

Dungeon S 711

Chapter 711 Wyvern Goblin Knights

"Heh, now they are showing their true colours." Orc General Nubwort thought as he told the Orc Artillery Company to finish the last wave of chemical gas shells before switching them back to explosives. With the advance of more Armoured Knights and mages, it should not be long until it would lose its effectiveness.

"Master Jin, they are sending in more and more of their troops. Feel free to start your event at any point now." Nubwort reported through the System Channel and Jin who had been playing with his phone, stopped his idling to verify the information with his binoculars.

The Collective Demon Army of King Baal continuously threw bodies into the safe zone and pushed their foot soldiers out of the area. Only, it appeared that instead of letting their soldiers sacrifice themselves for nothing, they had come up with a creative way to try and solve the problem.

Duke Crocell utilised Elephant type Monsters who had volunteered to work for the demon army to suck in as much yellow gas as possible. In the meantime, he had also stuck to his decision to send the air demon forces out of the yellow gas situation and eliminate the culprits casting or throwing them in.

"Heads up, Wyrstriker. It's time for your debut." Jin looked through the binoculars and told the System to continue taking videos of these demons and release some snippets of them on the Pandamonium forum to hype the customers up further. In the meantime, Wyrstriker had a wide grin on his face since his wyvern air force would actually be the first unit to engage the enemy directly.

"Remember guys, we'll employ a fast hit and kill tactic, then return for resupply. These are just the first of the many waves incoming, and we will need to conserve our energy as much as possible. We are the only air force Jin has, so it's up to us to prevent the enemy from gaining air superiority." Wyrstriker's encouraging speech was short and concise, yet he suddenly heard some giggling even though his pilots were scrambling on their wyverns.

"You totally forgot about me, didn't you?" Que Er asked. She did not appear angry, more amused as she sat there at the corner with Muninn and Huginn resting on her shoulders.

"Not really, I just think that your explosive crows are better suited as a supplement to my air force," Wyrstriker replied. He had yet to see the crows in action and had only heard about their capabilities. Thus he severely underestimated Que Er's powers.

The Magpie Queen decided to keep quiet about it. After living for so long, she understood that the young ones, no matter the age or race, would always wish to prove themselves. Besides, she liked Wyrstriker quite a bit.

He, just as his two best friends who he had been so close with, who could also be regarded as brothers, had been the first subordinates Jin had captured. At that time they had merely been ordinary goblins. Now, each one of them went through a hard and tedious journey to evolve.

One had managed to become favoured by Death herself whilst the other similarly had encountered a godly being and entered a pact with it.

Wyrstriker had also evolved thanks to his synergy with Ivan the Wyvern, but he was considered a side evolution, which was inferior compared to his peers' step up evolution. Someone else might have fallen into envy and jealousy but not him. Instead, Wyrstriker wished to prove to himself, his friends and Jin that he could evolve without the help of a higher external power.

"So naïve... but such is the privilege of the young before one grows up. We shall meet later in the skies, little green flightless one." Que Er said as she walked to the edge of the airstrip beside the hanger to watch the Wyvern Goblin Knights take off with the aid of the Lost Tech Boosters.

But what the Wyvern Goblin Knights did not know was that Que Er was also preparing her personal air force with the help of Odin's ravens. And they were all sitting quietly at the dark corners of the ceilings, waiting for their turn to act. Even Que Er wants to be a heroine once in a while, it's just a simple matter of when.

The Armoured Gargoyles and Wing Hydras sped out of the yellow haze without too much trouble and just as ordered, they decided to look for the perpetrators of the chemical gas by following the constant distant booming sound.

However, as they were cruising in the dungeon skies, they noticed the majesty of the city which Lord Moloch had built. Floating city platforms from afar with a body of water right below it, made them doubt if Moloch was actually the person who created all of this.

Duke Crocell also received the transmitted images and came to the same conclusion. Lord Moloch should have neither the required resources to build such a magnificent looking floating city nor the knowledge on how to do so. Something like this would be a luxury not even King Baal could afford easily.

Suddenly, black smoke popped out of nowhere in the skies, and the Demon Air Force instinctively tried to avoid it. Unfortunately, those at the forefront had become too engrossed with ogling the city, so that their initial inaction resulted in a few units killed by the black smoke.

The anti-air Flak guns were working as intended, piercing the enemies with scattered pellets of steel. Before the Goblin Wyvern Knights engaged them, the company of Goblin Anti Air Defences had placed down some pressure to lower the enemies' morale and ease the load for their 'one and only' air force available.

Naturally, the demon air force took some evasive measures. They were still flying towards the artillery albeit slower now worried that more of this black smoke could kill them. Some of them also got injured with bits of the metal shot into their skins. Unlike aeroplanes, these flying units were living, breathing organisms. Pain was still an inevitable fact to these air forces.

A few Winged Hydras closed in to retaliate against the flak gunners, but the anti-air defences had their very own magical shield up courtesy of the panda's science labs. The magical shield generator copied the very same concept of the dungeon core shield, with the biggest difference being that it used the same batteries as the Fortress Golems utilised.

"To allow outgoing fire and block incoming attacks simultaneously while being portable? This remarkable contraption should be hailed as an invention of the year!" Ayse boasted as she saw her

generators withstanding the brunt of the Winged Hydra's toxic spit while the flak guns shredded it into pieces.

Of course, it could only take so much before the batteries wore out, but since it was still the start of the battle, so more than enough supplies were on standby to replace them and keep the generators working.

Logistics had been a nightmare for Qiu Yue, yet she had somehow managed to ensure that every team, squadron and company should not lack any supplies with the aid of her Empire Building System.

As odd as it sounded, the Empire Building had used the Adventurer Savants who had better logical processing because of the way they were 'built' to Qiu Yue's advantage. They had mainly assisted her in creating a logistic protocol to sort the orders since there were no accountants or logistic officers to do the job for them.

Fortunately, this could soon change with Claire as the possible candidate to help them combat this. (But that is for the future.) Those Savants would undoubtedly get transferred under her leadership in such a case, yet for now, the logistic battle was not as pressing as the new batch of Horned Armoured Knights rushing through the yellow haze and jumping over the ditches.

Held in their arms were mages casting spells to remove the yellow haze and creating a temporary bridge to allow the troops to get over the ditch. They had learned from the mistakes of their predecessors, so the Armoured Knights blocked the front with their shield to stop the Royal Sniper from intervening. Alas, this only made it more of a challenge the Royal Snipers craved for.

"It's time to enter phase two," Kraft announced as he happily stared at the war room table with all the updates coming in.

Chapter 712 Activation of Clay Statues

After giving the crowd some teasers on the Pandamonium forums, the people demanded to see what else was happening, which enabled Mr Patsu and Bear Cub One happy to fulfil their wishes. They turned on the big screens and showed them curated bits and pieces of the current Dungeon World's fight.

From the continuous blast of artillery to the chemical gas attacks and subsequently the superior anti-air weapons the goblins had used. Kiyu had done a wonderful job choosing them as people got hyped up, more so than ever before, and eager to enter at any time.

Too bad for them, it wasn't their time to shine just yet. Still, many held onto the anticipation that they could enter soon enough.

Their patience eventually paid off as the Demon Mages managed to blow the chemical gas away. Now it was light enough for the foot soldiers to breathe, and thus there would be room for the cultivators to battle without perishing in the gas through 'friendly fire'. (or gas)

The demons had also created temporary bridges over the bodies of the fallen Horned Armoured Knights and other unfortunate demon soldiers who had attempted to cross the ditch.

Just as the remaining Horned Armoured Knights were getting confident about the way things were proceeding, one of them felt a sting in his underbelly. Looking down, he realised while it was but a flesh wound to him, the mage that he had been holding on to with the cover of his shield was already dead from the sudden slit in his throat.

