

Dungeon S 721

Chapter 721 Promoting The 'Dungeon Instance'

In hindsight, calling the fight at the sky bridge, a battle against the humans and demons would be a gross understatement. The attrition for the sky bridge between demon armies and cultivators would eventually become a lesson to remember for future demon history books as both parties were held in this major chokehold point.

Jin had never expected it to last for more than an hour, let alone four. Initially, the cultivators were holding their ground until more demon reinforcements appeared from the safe zone and marched quickly towards the sky bridge. And when larger sized monsters emerged from the Demon Metropolis similar to the Horned Armoured Knights, the cultivators had to fall back for the Orc Artillery Company and the Royal Snake Mortar Squads to lay a barrage in order to allow for some breathing space.

Even a ten-second break had become precious to the cultivators.

While Jin felt it was oddly weird that Qiu Yue had yet to ask any of his other monsters like the Orcs to come out and help the cultivators, he realised why the Empire Building Sub System User must have done so after pondering over it for a minute or two.

The sky bridge could only hold so many defenders against the seemingly never-ending invaders. Thus, Qiu Yue felt it was vital to use the cultivators first while the hype for this battle was still present and the morale, as well as the general situation, was on their side.

As much as the cultivators might enjoy this new kind of sensation, it was ultimately a dungeon run to them. Admittedly it was more realistic than anything else they had ever experienced, but they still would have to continue with their life once their revivals ran out. (Jin was naturally hoping they would buy more, but his cultivators' money wasn't infinite.) Therefore it was a wise decision for the Red Panda Cultivator to delay sending out their own monsters to reinforce the defence line.

Qiu Yue could have assembled 'flash strike' teams to interrupt the stream of invaders coming in, but the effect would be minuscule in the grand scheme of the whole battle and potentially waste the cultivator's money because each teleport cost money to enter.

After all, they had to somehow make a profit to regain the losses from overconsumption of resources in building these defences, the fortress city and subsequently the resurrection of the monsters in the future.

Thus, Moloch and Qiu Yue agreed to activate Lord Wolte's broken graveyard dungeon core to summon the phantom soldiers from the dead. The only problem with this method was that the System would then be unable to capture them as its own. The dungeon core would utilise the dead bodies and convert them into souls.

Basically, the System would be left with a batch of souls instead of proper foot soldiers and demons in its arsenal. (And the demon army would be resurrected as per normal back to their respective churches. Its was a weird out of the loop rule which the System was unable to overwrite.)

Yet, this turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Despite how 'almighty' the System appeared to be, it was far from its past peak performance, and it did have its limits. For example, it could not possibly hold that many demon soldiers without suffering any consequences.

While it was true that the System wished to hoard every single soldier for Jin's future use like the retrieval of the Mecha Brain or the fight to recapture the Northern Region in the Farming World, it had to act rationally. Thus it had used a strict selection method about which monster to keep with its 'limited' capacity by highlighting to Qiu Yue the types of monsters to be converted into Phantom Soldiers.

Although this would not be such an issue if Jin were to be more decisive and use the monster merger function, the System respected its user's choice upon seeing the current results of his monsters. Nevertheless, it continued to influence him to give it a try every once in a while.

The demon army suddenly faced an attrition battle at the sky bridge and also surprise ambushes from the phantoms of the fallen soldiers who charged into their own flanks. It startled the soldiers fighting against their own kind, yet this bought precious time for the defending frontline.

The cultivators felt the intensity on varying levels. Most enjoyed this particular raid scene a lot, and since this was supposed to be a one-time event, they decided to buy a few more tickets to continue. Of course, Jin wouldn't just sit there doing nothing.

He had to make some immediate changes on the spot to entice the public to buy as many as possible of these tickets. He had to find a delicate balance between earning some cash to make up for the one they used for the defences and not overcharging his customers since they badly needed them to continue the fight.

