a mass message was passed to all commanding officers by General Hou Fei to meet at the beach for assembly by 0800 hours. Jin was there early to prepare the necessary pamphlets and booklets to distribute, but he can't help to notice how orderly and punctual the soldiers were when it came to their appointed time.

Instead of coming on the dot to assemble, each and every one of them had already been there at 0730 hours for roll call. They even performed their basic set of exercises in their standard army uniforms

before standing at attention waiting for the commanding officers to collate and record the people who were present.

All five thousand were waiting at the shoreline silently, and the only thing that could be heard was the sound of the artificial sea waves hitting the beach. (To them it's rather real though)

A mass gathering of that many soldiers was indeed a sight to behold, and Jin could not help but take a panoramic picture of the soldiers awaiting their next orders. Soon, Hou Fei came fashionably late at 8.01 am. The commanding officers then announced their battalion's roll call, stating the number of soldiers that were present.

Upon the completion of the roll call, Hou Fei scanned the beachhead filled with soldiers and subsequently dismissed the soldiers to get their breakfast and return to the shoreline by 9 am.

Everyone left double time, marching back to the hotels in an orderly fashion. Only the commanding officers had stayed and now followed Hou Fei to meet Jin.

"This is the dungeon supplier who has created the raid exercise we will all attend. While I did mention that the police should be joining us in a combined training exercise, this one is going to be a little bit more special." Hou Fei introduced him, and everyone took turns to shake Jin's hand.

"Boss Jin, it's an honour to meet you. Your reputation of realistic dungeon instances precedes you." Major Boon Tiong said to Jin as they exchanged greetings.

"Indeed. When I heard of General Hou Fei's plan to stay in a dungeon supplier store in Shenzhen, we believed only you could make it happen." Colonel Chen Lai added, which made Jin wonder how they had heard of his place before.

"The good old General always brags about how he's met this fantastic dungeon supplier and keeps insisting that we should send our squad/battalion to try the dungeons first hand. It's a big headache for me though.

Honestly, you can't imagine how much of an issue it was to prepare the funds for this 'vacation'. The defence ministry got on my back and nearly wanted to start a full-on investigation about why five battalions left their bases early for the Dongguan-Huizhou incursions to join some impromptu training exercise leaving a barebone security to guard the bases." Colonel Kan Jian lightly complained, revealing himself to be the head of finance for the Royal Snake Battalions.

"You're here to relax right now, so stop with all that bureaucratic nonsense. You should all agree that it was a good recommendation for the soldiers to rest here, right? Besides, we are the first to be allowed to test this place out. Boss Jin hasn't even disclosed this location to the public." Hou Fei rolled his eyes at Kan Jian's constant nagging. He obviously knew that his subordinate was keeping the spending funds at a minimum for other big-budget purchases in the future.

"Yeah, yeah. It's all good. Nobody can deny a single bit. The accommodation was shockingly comfortable." Kan Jian praised while the others also agreed that the amenities and food were excellent too.

"Okay, enough of that. Let's get to the main topic, shall we?" Colonel Chen Lai pointed out, knowing how the officers sometimes wished to butter up their relations with General Hou Fei, even though they knew he was not that kind of person. "Jin, what are your plans for us?"

"Yes, I'll get to it in a moment, but before that, let's go somewhere a little more comfortable for this talk," Jin suggested as he opened a portal right in front of them, allowing them to enter the prepared war room for the discussion.

Waiting for the guests, the penguins had prepared snacks such as palm-sized sandwiches so the officers could take a bite while they listened to what Jin had to say.

The dungeon supplier told them how the exercise would commence, explaining the current plans they had and informing them about the defences he had created beforehand.

"However, please be aware that this is a new technological engine that I am experimenting with, so it's likely that the algorithm is mighty unstable. In other words, the monsters that will enter the field might either be a lot weaker than you... or what's more likely to be the case, they could be way stronger than expected." Jin warned them. This did cast some worries on the officers.

"Isn't that dangerous for the upholding the integrity of the dungeon instance? Should we expect it to break down all of a sudden?" Colonel Chen Lai asked, and Jin shook his head.