"WHAT?! THESE STATUES CAN MO-" A short clay blade was thrust from beneath his helmet, causing him to choke on his blood. Yet, his quick shout had been sufficient to alarm the rest of the group. The clay statues which the goblin craftsman had painstakingly built were finally put to the test.

Hespesta and the others were watching the scenes from the new Home Island Instance they were situated in. At last, they got to see the powers of Jespa's terrifying rune magic. The Horned Armoured Knights were all furious that such non-living items had sneakily killed a comrade of theirs. Still, the mages they were carrying quickly understood the scary implications about these clay figures.

Without a soul, without an organic body, they appeared to be fearless killing machines that could make it through the (dispersed) yellow haze without suffering from it. Worse, they were the perfect creatures to benefit from fighting inside of it, stopping at nothing to defeat the enemies in front of them.

If they were all of one design, that would have been fine. After a bit of time, the demons could have discovered their strengths and weaknesses. Unfortunately, the clay statues seemed to have their own hierarchy. Some were designed to look like an assassin, others as a heavily staunch knight like themselves.

All the clay craftsmen watching the show from the comfort of their homes were unable to do anything but root for their own inventions to wreck as much havoc as they could before the clay statues were disabled. The System even allowed them to bet with System Points on which one of their creations would wreck the most havoc, survive the longest, and take out the most creatures of a type.

As if that was not enough, rains of arrows starting pouring in and since their clay statues were invulnerable to pain (and arrows), the goblin archers were not hesitant to fire indiscriminately onto the battlefield. Also, to make themselves stand out by contributing much more to the battle, the goblins engineers had crafted an improved version of crossbows, a minigun variant!

The first iterations had been criticised as being a little too slow. And so the engineers had gone back to the drawing board and returned with a multi-tube variant.

20 by 20 tubes were stacked upon each other until they resemble a square worth of tubes. Arrows were inserted from the top of the stack like a large clip, and it was fired simultaneously. Thus, the rate of fire from these multitube arrow carts was enough to bring down an ogre in under 10 seconds.

Generally, the number of arrows used was massive but considering how the Industrial Sector was able to manufacture them by the thousands of those in less than an hour, numbers were not an issue.

While the Horned Knights were impervious to the heavy shower of arrows and their shield were quite massive they were unable to cover the whole army. The rest of the soldiers surrounding them had no choice but receive them with open arms or with reluctance. Some jumped into the ditch for cover only to begrudgingly discover that was where all the yellow gas had been pushed towards by the mages.

With the arrows serving as a distraction against the knights, those mindless clay statues continue to seize the opportunity to take the lives from the living foot soldiers.

Just when the situation became dire for the demon army, an enormous magical circle appeared in the safe zone. It quickly dispelled the chemical gas and protected the enemy from the arrow of showers, demonstrating its magical might with their arrival.

The remaining Knights that were desperately trying to survive saw the glimpse of the shining beacon of light coming from the safe zone itself. It shone so brightly that they could only make out the silhouette of the army.

Yet that greyish light was already an indicator of the commander who had come to their rescue. A cloaked figure with a pair of raven legs came forth and destroyed the clay statues that were plaguing the knights with multiple air blades, allowing the injured to fall back.

Raven legs, grey lights, and with the power of wind in his grasp. Without a doubt that particular commander could only be one person. With his hood on, the iconic owl by his shoulder dispersed any doubt about his identity. A being which even their Duke, the One-Winged Armoured Angel would have to bend the knee to.

It was none other than Prince Stolas.

Earl Furfur had been very lucky in that he managed to catch him early in the Royal Palace. He had pleaded his help to fight against Moloch. However, it was not Furfur's plea that spurred the Demon Prince to enter the battle. No, it was a personal vendetta against Moloch.

Once his royal mentor, Prince Stolas quickly realised that studying under Lord Moloch would bring him to heights even his father could not reach. Yet, because of a certain incident, their time together was a brief one.

Moloch had been reduced to a simple lord and cast out of the metropolis to handle some remote Dungeon Fortress. Making matters more mysterious was a Royal Decree which had been passed the same morning, announcing Moloch's demotion as well as mandatory isolation from the rest of the Demon Court Nobles.

What he hoped for from this fight was not revenge, but a serious man-to-man talk. With Moloch officially betraying the Demon King, it appeared that the only way he would get that talk would be by using his swords which he did not mind that.

In addition, Stola's army was not some ragtag army of poorly armed foot soldiers. With wealth equivalent about 10% of his father's, Stola possessed one of the stronger, more reliable troops in the city. Highly trained soldiers that knew some levels of magic, including years of dungeon experience and had participated in several battle skirmishes too.

Prince Stolas himself possessed such an elite group of people, was not only through wealth but achievements. He was not some spoiled prince under King Baal's care and had personally gone through several battles, earning him the reputable name to keep this set of elite soldiers under his wing.

Many also knew how logical his tactics were, (Courtesy to the teachings of Moloch) and being the few princes who do not have any specialised units in his army, many veteran soldiers wished to be

headhunted by his commanders. That was why they were able to execute their arrival decisively which other Duke's units could not.

With a nod of his head, Stolas's mages repaired the ditch by filling it with rocks right above the bodies of the fallen soldiers, allowing his troops and subsequent reinforcements to move unhindered. Though the Horned Armoured Knights were a little bitter the way their fallen comrades were treated, they knew there was no time to be picky with their allies.

After all, they will resurrect again after the battle, right?

Chapter 713 Jespa's Dual Activation Runes

"Prince Stolas..." Moloch saw the image in the war room. This new batch of arrivals worried him slightly.

"You know about him?" Qiu Yue had just entered a minute ago and was attempting to adjust herself to the current situation.

"He's erm... you could say we shared a special bond..." Moloch did not know how to put the relationship between him and Stolas. Their interaction with each other had been brief before it was interrupted by that incident that made him lose it all.

"Oh my god, did you and him...?" Kraft gave an exaggerated stunned expression as if Moloch had just admitted to doing something taboo.

"What?! No!! He was my student!" Moloch tried to defend himself.

"You taught him the ways of the 'cotton' butt?" Qiu Yue decided to join in on the fun as well, and you could see a rare occasion of Moloch rolling his 'cotton' eyes upwards.

"Alright, alright, let's stop with the teasing for now. Since you know him, how big of a threat does this Prince posed?" Kraft turned serious for a moment.

"A major one. The soldiers he has are at least level 50 and over. Those foot soldiers we fought were roughly level 15 and below. Well, maybe the occasional level 20s but that did not make much of a difference."

"Ah yes, I totally forgot that you guys have levels for your power system. If I remember correctly, 10 levels seem to correspond roughly to 1 Grade. In other words, we've been fighting Grade 1s and 2s, and now they are coming out with Grade 5s and above. This could be hard for most of our cultivators." Qiu Yue recalled that the Savants who helped her in the logistic supplies were high ranked elite adventurers too.

"You shouldn't be so sure about it. In the Dungeon World, levels are there solely for the purpose to segregate the population and make people feel that their hard work and efforts have paid off. Unlike with your cultivation system, you can also level up simply by grinding for long enough. But that is for

another day. Suffice to say they will be very strong." Moloch nearly went into his tutoring mood and then refocused to check on the war table.

"They will decimate the clay statues easily, but that does not mean they won't be a hassle. After which, we can recommend to Jin to send the normal cultivators in for the fight. It's best to use them as fodder to slow down the advancement of the elites. Our revival works far better than theirs." Moloch knew that Stolas had many more soldiers than the ones that were teleported. More would surely be coming, and the clay statues would prove to be rather useless against them. Might as well send the main force in so that the clay statues provide some sort of assistance.

"What about the Giant Clay statues? It seems like a waste to activate them if they fall too quickly." Qiu Yue asked as she looked on the war table and saw the spanning long overarching clay dragon made similar to Dragoonball Y and their infamous Pandajilla fighting against it.

"You're correct. It's best we let those statues remain for now until the giants come out to play. They should be among our most effective tools to deal with those." Moloch sounded like it was guaranteed that they would appear and it was just a matter of time.