In the end, he chose to offer substantial discounts to returning customers in a discrete way after seeing how fierce the fighting was on the bridge. Upon spending two hundred over Yuan, Jin had programmed the System to give out a 'secret' individual discount code to their Pandamonium app's inbox allowing them to buy their tickets by using the promo codes. And this repeated with every 100 Yuan spent, hopefully ensuring he could aggressively promote the current dungeon raid.

However, he did not know there were other forces at work, aiding him directly for this particular event. Ever since the emergence of the Tree Mall, a number of dungeon supplier reviewers had been keeping an eye on Jin wishing to see for themselves what kind of dungeons he produced.

Thus, with Jin hyping this event so hard for the past few days, those reviewers had decided to enter on their own accord to experience if the raid was living up to the hype.

Even though it was not uncommon for dungeon suppliers to 'buy' or be sponsored a review, Jin's store was different. He rejected every single 'influencer' who wanted a free pass to see the dungeons since he claimed that his dungeons were already cheap enough for them to review and worth every penny.

Some threatened with a negative review, but Jin shrugged them off at every encounter and even challenged them to write badly (A certain fox was quick witted enough to send a few anonymous emails

containing undeniable data about their person. The message seemed to be clear enough to know not to mess with Jin.)

So, to this date, reviewers who came to visit only had praises for Jin and these new arrivals were not an exception. The battle on the sky bridge had been so intense that the dungeon reviewers could not help praising them in their Meibo and blogs despite their defeat. Some even daringly made Tock Tik videos during the dungeon scenes, writing hashtags to talk about their experience in Jin's dungeon raid and it raised the level of awareness that this particular raid was a limited event.

In addition, Kraft was smart enough to anticipate all these things. He had asked Kiyu to send their own snippets of the battle to the dungeon supplier reviewers who had written a positive post for no charge and allowed them to do whatever they wanted with it.

Ultimately, Jin and his colleagues were not expecting this rise in numbers in the short run, but the reality was quite the opposite. By the end of lunchtime, the System detected a drastic increase of first-time customers coming to check out this limited time defence raid since it was suddenly trending in the region's social media for quite a bit.

Jin could not believe that the drastic increase of customers was due to the effects of his sideline promotions and wondered if there were other forces behind the scenes working to push his promotion hard. Was it the Tigers? The Snakes? or maybe even the Tiger Triad whose leader was undoubtedly capable with computers.

Whatever the case, it would have to wait for another time to reflect over it. Right now, they needed to concentrate on the current situation as battle reports were coming in that the cultivators managed to recapture and push the demon armies away from the middle of the sky bridge thanks to the increased participation of the new blood.

Chapter 722 Nervous

"Damn it!" Duke Crocell slammed his fist on the stone tablet with enough force to break it along with the table holding it. The senior mages knew how expensive those monitoring stone tablets were, but all of them were too afraid to say something. They were all aware that Crocell was furious with the current situation that they were facing and getting on his nerves now would be signing their own death sentence.

It was no surprise. They've sent in batches of foot soldiers... but to what end? Moloch seemed able to easily counter anything they used against him. It was as if that traitor had managed to acquire all he needed to defeat the Allied Demon Army all on his own. Just where the hell did he even manage to get a broken graveyard dungeon core from?

It was simply absurd given the number of graveyard dungeon cores available in the Dungeon World only amounted to a few hundred, compared to the tens of thousands 'regular' dungeon caves and regions. But not only that, he had somehow managed to acquire one that was capable of summoning those phantom soldiers?

Yet, Crocell continued to be wary.

His understanding of the graveyard dungeon cores was too limited. Heck, even the world's leading expert on dungeon cores had admitted that those graveyard cores were still considered as mysterious elements and completely out of the norm, so how was a Duke who handled governmental issues on a daily basis supposed to know anything about them.

In essence, he had no risk free way to defeat them but to use the soldiers to block their advance and yet, that was not sufficient since those phantom soldiers were ethereal in nature.