"No, that won't be an issue. I'm using two different servers for this raid, so you do not have to worry about that possibility at all. This dungeon instance will not crash." Jin claimed with confidence though deep down, there was some anxiety that King Baal might choose to cast his strongest magics obliterating everyone to obtain the Dungeon Core and destroying all the hard work they had done over the last weeks.

The System repeatedly assured Jin that even in such a worst-case scenario there were already measures in place to retrieve all the items they had built to a certain extent. Thus, it would not be a total waste of time, effort and money.

"Is this erm... technological monster creation engine you are using from Sea Mesh?" Evidently, at least Major Boon Tiong knew about the connections between Jin and Ke Loong. Only through further conversations did Jin find out that he was part of the information gathering team for the Royal Snake Battalions.

"I'm afraid I can't comment on that," Jin replied adamantly yet Boon Tiong did not mind the answer, stating that he had just been trying his luck.

"Then I hope you don't mind me asking why you choose to use this new engine when you could have created default ones for us to fight against?" Chen Lai questioned Jin's reason for going with this particular method.

"Because Hou Fei wanted me to prepare you guys for the worst of the worst against the upcoming Monster Horde that you'll all be fighting," Jin answered as he eyed at Hou Fei, hoping for some assurance. The Panda Remnant did not disappoint him.

"I vouch for him. Jin's dungeons are the closest thing to a 'warm-up' we can get without actually fighting those beasts. If he can't manage to do it, you can forget about any other dungeon supplier. We'll be

doing this along with his customer cultivators as well as a few of Jin's created monsters to even the 'playing field'." Hou Fei said to treat the remaining friendlies as variables that needed to be considered. After all, they were simulating a monster horde kind of exercise.

"Too bad for us, we won't be earning any rewards though Jin did promise me that if we do well in the fight, we'll get to stay in the hotel for two additional days for free. So you guys better buck up! I want to enjoy that freaking presidential suite at the top of Hotel Pandastic!" Hou Fei teased, and everyone laughed.

Chapter 699 Extra: Sound Asleep

"Milk, aren't you going to sleep at all?" Rong asked after he got sick of staring into the distant forest for a while. The rest continued sleeping soundly since part of their training included forcing themselves to sleep.

The Demon Exorcists under Grandma Yuan had to go through rigorous training, with multiple lessons where they had to learn to sleep despite any noise and sense of danger, entrusting their lives to the people that were guarding the place.

In one such scenario, they were placed in the middle of a military training exercise where live artillery shells were fired at a constant pace, and the demon exorcists had to take turns to maintain the shield as the others rested.

Some people might think it was absurd. If it was dangerous, why stay in that area instead of looking for a more safe place to rest. But Grandma Yuan who had taken part in the World War before begged to differ.

Sometimes there were no safe places...

"If fear can grab your heart despite your words claiming you'll entrust your life to your allies, then you have absolutely no trust in them. On the other hand, for the person who is guarding, you have the responsibility to guard them with your life and make the appropriate decision on whether you all should retreat, fight or continue to rest. If a guard wakes everyone up at the first sign of danger, that is no guard. That is an incompetent person." Grandma Yuan's words were sharp, and her words echoed with experience.

"Unlike you guys, I prefer to sleep in a nice comfy bed, not some forested floor or tent with no air con. Still, I'm fine." Milk answered as if she was some high maintenance lady, but the truth was that she probably ate more salt than rice compared to the whole group of trainees.

She had lived most of her life with the opinion that she had no one to truly trust. Even her former master had turned against the country, forcing Milk to fight against her. She had been compelled to travel alone and believing in herself had not been an option because of the dangers she had suffered on a regular basis. It was to the point that she treated god and religion not as some sort of guiding post in her life but instead as a stepping stone to ensure her own survival.

Her priesthood had just been a passing phase in her life which she had accepted because it had seemed promising at the time. Even though she had been scouted and to a certain point, been regarded as one of the formerly most famous priest's disciples before being branded a heretic. This just heightened her awareness and ensured that she never truly felt at ease.

Milk believed that there was always something or someone out there threatening to kill her. Yet, despite all of this internal conflict, she continued to act for the sake of other people, for the masses selflessly. All of this work had been performed to validate her own actions.