"Alright, then I shall also keep the option of the phantom soldiers open. Seems a little too early to reveal one of our trump cards." Qiu Yue replied, seeing that the battlefield had yet to be littered enough for Duke's Wolte dungeon core to be efficiently used.

They then send their recommendation to Jin, and he obliged all too willingly. The System had informed him that the crowd was getting way too restless and some selfish, impatient people were demanding to start now.

"Well, you know the saying 'the customer is king'. Let's grant them their wish!" Jin smiled as he happily pressed the button in his admin Pandamonium account to activate the event's opening.

In the meantime, the chemical gas attacks were over, and the Orc Artillery Company had fully switched to firing armour-piercing shells with the purpose of breaking the shield Stolas' mages had conjured.

They pressured the mages so that they would be unable to influence the battle, yet if that was not enough, each team had their very own Goblin and Orc mage duo that would enchant the shells with their very own spells.

As a last resort option, they had some special inscriptions courtesy of Octofussy to maximise the penetration power of the artillery shells. A shame, they were very limited, and their captains had restricted their use since it was still too early in the battle. (Though some say it's better to use now than not having the chance later if they were pushed back or need to retreat.)

Still, Prince Stolas showed no hesitation in taking the opportunity to rush at the forefront over the main sky bridge that separated the empty beachhead and the multiple floating platforms.

"Moloch! I'm sure you can hear me!! Come out and face me. You should know that such cheap tricks won't stop my army from finding you!!!" Stolas bashed a clay statue's head with his fist, however surprisingly the clay statue head didn't crumble into dust but exploded right in front of him.

Thankfully his magical cloak provided him with defensive properties that allowed him to lessen the blow. They couldn't have known that these clay statues had magic runes with dual effects in it.

Moloch's 'punishment' had forced Jespa to try and come up with ways to combine her runes, and she had succeeded. (And became prouder than ever seeing it live from the telecast) Now her Animate Dead all had a random magical effect within them.

From explosions to petrifying one into a stone, the amount of experimenting initially allowed Jespa to get rid of boredom. She had no idea that Moloch's words were valid and regretted that she did not keep all the formulas she made. (Considering she had to make hundreds of them with no apprentices to aid her, it was too taxing to create and document.)

Unless one obliterated the runes directly, those products that Jespa made would take effect. Some strengthened the corresponding clay soldiers while others gave them additional abilities, but most caused more random harm to the enemy army.

"SHIT! Watch out. This one did not explode, but it sprayed out acid upon death!" One of his vanguards shouted out loud while another stated that his one left thorns wherever he was walking. Slowly Stolas realised that this entire battlefield was filled with moving booby traps. The only way to safely remove all of them was to use wide-area magic to wipe them out entirely.

"No wonder they haven't deployed any real soldiers for this battlefield. Rather smart, but not witty enough to defeat Prince Stolas." Duke Crocell thought to himself. He was relieved a Demon Prince was leading the way.

"Fall back! The mages and I will eliminate them all with magic. Once we remove those nuisances it will be up to you al-" A two-handed club swung down right at him, causing him to instinctively evade. Then he noticed one more silhouette diving down with a sword attack.

"Don't fall back. Stay a bit and play with us." Xiong Da smirked as Yue Han readjusted his dive attack and locked swords with the Prince. The soldiers that were near Prince Stolas saw the situation and wanted to help out, but they were suddenly occupied by the various groups of masked humans that were holding the exact same club and sword as the Pandawans.

That's right, those groups of 'humans' were the very new squadmates which were offered exclusively to the Pandawans.

Qiu Yue was playing favourites by sending in a few Pandawans with their squads first. Their purpose should have been to engage the elite soldiers, but unknowingly this action managed to disrupt the Prince's plans.

It also inadvertently increased the morale of the cultivators, by showing them that their strongest were fighting along with them in the frontlines. Treating the war table like a gigantic tablet, she was able to drag and drop the Pandawans to an exact location as if it was some flash teleport skill.

"Time to feel the might of the Pandarens." Qiu Yue laughed with absolute delight.

Chapter 714 Fixes for an Improved Squad AI

The Squads which Yue Han and Xiong Da had with them were the revamped version as introduced by Bear Cub One. Instead of having three individual squad members who provided versatility for the individual, it was simultaneously a slight downgrade but also quite the upgrade.

Xiong Da, Yue Han and a few other Pandawans had been bestowed with five squad members and decided to take it upon themselves to lead the raid. Fortunately, Xiong Da recently became Grade 5 after finding the time to spend some intense training in Jin's dungeon since the number of squadmates was now fixed to the cultivation level.

After the Hungry Hippo's last test, Jin had evaluated the feedback after receiving a series of analytical reports from the System which Jin shuddered upon opening the PDFs.

He tweaked the AI helper's weapons, and they would have default weapons which were also pegged to what the cultivators had been using. Should they change weapons, the default weapons would be changed as well.

As Grade 5 cultivators, it meant that the Pandawans basically had five more identical masked cultivators that were similar to them. In terms of strength and other attributes, the System decided to bestow those AIs half the original stats of the cultivator leading them. Thus, it made the ones that Xiong Da and Yue Han used earlier against Prince Stolas and his guards at a power level of Grade 2 Peaks. This was to ensure that the squads would not be too much of an overpowered feature in the future.

These 'nerfs' in the AI fixes the wide versatility dilemma Jin had to make sure that it was balanced since the Pandawans were able to utilise them fully after learning how responsive they were when it came to battle.

It was also indeed a pity that Jin had removed the option to outfit them with armour and the likes of it. Still, they roughly understood that it could be because the current technology might have limited the advancement of those squads on a massive scale.

However, that did not mean they could not customise their squadmates at all. It was actually easier (and cheaper) to equip them since the cultivators could pass down old weapons that they had used as well as changing the weapons on the fly in case they needed to do so. For example, fighting an ice boss? Equip all five Squadmates with the very same fire lances if the cultivator could afford them.

Another unfortunate setback was that the squad AI mates couldn't use any cultivator techniques, which only made them act as extra hands in a fight.

"Damn, can you imagine how effective it will be to have another 6 copies of Luo Bo in a fight? She will basically dominate the dungeon without breaking a sweat. That will be way too cheesy." Bu Dong had wondered out loud when they had used the USB to get access to this feature.

Everyone smirked as they looked at the high school student since the same could be said about him. They had all seen how his rampaging ape was basically a cultivator on heavy steroids.

"If you say anymore, I believe Boss Jin would also limit the number of squad mates based on the size of the dungeon too. Like those four men or eight men dungeon instances." Bin Yong commented randomly until Shi Zuo poked his friend on his arm and told him to scroll down.

"Gah...he really did limit the squad mates...oh well, at least we can fully utilise these squads in raids like this?" Bin Yong replied, and Shi Zuo shook his head.

"Stop jinxing it already..." Shi Zuo secretly hoped that Boss Jin was not listening into their conversation. (But the System is!)

"Also can you imagine going into the Deep One Escape City with a full squad! We can show those fishes the true might of our strength!" Bin Yong said excitedly as he happily equipped each and every of his squad mates with the old swords and shields. For once, the closet hoarder finally felt that playing all Jin's dungeons to get the various type of equipment was worth it.

"Humans?! Moloch, have you stooped so low to fight with humans?" Prince Stolas thought to himself, as he used his shield to block Xiong Da's swing. Furthermore, the Prince could not believe that his blow was as hard or even harder than the training coaches ever gave. And yet the accompanying human was using some shadowy, dark arts to strike at the Prince whenever he managed to block Xiong Da's attack.

They were not giving him any chance to take a breather to counter-attack. If not for his wind affinity aiding his dodges, he believed he would be dead by now. His helpless situation made the lawyer snickered.

"Is this all you got? C'mon even the slimy creepy Deep Ones proved to be more of a challenge than you." Xiong Da taunted out loud as he aimed towards Prince Stolas with his warclub, hoping to break his shield in the process.