That particular element allowed them to hit soldiers whenever the phantom soldiers wanted while simultaneously allowing them to dodge physical damage, to a certain degree, because of their body ever transiting between the real and the spiritual plane.

The only enemies that could deal substantial damage to them turned out to be the mages and the Soldiers of Gem. As soon as they made the discovery that they were weak to magical damage, after paying roughly half a battalion of foot soldiers for it, the Wight Commander had proceeded to divert his troops to halt the advance of the phantom soldiers. At the same time, he called for a regroup since they had lost their lead commander, Princess Gaap from the assassination attack.

Also, that assassination alone had made Prince Stolas' own guards even warier about his safety, and they told him to continue to stay at the backlines for protection. The Orc Artillery Company had stopped firing at them for some time already, and they were getting overly suspicious.

"Huh! To see the Fifth Prince known for his quick execution of our enemies have so much trouble with his previous teacher. Are you perhaps one of the conspirators as well?" Duke Vepar made a joke in poor taste, but Prince Stolas reserved his comment despite being annoyed from this baseless accusation.

Duke Vepar was anything but anxious at the moment. The only way he could keep calm was to insult and joke about others to hide his fear of the unknown that had taken all of his Horned Knights. True, he might have been a mighty champion back in his youth, but that did not mean he had maintained his skills.

On the contrary, he had grown accustomed to a nice and cushy job. At one point, he had completely exchanged his constant training for the allure of fine goods and luxury comfort. The only safety net he had left was his brand new armour which he had ordered a couple of weeks ago for this event. And yet the Duke continued to feel unsafe after news reaches them about of Princess Gaap getting assassinated in the middle of the battle despite the top-notch magical runes she possessed. He had no disillusion about his armour faring any better.

Still, he had to show a strong front as a Duke of King Baal. He just prayed that by killing a few of Moloch's henchmen it would trigger all the forgotten training he had endured in his younger days.

"I suggest you stay at the back yourself. The winds of fear are blowing hard around you." Prince Stolas, who noticed the slight twitch in Vepar's hands and strained shoulders, decided to offer the Duke some reprise, despite the disrespect he had shown so far.

Upon seeing his reaction, it seemed as if he hit the mark. "If Princess Gaap could get killed just by standing afar from the wave of soldiers, it also means that neither one of us has a guaranteed chance of surviving unless we are cautious the whole time. But being fearful and being cautious are-

"Shut your trap!" Duke Vepar ignored Stolas' royal titles and shouted back at him aggressively before equipping his helmet and spread his one wing out in defiance. Prince Stolas obeyed amusingly, and even his guards were whispering whether to bet on Duke Vepar's survival chances on the battlefield. Especially how 'long' he could last.

"They might have anti-air defences, but I wish to see how they plan to fight back if we fly from here and wreck their defences at the sky bridge." Vepar spoke to his own regiment of Winged Armoured Gargoyles who roared in sync.

"Let me add to the pool to fatten the bet as well," Prince Stolas said and threw 500 dungeon dollars to his nearest guard, and they all chuckled happily. The Owl Prince with Raven Legs figured this was a good time to observe if those guard watchtowers which had been constructed at fixed intervals could be destroyed by Vepar or if they needed something stronger to defeat them. "By the way, how long until the siege weaponry arrives? It appears we desperately need them to at least inflict some damage on those watchtowers if Duke Vepar fails in his endeavour."

"See, even our prince believes that Duke Vepar will perish." One of the guards tried to whisper to his companion, but nothing could escape their prince's ears. He only chose to pretend not to hear it as his advisor reported the situation back at the metropolis.

"They are underway, but we need a bit more time to gather the necessary mages and materials to prepare them. Otherwise, they could get destroyed the moment they leave the shield from the safe zone." His advisor reported and Prince Stolas sighed.