Thus, when she had been recruited by the System, all she asked for in return was that it would help her find someone she could trust wholly again.

Unfortunately, it was a wish that became twisted.

In a way, the System did grant her request. Her trust in the User would never be broken, no matter what he or she might do. Milk would follow them to hell and back if there was a need to.

For someone who had never accepted anyone in her heart, the current Milk felt that it was somewhat liberating to be able to give her ideal of trust this freely to someone she didn't necessarily know. But to the System back then, it did not think that way. All the System did was to pass its new User a faithfully blind bellator.

With trust waning after the events of Ming, the System rather not risked using a Bellator that could potentially revolt. So, having Milk to faithfully follow Jin was basically a safety net for the System to test the new dungeon supplier.

As to why sometimes Milk acted provocatively when Jin was around, it all stemmed from her wish. She craved to be 'one' with him, especially when the fake priestess yearned his acceptance and hoped that eventually, this trust issue would become a two-way street rather than remain one-sided.

"So, how long have you been employed under Jin? Or do you happen to be partners with him in this dungeon supplying store?" Rong tried to kick up some conversation to break the monotonous guarding since Milk had decided to stay awake for so long.

But instead of replying, Milk remained dead quiet, making Rong worry that he might have asked a taboo question... Until he sensed that something was wrong.

Only an hour had passed, and the sun had yet to set, but the atmosphere was different from usual. "Ready your weapons and wake the others." Milk said as she brought out her giant book.

"No way. We are trained to assess the threat and determine if it's necessary to wake them up. Grandma Yuan's training was ver-" The demon exorcist's trap formation lit up for a moment, and suddenly everything shattered. There was no time for the trap formation to even activate its alarm.

The instant it came down, Milk instantly pushed Rong away from where he was standing as a white bony fist emerged from the depths underground. The Priestess Bellator managed to block it with her giant book but was blown away from the impact, up into the sky.

"Milk!" Rong shouted and then he sensed there was movement behind him, causing him to react instinctively by guarding himself with his hammer.

That was not enough.

A bone spirit infused monkey demon emerged from the trees and grabbed on to his hammer with a power swipe, causing Rong to be stunned about the abrupt theft. Fortunately, Milk managed to throw out a spell in time, blocking the monkey demon's path of escape with a cage of holy swords.

"WAKE THEM UP NOW!" Milk shouted, and Rong knew that this was definitely not something he could cope on his own. While punching the Bone Spirit Monkey Demon, he focused his chi into his throat and roared out to his friends, forcefully pulling them out of their deep slumber.

"Enemy Horde! Battle Mode NOW!!!"

Rong tried to wrestle his hammer away from the Bone Spirit Monkey Demon. It took him a moment to remember he could recall his hammer into his storage ring and summon it back to whack the monkey demon.

To his surprise, the monkey demon was resilient enough, or maybe even intelligent enough to use the bone spirit's outer bones to partially deflect the surprise hit. The bone armour just cracked, indicating that its toughness was not ordinary.

Still, presented with a challenge, the monkey sent out a loud, resounding crackle that pierced the silence of the forest, as if it was calling out for more reinforcements.

True enough, in a matter of moments, more monkey demons appeared and they started to approach towards the tent Lein, and the others had been sleeping in. At that point, the giant bone hand continued to harass Milk, unable to allow her to aid 'normally'.

Rong only hoped that the defensive inscription charms placed on the tents could last long enough for the other demon exorcists to get ready in time.

Chapter 700 Extra: All Out Attack

Barely one metre away from the tent, the first wave of monkey demons rushed in without realising that it would be the gravest mistakes of their lives.

A blast of lightning ripped through the tent's defence inscription charms and obliterated three monkey demons in an instant. That was not the end as the lightning continued to chain, hitting the monkey demons coming after.

However, its electrocution powers were no longer as strong as the initial blast, so it only slowed the new monkey demons down as they tried to shake off the paralysis.

Still, this had provided sufficient time for Su Zhen and Lian to attack them with their cultivation techniques. A Great White Snake emerged from the nearby bushes and coiled around the monkey demons. It threw them into the air while Lian jumped up and sliced them into pieces.