"Imbecile! You think this is the end?" Prince Stolas shamelessly used his magic to jump backwards and back into the safe zone where there was still a shield blocking the barrage of artillery. After which the two cultivators could see that Prince Stolas was readying his cavalry to trample over Yue Han and Xiong Da.

"Heh, guess he's one of the big bosses after all." Yue Han said as he swung his sword and bounced around a little to keep his momentum going before a massive group of a demon looking horses charged towards them.

"Now, how about we test if the squads actually work as intended." Xiong Da had a smile on his face. He was trusting that Jin wouldn't disappoint him, so he emitted his chi all around the area. Yue Han noticed this strange behaviour and saw that his other squadmates were all receiving the chi energy from Xiong Da himself.

"What are you doing? Why're you wasting your chi?" Yue Han had no idea what his Pandawan comrade was doing until Xiong Da laughed out loud daringly against the incoming cavalry who thought that those two were insane for continuing to stand their ground. The cavalry felt challenged, so their captain ordered them to charge forward even faster, ignoring the petty attacks from the animated clay statues.

"The long ass explanations told us that the squadmates cannot use any cultivator techniques. Yet I do not believe they lack the data and knowledge on the skills themselves, especially when you think about how long we've been going to Jin's dungeon. Even more so, if you consider that they use us and our

stats as the guideline." Xiong Da explained before he took a deep breath and roared out with all his might, emitting even more chi than ever to ensure his AI squadmates all received their fair share.

In the next moment, he lifted his war club, and the rest followed what he was doing as well.

"War Club Art! Breaking Shockwaves of the Hippo!" The Hungry Hippo Cultivator smashed his warclub down on the ground, and out came ripples of chi waves which were further multiplied by his squadmates, enhancing his basic war club art technique to the next level of epicness.

This was it.

The 'loophole' within the rules which the cunning lawyer had managed to discover (It was actually Jin messing up mentioning it because it was so last minute). When Xiong Da found out that the squad AI could absorb chi, he had the feeling something must be up. Believing that there was always a reason why Jin did things and the practice within the expanded conference room instance made him understand that it was not just a testing ground for them.

"Boss Jin would never short change us when it comes to upgrading, and this was one of the situations when it looked like it was a downgrade with lesser versatility. But in actual fact, he basically made little mini-mes in the process."

"He needed to place penalties to ensure that dungeons are still relatively balanced, but at the same time, he gave us the opportunity to 'cheese' things if the conditions are right." Xiong Da was satisfied when he saw his efforts paid off.

However, he did notice that all his squadmates were now looking worse for the wear. It appeared that Jin did not intend to allow them to use it all the time, but to force them to use it sparingly. And with this successful experiment, both Yue Han and Xiong Da learnt something new, particularly the former who wished to perform the same.

As the ground was being split open, the shock waves sliced the cavalries just like a slab of meat going into the grinder. It was extremely gory with blood, organs and metal pieces flying along with the shock waves that subsequently dealt a great blow to the enemies' magical shield.

For once, Prince Stolas had to see his mages' magic, which was deemed as one of the most revered in the demon metropolis, get cracked momentarily by both the shockwaves and perfect timing of the artillery blasts.

Even though the cracks were patched only seconds later, Stolas' mages gritted their teeth and exerted even more force to ensure the protection of their soldiers for they knew this was the only entrance that they had.

They had never encountered such a fierce and dangerous combination of attacks that could so much as to dent their shields, especially given the vast amount of mages being part of the process. This made Prince Stolas extremely wary, and he began to vaguely understand why Moloch might have changed sides.

Chapter 715 Floating Magical Portal

When all hope seemed lost, the demon army's reinforcements arrived right on time. Despite them not being on the same level as Prince Stolas' prized elites, Duke Crocell had utilised the command he had been granted over Duke Vepar's and Earl Furfur's army for a coordinated attack. Since the whole army had originally treated this day as the last opportunity to gather their strengths before the conquest, it was still in a bit of disarray.

Gradually the incoming troops were organised, but as they witnessed how the demon army had suffered one blow after the other, the military acknowledged that they sorely needed a breakthrough. Thus Duke Crocell had hastily reorganised the \"assembly schedule\", and now there was a mage alongside every twenty soldiers instead of the planned one mage for every fifty soldiers.

Of course, Duke Crocell's requirement had diluted significantly. As long as they wielded some sort of magical powers, they were being sent in to reinforce the frontline. Be it offensive, defensive or mere supportive magic, the Tiger Demon Duke did not differentiate. Anyone who was unable to provide Prince Stolas' mages that extra help against the artillery barrage was assigned to a troop so that they could be arranged into a proper formation for the fight.

\"That is their inherent weakness. Even after so many centuries, they are stuck in their ways. Too stubborn to get the idea out of their heads that formations are useless when you are pressured into one corner.\" Moloch smiled as he watched the demons take time to move into the 'best' formation possible before they were sent into battle.

After observing Jin's cultivators, the goblins, orcs and the other monsters fight, his own 'controversial' opinions that there was a need to change the way the demon army acted had only been strengthened further. He had always been ridiculed as the one to advocate for the reform in their military doctrine. But who would be the one to get the last laugh, now?!

Of course, the demon army hardly ever gotten into a situation where they had been forced to one particular corner. Luckily, their inflexible thinking gave Moloch a tinge of hope that they could defend against them to the point of retreat before their army managed to get the dungeon core.

Unfortunately, King Baal was obliged to prove Moloch wrong. Just as the new ground reinforcements came in, a new magical portal emerged roughly 40 metres above the shielded safe zone.

The demon army could do that because the entire area beneath and above ground had already been demarcated by the dungeon core to be safe for teleportation. Just how Jin had been able to build the underwater Pand-Altantis city and floating citadels, the same rules now worked in their enemy's favour.

The magical portal above ground was so large, soldiers guarding the Flying Metal Fortress which housed Moloch's dungeon core was able to see it clearly without any visual aid. Even the Royal Snake military commanders now understood why Jin had warned them about the unpredictability of this new algorithm and the real possibility of them losing if they did not give it their all.

\"HEY MOLOCH!\" Wyrstriker shouted into the System channel while pulling back his forces from giving aerial support for the cultivators that teleported into the battlefield. \"WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING? I thought you said the only threat would be the Dragon Devils!?!\"

\While I did amuse the thought of it appearing, I totally did not expect for them to pull that out of his bag of tricks this early. Fall back immediately, you won't be able to deal with that thing.\" Moloch warned the goblin, while Qiu Yue and Kraft were waiting for more information from the demon cow plushie with regards to that ...gigantic magical portal.

When Jin saw the magical portal floating in the air, he could only imagine that a carrier ship of some sort would appear from the area, similar to the Lost Tech carriers he had encountered during the goblin war. At that point, he chuckled recalling how Mr Derpy tried to swallow the entire ship by himself.

Though it could be useful to immediately call upon Mr Derpy for the very same purpose, Jin was holding back such a thought, since the Shadow Dagen was intentionally being kept as the third contingency plan. It would be wasteful to reveal him unless truly needed.

As if he was prophesying the future (or just knew how these cliches worked), a giant flying turtle emerged from the magical portal and the soldiers from afar could see that it was also carrying plenty of soldiers into the battlefield. There must have been at least five battalions worth on its back. To make things worse, it was a dual military force, consisting of ground troops and aerial units.

\Prince Stolas! You look extremely pathetic!\" A loud booming female voice echoed from the top of the demonic turtle's head which she had named... Flashy. The name suits the turtle really well especially when Flashy was decorated with a myriad of flowers from the top of its head to its tail. On a quick glance, one would wonder if the turtle was made from flowers, some sort of plant guardian or grew flowers at the back as part of its traits

\Countess Dantalion.\" Prince Stolas looked up to see the haughty Lady General dressed in a loud floral dress with patches of armour at the right parts. He had never been the type to care too much about proper etiquette. Right now, he was just glad that her arrival on her mobile home base meant a shift in the overall situation.