"So much for it being a safe zone. That teacher of mine sure knows how to beat us at every corner." Stolas nodded his head and quickly turned it to hear the lot of the army cheering upon seeing the arrival of Duke Vepar and his personal regiment of aerial force.

Qiu Yue was too busy coordinating the defence at the sky bridge, so she did not notice that a group of flyers had been mixed in between the army, allowing Vepar to succeed in a surprise ambush by flying straight to the first few watchtowers.

Despite conducting this kind of mistake, she smirked as soon as she got the report. She even decided to lay back a little to watch how the Fortress Golems stationed in those watchtowers would handle them.

"Sub System, this will become a fabulous scene for future playback. Please start recording and send the footage to Kiyu. It should serve as a perfect advertisement or a good memory to keep."

Chapter 723 Reactive Explosive Shield

Duke Vepar was not about to give the defenders any quarters as he brought out his prized possession. A gauntlet capable of crushing any foe into pieces. It was his family heirloom, passed down to him from his great-grandfather after proving himself worthy.

His ancestor had conducted a trial of sorts where his descendants were required to solve something similar to a Rubik's cube while fending off the enemies in the dark. For centuries, his grandfather and father had been unable to complete the trial no matter how many times they had attempted it. (Granted, Vepar's great-grandfather had limited the trial tryouts to once every six months but given their near-infinite lifespan, it was something they had spent countless years on only to fail.)

Vepar, on the other hand, had proven himself to be a rarely seen genius. He had managed to complete the trial within a year after reaching adulthood, but as a result, he had lost one of his wings to an enemy whose death evoked a lifelong curse rotting half of Vepar's body. Fortunately, healers had managed to isolate it to one of his wings, which then had to be permanently amputated, and ever since, he had been living with that consequence.

Even upon resurrection, his wing was lost forever, but for the price to be paid, it was a worthwhile deal especially when he used it on multiple occasions allowing him to ascend to Dukehood with relative ease. (Although there was no doubt, his father had pulled some strings to gain such political clout to get where they are right now.)

Upon granting his great-grandchild his prized possession, Vepar's great-grandfather finally decided to pass on to the afterlife by submitting his will to the Church of the Afterlife, indicating that he had lived long enough. Despite its name, the Church of the Afterlife was responsible for all the resurrections and remained indiscriminate to every single monster or human.

As long as enough money was given, the Church would serve anyone and everyone regardless of affinity to good or evil. Despite its name, it regulated itself more like a company for profit. So when Vepar's great grandfather sent his will, the Church would reimburse 5% of the resurrections it charged as a thank you gift for using their services back to their families.

Such reimbursements were also a small way to keep the Dungeon World from being overpopulated despite it ever-growing in size. They might not be responsible for the inhabitants, but they did care for the Dungeon World's health.

The founder of the Church of the Afterlife, one of the earliest Gravemancers, believed a little good would definitely make the world a better place. (As well as providing the Church with a bit of some renown for their reputation.) Centuries later, the Church was considered as the largest and most likely also the most powerful company ever to be created in the Dungeon World.

It allowed them to have their very own Dungeon Country, and the only one ever created in the entirety of the Dungeon World. What about King Baal and his Demon Metropolis? That was like comparing provinces to a county.

Duke Vepar smashed through the magical energy barrier set up around the watchtower with ease and the One-Winged Fallen Angel discovered that inside the guard post was merely a couple of mechanical constructs shooting its projectiles down at the enemies.

"Hah! Easy game." Duke Vepar thought himself as he recoiled his fist for a full punch. Seeing how bulky and slow the mechanical constructs looked, the One-Winged Fallen Angel thought this would pose no problem.

The Fortress Golem, on the other hand, had crushed his expectations with one fell swoop as it raised its shield that had been left at the side of the watchtower. Duke Vepar's punch impacted hard with the Fortress Golem's shield but he was shocked when the shield endured it, only to explode right in front of him.