The only one not doing so well was Rong. He was stuck in the confined space after the cage of holy light swords blocked the monkey demon paths. It was only through a stroke of luck that he found out that the swords could be pulled out.

However, the monkey demon was smart enough to try and copy Rong's action except it did not know that those swords were tremendously effective against dark attributes... which was exactly what these kinds of demons consisted of.

With just one grab, the holy light sword instinctively released its powers, causing all the other spiritual swords to soar out of the ground and thrust into the body of the monkey demon.

As for the caster who had performed that spell, she was ironically entrapped by the grab of the giant bone hand. However, that presented little to no trouble at all, as the giant bone hand merely acted as a cage and nothing more. It was not squeezing the life out of her, nor was it draining any of mana away. It also appeared as if the other demons ignored her for the time being.

Thus, Milk decided to use this opportunity to watch how the demon exorcists handled this particular situation.

"All of them are sentient in nature and have the ability to understand." Su Zhen shared her analysis with the group, suggesting that holding back their attacks might present more of a trouble for them than going all out.

"No shit, sherlock!" Rong replied as he was finally able to perform a proper swing against a Bone infused Monkey demon and smashed it into pieces. The inability to do so previously had frustrated him enough to show them no mercy.

Capture them? No way. It's an all-out massacre.

"Do you think that means there are other monkey demons watching us fight as well?" Lein made an astute observation when he vaguely noticed gazes from afar.

"This does not bode well for us. We might clear the first wave, but the subsequent wave will learn how to break us if we don't work together as a team to cover each other's bases." Su Zhen answered as she stood on the Great White Snake and commanded it to spew out a sputum afar.

The spit once broken would release a fair amount of toxic gas. Su Zhen did not intend for it to kill the monkey demons, although she wouldn't mind if it did. Rather she was using it as a smokescreen so that they would not be able to spectate their fights.

Even with the introduction of the poisonous gas, Su Zhen could see from the top of her snake that the monkey demons had a way of preventing the inhalation of the gas.

The infused bone armour slowly turned into a mask shape, preventing the monkey demon from breathing in the lethal vapours. Su Zhen had never even heard of demons adapting that quickly to a new situation. It went to show that they must have learned a lot from fighting against the border guards.

"Well, if what Su Zhen says is really true, thank goodness I am not in any fights for now." Milk was secretly craving a bag of potato chips as she peered down from the top, but then she started to notice

that there were streaks of mini bones coming out the bony palm and fingers that had captured her. While she did not know what they would do, it was plainly obvious that they spelt terrible news.

Thus, with a slight movement of her palm, the entire bone hand started to vibrate before it shattered into pieces. But that was not the end, as Milk had already imbued the entirety of the bone hand with holy magic.

So, with a mighty swipe of her hand, the fragments of the giant bone hand dispersed into the crowd and rained down like some torrential rain. Instinctively, the demon exorcists used their chi to cover themselves from the attack. (Though Rong and Lian were complaining loudly that Milk should have given a warning of some sort.)

That attack with such a wide area of effect had weakened the crowd of monkey demons significantly, prompting Lein to fire multiple bursts of lightning, starting from the ones afar. Rong and Lein went on an angry rampage to clear the nearby targets, dropping each and every monkey demon they could see while Su Zhen finished what Lein had started to ensure there were no survivors to spread the news.

It was definitely an all-out kill with containment measures in place. But with this, the sneaky System was able to collect a variety of monkey demons as specimen samples and most importantly as minions.

However, unlike the usual minions, the System noticed that a number of them were not producing the same kind of survival output as demonstrated in the forest. It was as if the bone spirits suddenly let go of the monkey it was fused with. Thus they were not as strong as the ones the demon exorcists had struggled.

It prompted the System to determine that there might be external forces at work manipulating the monkeys, rather than it being a naturally occurring mutation among a monster horde. And if this was true, this practically confirmed that it wasn't a natural disaster but a major act of terrorism.

The System deduced that it was even possible that it could be counted as a potential new form of foreign invasion.