The Countess was laughing non-stop since a few of the Orc Artillery guns were aiming at the turtle. As they fired towards it, their shots were unable to hit the creature. The demon army might be slow and set in their ways, but they were still able to learn and copy a good tactic. Hence the magical barrier surrounding the turtle.

It looked even a hell lot stronger than the one that Prince Stola's mages had conjured. This was because on top of the turtle, a fortress had been constructed housing a standard dungeon core in it. Moloch explained to his companions that this turtle was part of the real living moving dungeon fortresses that King Baal had kept control of.

\Such pathetic attacks will not put a dent in Flashy's shell, much less penetrate it! Go, my flowery knights! Show them the chaos a rose can inflict.\" Countess Dantalion laughed continuously without reservation. Her knights flew down with the aid of her magical petals that were being created at the side of Flashy.

\The fortress shields are top-notch because of the magic output it's giving out.\" Moloch banged the war table in anger, hoping that such an opponent would not appear against this particular match. \Her magic shield is not powered by some dozen elite mages, but instead Countess Dantalion is using the dungeon core and strengthening it further by keeping thousands of living mages in tubes, sucking the

life and energy out of them. Even if they die, all she has to do is wait for them to resurrect, and the cycle continues.\"

\"Thus, her magic shield is considered near-impenetrable. It will be impossible to wait it out as she has a sheer limitless supply of mages willing to serve her.\" Moloch lamented which Qiu Yue queried why the mages would give their lives so willingly.

\"Because the tubes are infused with aphrodisiac drugs, made from a special concoction from her sweat...her love juices and some other magical properties. It brings them a never-ending pleasure while they are inside. Once they resurrect they practically beg her to get back inside. This way their never-ending servitude to Countess Dantalion is ensured.\" Moloch answered as he saw Qiu Yue hastily sending more cultivators to counter the descending flower knights.

Their enemy also began to send flying flower wyverns to disrupt the Orc Artillery Company although the Goblin anti-air weapons were doing their best to distract them. In the meantime, Kraft was considering going out to 'stretch his legs'. Bringing back some of those tubes and dumping them on Ayse could lead Evon to learn how to produce such drugs along with Kiyu. (But why go out personally, when one had slaves -- underlings.)

\"Sir! The turtle- it is going to ram itself to the fighting platform we have created based on the trajectory it's flying!\" The Goblin Comms Operator shouted as it reminded the group that the particular platform was filled with hills and forests as part of the plan to slow the horde invasion.

\"Must we use the V2 rockets right now?\" Qiu Yue asked as she checked on the status of the rockets all around the other floating platforms. She was planning to save it for the main showman, King Baal, but this seemed more pressing to halt or at least slow the advances of Flashy.

At the same time, she was just as tempted to use Mr Derpy to counterattack. All while calculating the damage of actually allowing the turtle to smash into the platform and turn this into a ground fight against the knights.

Cough! A short, sweet cough was heard from the side of the room, waiting for the moment to make her grand scene. Qiu Yue realised she had nearly forgotten about the existence of another one of their superweapons.

\"Bring me some fried turtle meat, as soon as possible.\" Qiu Yue ordered loudly.

\"With great pleasure!\" The little girl would finally be allowed to unleash some of her most powerful magic without restraint.

Time to show the Demons why she was called the Fiery Demonic Sage Queen.

Chapter 716 Mythra-Orichalcum

\"Please don't tell me you plan to let her bombard it with explosive magic until the shell breaks. That might work, but it will also cause significant damage to the entirety of the area, including the

surrounding platforms. It's gonna do more harm than good.\" Moloch logically reasoned with Qiu Yue since the little girl in high spirits had already left the area.

But he too had forgotten something about Peppers. She continued to be the bearer of the absolute database for the System. The mage Bellator instantly realised that Jin's arsenal and their monsters were not sufficient enough to break the shield without damaging the sidelines.

And while granted she would love to explode things without restraint, there were strict orders coming from the System personally to provide maximum damage to the enemies with little to no casualties on their side. Otherwise, she'd get no system points for the next six months.

This penalty would severely restrict her daily snack intake, so she took the order to heart. The best part? Qiu Yue knew about this because she had been the one who had previously requested her Sub System to implement such a demand whenever they planned to harness Peppers battle powers.

Thus, Qiu Yue comforted Moloch, letting him know that everything would be fine. They would have someone else penetrate a hole in Countess Dantalion's shield in order for Peppers to unleash her prowess from within.

And who could be a better candidate for that job than Zeru?

She had learned in her time coming up with a strategy that Jin's master was not just a Sword Saint but a master of other weapons too, particularly those used in a conventional medieval war. While his cultivation, the Thousand Lotus of Hell Style was preferably used with a sword, nothing was stopping him from complementing it with other weapons.

The only request Zeru had when asked to perform the task was to utilise Jin's Bam and Boo. They were not only able to change their shape to whatever he needed, but they were also the sturdiest weapons to withstand Zeru's usage. They had been made from the closest material to a particularly divine ore, Mythra-Orichalcum, which his own sword was composed with.

However, in terms of sharpness, strength and durability, it was akin to comparing a Grade F and Grade SSS item. There was no metal in Jin's world that could triumph against Zeru's sword and with good reason. This was a material which the System had managed to obtain by luck through its years buying and selling in the Inter World Black Market. Even Vulcan, the creator of the sword, had no idea about the divine ore being inside the sword until the System performed an analysis after the sword was completed.

It was a lucky break for Zeru who had demanded a sword that would never be destroyed the moment he was recruited by the System. The System back then did not believe that there would be a sword which would never break, so it had used what it could find to make it as sturdy as possible.

The result, however, was everything Zeru dreamt it. Naturally, after making this revelation, the System had also attempted to create copies of Zeru's sword. Still, the lack of Mythra-Orichalcum ore made every other replica obsolete and absolutely inferior.

Two of those more successful failures had resulted in Jin's Bam and Boo. The dungeon supplier had no idea he was holding onto a replica of Zeru's sword, especially since the System had imbued it with the ability to change to other possible shapes to compensate for its inferiority.

\"Peppers, are you ready?\" Zeru held on to Jin's Bam and Boo as he inserted chi into the two swords for it to change into a bow and arrow.

\"You sure, you can penetrate a hole through that thick magical shield?\" Peppers asked as she not only held onto one staff but two of them. In order to shape her magical attack into a blast that could slip through the defences, she had to use a second staff to modulate and cast her magical attack.

\"It will definitely be more than enough for a skilled person like you,\" Zeru answered without reserve and it filled Peppers with much elation.

\"Then I shall hold you to your word.\" The mage bellator stabbed her two wooden staffs onto the ground before a magical rainbow string wrapped around the two.

It was strung up so high, that the little mage had to jump and use all her weight to pull it to her waist. But even when she was doing it, her mouth was already busy chanting the incantations of her revised explosive spell. The System's restraint orders had prompted her to refine the highest level of explosive spell so that the magical density per square meter was higher than usual.

At the same time, Zeru pulled the bowstring of BamBoo while he quietly inserted an absurd amount of chi into it. If any other weapon were to receive such an enormous amount of chi, it would most probably break upon absorption. Though BamBoo was able to hold the chi, there were already telltale signs of damage occurring to it already with minor cracks at the edge of the bow.

\"Hold it in Bam and Boo. I know you can handle far worse.\" Zeru whispered as he tightened his grip on the bow handle to aim for a probable spot where Peppers could synchronise her shot with his too.

And with one deep breath in, the Sword Saint hardened his leg stance to prevent any blowback affecting the shot.

\"FIRE!\" Peppers shouted.

Her orb of intense magic was released from the makeshift 'rubberband' catapult using her wooden staffs. It was released with such force that Peppers fell backwards and her second wooden staff splintered from the impact.

If not for Ayse's new and improved magic absorption crystal jacket which Peppers could now hide under her baggy 'Sage' clothes, the backlash from the Universal Mana Pool would have rendered her unconscious and thus unfit for combat for the rest of the battle.

Sadly, Peppers had once again broken a track record, and her jacket packed with crystals broke as the gems could not handle the density of mana Peppers had portrayed.

In the meantime, Zeru exhaled his breath upon her command and so did the arrow that was previously knocked on BamBoo.

Countess Dantalion? Flower Knights? So what if she had a legion of Flower Wyverns? When it came to flowers, never joke with the Sword Saint.

For he was the one and only true Lotus Flower Cultivator.

Chapter 717 Shell Turned Hell

Both the arrow and the magical orb shot were deadly silent.

With the flak cannons disrupting the view of the Countess Dantalion, she did not notice them coming a single bit. Even though they were released at the same time, the arrow flew faster thanks to Zeru's innate strength as well as the massive amount of chi infused into the arrow's shaft.

Once the arrow impacted onto the magical shield, it swiftly penetrated through the defences like a cockroach crawling through a slit. Initially, Peppers believed that her magical orb would partially explode on Countess Dantalion's defensive energy shield given the nature of the arrow, but what Peppers hadn't expected was that Zeru's arrow had further infused it with a technique.

"Epic Bow Art, Watching the Lotus Flower Bloom," Zeru whispered as he returned Bam and Boo into their original state and requested System to send the weapons over to Vulcan for a quick maintenance session before returning it to his disciple.

As the technique name implied, after the arrow slipped into the energy shield, its energy dispersion counteracted the magical shell around the turtle and created an opening that was shaped like a Lotus blooming in early spring. This allowed Peppers' magical orb to pass through without any incident and head straight for the fortress sitting on the flying turtle's back. Countess Dantalion was so focused on Zeru's devastating attack that she did not see the condensed little sphere zooming past it.

A massive explosion ensued at the fortress, and the area around the blast became overpressurised, resulting in energised shock waves passing through the entire region.

Rock fragments of the medieval fortress' walls flew all over the place and caused secondary casualties. The blast impact did not only damage the outer surface of the fort, but it inflicted a disastrous amount of fatalities within the fortress itself.

Peppers had learnt much after her fight with Ice Father Porkcupine... for which she still remained sour to this date. There were even rumours circulating of her wanting to attack and heal Father Porkcupine until she managed to one-shot kill the massive beast. (The System was not going to allow her to do anything of the sort as it had to preserve its precious resources.)

Her new and improved (restrained) spell had been modelled similar to a hydrogen bomb but with the piercing bursts of a bunker buster. While there were no metal pieces or smart technology to enable that, the mage bellator had sufficient grasp of her magic to allow her skills to detonate as such. If Jin's world mages were to rate her manipulation of explosive power, she would definitely be nominated for the Nobel prize for the creation of a new form of offensive magic.

As soon as the explosive forces reached the basement of the Countess Dantalion's fortress, it had violently annihilated the entire batch of 'energiser bunnies' that were kept in the tubes laced with the aphrodisiac mixture. As if things were not exciting enough, those mixtures happened to be quite volatile in nature, causing secondary explosions which ensured the complete decimation of the fortress and to some extent, damaged Flashy's hardshell too.

The entire magical energy shield dissipated gradually and Peppers high fived with Zeru for a job well done. The Flying Turtle also wailed in pain from the effects of Peppers' explosion but the worst had yet to come for the Flower Legion.

The entire Orc Artillery Company and Flak guns had been aiming at the turtle waiting for this moment and shot out everything for maximum effect. As some of the Artillery gun barrels had an insufficient angle to hit the turtle, the goblin mage lifted the ground with their magic creating an upward slope to aid the artillery gunners.

In the meantime, Wyrstriker's forces renewed their strikes against the Flowery Wyverns in order to elevate some pressure away from the Goblin Anti Air Company. Now, the Goblin Anti Air revealed their latest weaponry, the Bofors 40mm autocannon. Used in World War 2, the autocannons provided better accuracy against the bigger targets while the flak guns were concentrating on the Flying Turtle. Even the Royal Snake Soldiers were getting a little restless and decided to follow the Orc Artillery Company's actions by angling their anti-tank guns to allow for optimal positioning.

The barrage was endless, and it was evident that the Flying Turtle Flashy had not been expecting to suffer through so much pain. Still, it did its best to tolerate. It even retaliated by breathing out a burst of cold wind mixed with some sort of solid debris to counter the rain of shells.

But with its efforts, Flashy gave the demon ground troops some time to recover from the constant shelling. That bit of respite enabled them to charge forth recklessly since their only concern was the army of human 'adventurers' who they assumed Moloch had allied with.

Separately, Countess Dantalion was in a state of shock and still recovering from the attack. She subsequently realised that the remaining troops on Flashy's surface were all the soldiers she had left. Her fortress, her home which had housed the council of elite flower knights waiting for her command had clearly been obliterated from that one attack. There was nothing but specks of dust along with a ruined crumbling castle. And if that wasn't enough, her remaining soldiers on top of Flashy were continuously getting bombarded turning her grand entrance into nothing but a joke.

She would never be able to live this down. Just where did Moloch gain command over such powerful creatures or beings with such ruinous powers?

"Milady! Be careful!" A distant voice could be heard despite the severe ringing of her ears from the continuous bombardment, and when she turned her head, she saw a surviving Elite Flower knight emerge from the ashes and rocks.

"Dame Rose! I am glad to see-" A shell exploded right behind her, and the Countess Dantalion was fragmented into pieces from the attack as her knight witnessed the death of her beloved Lady.

"No!" Dame Rose banged her fists hard on the ground as tears, which were initially reserved for the relief she had upon seeing her Countess, continued to fall as they were to accommodate the despair that was overflowing out from her heart.

For the Elite Knight of Dantalion had failed her duty to protect the Countess.

"Damn it! Damn it! I am going to kill all of you! You shall regret this Moloch! All your troops will end up as fertiliser for Countess Dantalion's garden!" Dame Rose exclaimed, but her hoarse voice fell on deaf ears as everyone was selfishly trying to survive this new hell they were in.

Chapter 718 Flashy's Escape

Countess Dantalion's grand entrance may have been turned around, but without a doubt, she had bought enough time for Prince Stolas' troops to push to the frontline. The mages had also used this break to patch their shields for the next impact. They ensured that the safe zone was stable enough for formation organisation and for the commanders to take control over the battlefield.

The cultivators, while useful in delaying the advance, knew that it was inevitable that they could not hold down the enemy army. Otherwise, what kind of dungeon would this be if they could defeat the enemy at the first line? The cultivators were actually looking forward to getting beaten back and becoming more desperate before ultimately achieving a hard-earned victory.

Although they were unaware that this was not just one of Jin's normal dungeons, the dungeon supplier himself also planned around the fact that the demon army would eventually forge forward. Due to their increasingly massive numbers in the protected safe zone, this was becoming more and more true.

The cultivators who participated in the first wave of attack experienced it first hand. More demons, led by commanders, proved to be more than Jin's customers could handle, once most of the clay soldiers had been dealt with.

At some point, Qiu Yue stopped assigning cultivators to the beachhead and instead started placing them along the enormous sky bridge. It was to become the next battlefield before the demon army reached the first defensive platform. To say that the sky bridge was just a wide sturdy bridge would be a complete understatement.

The entire sky bridge was as big as the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and had been filled with defensive guard posts manned by the Fortress Golems who were itching for some action. The new, improved Sherman Tanks had also been stationed there with the Dark Templars while Lord Wolte was guarding the very end of the bridge to provide support fire whenever needed.

As for the start of the bridge, anti-infantry and anti-tank mines had been specially placed along the main road and cultivators had been informed not to traverse that area. Their half masks gave them the directions and warnings as to their surroundings so they should know how to avoid the mines as they retreated.

While Prince Stolas received a clearer picture of Lord Moloch's created city, he realised that the bridge was a vital structure which could not be allowed to get destroyed. It was their only way upwards since most of the cities seemed to be floating in the 'sky'. Moloch's army had already prevented them from using Countess Dantalion's Turtle as a possible flying platform. Thus, if they were unable to seize the sky bridge completely, it would definitely be a hassle to push forward in search for the dungeon core or Moloch himself.

\ "This Moloch really knows how to make things difficult for us.\ " Prince Stolas spat the sentence out of spite but also with a hint of admiration. For decades if not centuries, there was virtually no one who had dared to fight or betray King Baal.

Betrayal would mean eternal humiliation most often by getting scorned to the very depths of poverty. Some were even subjected to constant death sentences to deter others from ever attempting it. But Moloch...the former Viscount Moloch, renowned for his calmness and logical ideas, had made the most illogical decision possible for a Demon Noble. This made Prince Stolas wonder if he had really found a holy grail that could potentially bring King Baal down to his knees.

Would Stolas live long enough to see that happen or was surviving this entire battle so far merely luck? He had no fucking idea. Either way, he was there, intending to clear the air with regards to the incident that happened between Moloch and King Baal.

There was so much secrecy between Moloch's demotion that even as a prince, Stolas was unable to learn any information from his spies. Once they had gone beyond the boundaries and the next day King Baal personally threw the freshly cut-off head of Stolas' spy right into his arms, warning him to never interfere again.

\ "For being rather inexperienced in the trade of war, you did rather well holding the defensive lines.\ " Princess Gaap praised as she teleported in with the next wave of elite troops. \ "Earl Furfur told me the details, and I too am looking forward to battle against a force that could annihilate Duke Vepar's famed Horned Armoured Knights and our Jousting Elite Knight Forcas.\ "

She bundled her long hair to cover the right side of her face. Prince Stolas had never interacted much with his elder sister Gaap, but he knew there was a battle scar which she always kept out of view from people during battle.

While it could be regarded as merely a small battle scar, to her, it seemed to be a matter of pride. As a daughter of the Demon King, she could have easily let someone heal it, but she had decided to keep it. Still, Stolas chose to reserve his comments about such a controversial action and updated her about the current situation.

\ "Hmm? Oh is that why that flying turtle went crashing down into the sea?\ " Gaap wondered, making Prince Stolas turn around and watch how the turtle was attempting to find refuge from the attacks within the deep sea.

\ "That pet of Dantalion. I guess it's smart enough to pretend that it's too injured to fight. Going underwater will let it recover to take revenge later.\ "

Stolas was surprised that Gaap knew a thing or two about Flashy and only nodded in response. What they did not know was the true horrors waiting under the water ready to consume anything that entered the sea.

While Flashy made the right deduction for a tactical retreat off the battlefield, it never expected someone else to be down there. Multiple high powered harpoons were thrown at the unsuspecting injured turtle. (Courtesy of Weslie for her water-resistant steampunk harpoon gun.)

Realising that it was in danger, Flashy tried to swim upwards, but even more harpoons penetrated its skin and continued to drag the poor turtle further down into the sea. Although the magical energy shield had already dissipated, Flashy was still able to protect Countess Dantalion soldiers even if it went underwater by conjuring large breathable bubbles around its shell. The bubbles had light restorative effects, but it was negligible for the soldiers who were severely injured.

However, with Flashy being dragged to the bottom of the sea, the increasing sea pressure caused those bubbles to burst, and its pain stopped the flying turtle from producing any more of these breathable bubbles.

Thus, the flower demon soldiers once again became mere helpless prey for the Deep Ones lurking around to kill and feast on them. Even with the mages trying to counter-attack, they were no match against the Deep Ones, especially in their native element.

Those creatures may be ferocious but they also possessed the intelligence to target the higher priority targets and focused on the magical light the mages produced during chanting. The Deep Ones were all very delighted that they received a surprise warm-up/food before the actual contingency plan that Qiu Yue and Derek had prepared.

And...as for the flying turtle, well... if it knew that it was mostly ignored to be a sacrifice for the patron of these creatures, it would have already lost consciousness than to anticipate the awaiting horror further down the seafloor.

Chapter 719 Assassination Snipe

As the sea under the floating city platform's turned murkier and murkier red, Princess Gaap and her soldiers were pushing forward with impunity. They did not care to show any mercy to any of the cultivators who fumbled, lost track of the main group or ended up injured.

The Wights, or as the other demon soldiers called them, Soldiers of Gem, were the main speciality of Princess Gaap's army. While Prince Stolas' soldiers consisted mainly of Tiefling elites, they were not even close in terms of strength compared to the Wights.

If one were to compare armies, the Wights were a bunch of inhuman killers who would stop at nothing to complete their objective. Each and every one of the Wights might have looked like a human, but their eyes consisted of gems, giving them powers corresponding to their type.

Those with Sapphire gems exhibited the ability to inflict cold damage regardless of the weapon they were holding. For Soldiers of Rubies, it was the strength to burn their enemies with their bare hands. However, because of the uniqueness of the Wight's talents, their army was comparatively smaller compared to one such as Prince Stolas.

Maybe that was why Princess Gaap decided to come in late, to steal the show from her younger brother Prince Stolas' whose army was gaining considerable ground.

Duke Crocell has finally managed to properly reinforce Prince Stolas's army and sent forth even more amateur foot soldiers and mercenaries who wished to prove their mettle. In the meantime, the Soldiers of Gem alongside the remaining Flower Knights showed the remaining and retreating cultivators hell. Alas, these fresh troops were too overconfident in their abilities.

Earl Furfur's Demon Army Battalion ended up becoming the next bunch of foolish soldiers to believe that they were seriously winning at this point in time. The moment the frontline troops entered the start of the bridge, Furfur's battalion encountered a series of anti-infantry mines which shredded and maimed the demons into mincemeat.

However, after the explosive ditch trap incident, the demons had already learnt their lesson. Duke Crocell relayed messages to the Prince and Princess that he would send his own troops forward first in case Moloch prepared even more dirty traps to stop them.

This choice turned out to be the correct one as the weak demons carelessly continued to charge forward and sacrifice themselves in order for their elites to enter without a problem.

But that was where they were wrong.

While Xiong Da and Yue Han had retreated based on experience (and in the face of an armada of demons), they were already preparing an ambush of their own behind the multitude of physical barriers scattered all over the sky bridge.

Varying levels of road barricades riddled the sky bridge and made it impossible for the entirety of the demon army to go through at once. Instead, they would have to worry about getting pounced every few metres. Something which the duo and every other Pandaren was counting on.

Princess Gaap was riding along with the Wights and saw the sorry pathetic mess of a bridge. She wanted to command her mages to blow them all away but being a demon princess who had never been on a modern battlefield, she was committing a fatal mistake... She was out in the open without protection.

"Ahh ahh, isn't that Jin making it too easy for us to spot who the commander is?" One of the Royal Snake Snipers had his sights on the stylish Princess riding on her stead.

"Maybe she has some of those invisible shields? Or perhaps it's a decoy?" His spotter theorised, but even with his enhanced binoculars and spotting equipment, the spotter could only scarcely believe the Princess was unprotected.

"Penetration spell cast, Lacerating spell cast. Bring your magic level to seven, then take the shot. If she is protected, we will see it. But if she isn't, we can't let some of the other guys get the credit. I want to stay in that pandastic hotel room again." The spotter said as he finished prepping the bullet for the Royal Snake Sniper to use.

Holding his deep breath, the sniper adjusted his sights, loaded the bullet in a flash and took the shot. Despite the loud bang from his sniper rifle, the battlefield was too chaotic for Princess Gaap to hear the sound from so far away.

In an instant, the bullet ripped a hole through her chest. The penetration spell broke right through her magical armour and chainmail easily, maintaining the trajectory of the shot. Once the bullet went

further in, the laceration spell caused the projectile to turn into a party of metal shrapnel, spreading in various directions before the core of the bullet calibre came out from the back.

The metal shrapnel lodged into her throat, heart and even her carina, disabling her from so much as breathing properly. What's more, the hole through the chest made her bleed out fast. Without the ability to react, Gaap could not believe she would be killed this quickly before even really getting on the battlefield.

She had full trust in her magical armour and believed that it would be able to stop any arrows that came her way. Heck, once it had even stood up to a catapult sized rock.

And thus, she could not comprehend how something so small could have pierced through her heart and defeated her just like that. Without her being able to make any noise, the Mages of Jade Gem proceeded with their last order, the clearing of the physical barricades with their wind powers.

Yet they too were being targeted from afar by the Orc Artillery Company with the aid of Qiu Yue providing the troops with the coordinates of their new targets.

By now, the orcs had already fired enough shells to result in a heap of their height. This was before the spider robot crawlers could take them away for recycling and clear enough space for the orcs to throw more of their wasted shells away.

The barrels were also refitted, and at times the entire cannon since their firing pin had been blunted by all the shooting. (After all, an artillery cannon is basically a larger version of a gun.)

At the same time, the first batch of Sherman Tanks EX closest to the front gates of the sky bridge fired upon their enemies. Filled with anti-infantry shells, the frontline soldiers had no defences other than the measly wooden or metal shields in their possession. Neither was anything enough to stop the incoming onslaught.

The flower knights, however, managed to use their magic to create a series of energised flower shields to block the attack. The wall of petals scattered the shells, making them explode before being able to touch any of the soldiers, giving them some space to move forward. (And yet to be blown away by the mines.).

Blocking a shot was fine and dandy, but having to stop a series of them simultaneously naturally caused the wall of flowers to dissipate quickly. It inadvertently cost the life of the flower knight as this signature skill requires sacrificing their own blood to maintain it.

And for the cultivators who survived the first wave? They chuckled at the scene of demons getting some payback. Some even cheered behind the barricades as they healed up and got ready for the battle for the sky bridge.

Chapter 720 Crossbreed

A random glance to the backlines by a single mage finally noticed Princess Gaap gasping for air on her black demon stallion. However, before he could react, she had lost all consciousness and landed head

first on the ground, causing a neck fracture due to the weight of the armour, aggravating her injuries further.

The Mage of Jade Gem shouted for a healer despite his disbelief that their almighty commander could fall and it prompted several of them to quickly rush to her aid.

"There is no use trying to save her. She is too far gone." One of the senior Mages of Jade Gem assessed her condition. There was no way she could survive a bloody hole in her chest and a neck fracture, so all they could do was to wait for her to resurrect in a few days time. The second in command under Princess Gaap immediately sent his messenger to Prince Stolas who had remained at the backlines observing the situation.

"What?! Gaap was killed? But didn't she ride with you all a few minutes ago?! Fuck!" Prince Stolas kicked a stone nearby to vent his anger. It was evident Moloch's soldiers knew who to target and the floating platform was giving their ranged troops an added advantage. Usually, the Demon flying units would be sufficient to mow such troops down with a hit and run.

But right now, those ranged troops were doing more damage to both the front lines as well as the back end. To make matters worse, their flying units had been forced to retreat because of the overwhelming aerial defences Moloch had placed. Perhaps, he should send an emergency letter to Marquis Forneus and request for him to participate in this war and deploy the most well known veteran air force in the entire Demon Metropolis.

The Dragon Devils.

They were the one particular demonic air force which Moloch feared the most. It was to the point he specifically had prepared the Wyvern Goblin Knights to fight them. Marquis Forneus not only had the Dragon Devils in his possession but an army of draco-humanoid troops that could swoop into any position to disrupt the formation of the defending army.

Dragonlites were a breed of half-dragon half-humans that aligned themselves to the demons because of the crude, twisted perception of crossbreeds amongst adventurers.

The general population of humans despised any adventurers who fell in love with monsters but fortunately, there were havens, sanctuaries and monster towns that existed to allow these two distinct races to cohabit together.

Hence, the crossbred population of dragonlites preferred to be with the demons and monsters who had a system of meritocracy which rewarded people for their strength and power instead of their birth and race. In fact, for a tyrant King, Baal had shown to be extraordinarily merciful towards these discriminated races and provided them with a place to live readily as compared to other monsters.

This was most definitely because Baal could sympathise with them. He had been conceived from a frog monster who had crossbred with his mother, who herself was a crossbreed between a human and a cat humanoid.

As a child, Baal had to scrimp and save every dungeon penny he could obtain through legal and illegal means. He was not as lucky as his children now who had the ability to live in luxury.

And unfortunately for his parents, they were not able to live long enough to see the success of their child as they had been killed in the advent of the Dungeon World's Harbingers. Those creatures which represented living natural catastrophes in the Dungeon World could forcefully remove the resurrection 'blessing' from this world's inhabitants.

That incident had also become a significant turning point for Baal inciting him to grow stronger, braver and even more ruthless. It wouldn't be wrong to say that it had formed him into what he is now.

"Shit, man! This dungeon is tough, but god damn, it's exhilarating! Best dungeon yet!" Yue Han praised Boss Jin as he took a breather and took a chi bottle from his storage ring to have a drink. "Hippo, any idea where the rest of the Pandawans are? So far, it's only been the two of us together."

"That's not too surprising, considering we are in the centre. I advised Bu Dong and Luo Bo to head to the far east to aid a group of Pandarens. Given this pressing situation, we seem to have entered the next phase of this dungeon, so I assume they should have retreated by now or be in the midst of doing just that. But damn, all the blasting of artillery guns, cannons and tank shots are making things way too hard to concentrate properly!" Xiong Da answered.

As always Jin had taken his instance a couple of notches above any other dungeon supplier store. It really felt like they were in the middle of a warzone.

The lawyer hid behind a barricade and took his phone to check his score for a moment before turning his Pandamonium map app on to search for the other Pandawans' location. As the most hardcore fan and veteran among the Pandawans, Bear Cub One had assigned Xiong Da the temporary title of a military company leader and provided him with the tools to monitor the entirety of Pandawans in the battle.

It made the Pandawans more competent in responding to immediate threats, allowing them to quickly help the Pandarens if necessary. (In essence, it was meant to help out Qiu Yue.)

Leading the squads of Pandawans while fighting at the same time was tiresome, yet Xiong Da enjoyed this new role granting him such a dominant position. It was something different compared to his usual job where most of his colleagues were merely obeying his commands just for the sake of doing so.

While both the Pandawans and Pandarens were aware that there would be system text messages going across their half-mask every once in a while to inform the customers of the battle, the cultivators still lacked a general sense of direction.

That was where Qiu Yue, Jin's appointed strategist for the day, stepped in while Xiong Da handled Pandawans. Before the start of this event, Jin had created a Pandamonium forum post informing the masses that there would be 'one tactician' who would contact the Pandarens after certain developments of the war to make sure there was some coordination aside from the regular system text messages.

Qiu Yue was already quite busy handling the overall tactical decision, so she could not personally whisper for varying groups of Pandarens to move in accordance with her strategy.

Predicting such problems in advance, Jin had recommended letting the cultivators use their mini pets to allow Qiu Yue to send her commands through instead of using the usual magpies from Que Er. (After all, she was now considered as a major offensive war asset after her deeds in the Giant World.)

This provided a middleman for Qiu Yue and the Pandarens as a platform to question and clarify orders too. (Although the Goblins Telecomms Operators were doing the clarification in disguise as that 'one' tactician which Jin mentioned.) Despite the limited mini pet's responses, Jin and the System needed to save processing space for other more critical procedures.

Nevertheless, it gave them a better grasp of the situation as the Armies full of Wights and Flowers pressed on along with Duke Vepar's and Earl Furfur towards the Sky Bridge.