Using the technology of explosive reactive armour was quite common in modern tanks, and the Fortress Golem's shields were packed full with it. Its design structure was meant to be heavy-duty and bulky, so the goblin pilot knew exactly how much hurt it could take before its destruction. Hence, protecting the golem was of the utmost priority.

And considering the battle had already stretched for more than four hours, it was even more vital to keep every golem alive as long as possible.

Vepar quickly flew backwards but not without suffering some external injuries and spitting out some blood from the explosive reaction. Before the smoke was cleared, a hail of bullets emerged from it, aiming specifically at the Duke's vitals.

If not for Vepar's sharp battle instincts leading him to bring out the magical shield inherent to his gauntlet, he would have been pierced multiple times by the incoming metal pieces. While his instincts were present, his body was no longer used to following them. He wasn't quite fast enough, enabling a few bullets to go through and had damaged the side of his torso despite the new expensive armour he had donned.

Vepar could fathom what would have happened if his reaction had been delayed by just one additional second.

"What is up with these projectiles? And how was Moloch able to obtain such responsive constructs?!" Vepar thought to himself as he heard a few agonizing shouts from the surrounding watchtowers. His personal regiment of Fallen Angels literally fell from the sky after taking similar actions against the other constructs.

"We have to find the mages controlling the constructs!" Duke Vepar cried out as he once again rushed in by flying straight into the tower yet this time taking extra precaution not to strike against the construct's shield.

Unfortunately, Vepar did not know that the Fortress Golems possessed more than one pair of arms. A third arm which was meant for reloading purposes had since been outfitted with a spear which the goblin pilot used to stab Duke Vepar in his injured side.

That itself it would not be enough to cause any damage at all, but because of the initial wound Vepar received, he was way too cautious, and his reflex caused him to move sideways, accidentally hitting another Fortress Golem appearing from the side of the watchtower that was carrying yet another reactive explosive shield.

The impact from the reflex dodge caused the reactive shield to activate, but Duke Vepar was able to use his wing to block the explosive before it could severely damage his face. \"Damn it, I should have worn a better helmet.\" He cursed with a pant while holding on to his gauntlet for the impromptu magical shield.

\"Yeah, he should totally wear a helmet.\" One of the pilots chuckled within the Golem intercoms and the other three within the watchtower could not help but laugh along too. According to Moloch's prior information, the pilots had a hard time believing that a Duke who was famed after earning multiple accolades from past results could easily be overpowered by their Fortress Golems. If King Sol had these kinds of Golems en masse... the Goblin Kingdom would be able to take over the world!

\"Alright, let's not waste any more time and kill him before his reinforcements come in.\" The most senior one among the pilots spoke out, and the rest acknowledged his decision. They readied their shotguns and aimed towards Vepar. In a moment they would learn that the Duke still had a trick under his sleeve. It was just too bad that he had to reveal his trump card so quickly.

As the Fortress Golems sprayed their shotgun pellets towards Vepar, the One-Winged Angel unlocked his gauntlet, and with a grinding click noise, the gauntlet enlarged rapidly to the extent it nearly pushed the Fortress Golems out of the watchtower. It suddenly made it look like Duke Vepar was a tiny figure with a colossal gauntlet on his arm. With a swing, those Fortress Golems could have been thrown out of the watchtower except they held on tight with deployable spikes from their golem's soles.

Yet, the scene from the perspective of others was horrifying and perhaps jaw-dropping too. The rest of his regiment let out a series of war cries seeing how their Duke had unleashed his trump card. (Too bad, they had ignored the fact they were in enemy territory, and the other Goblin pilots took the awe of their lord to gain the advantage.)

\"Don't think we will be easily taken out!\" The Goblin Pilot of Fortress Golem #045 said as he continued to cling onto the gauntlet.

\"Heh, and here I thought I was the only one clinging on to it.\" Goblin Pilot of Fortress Golem #046 replied as he pressed a button and the backpack of the Fortress Golem released a bag of C4. They were meant to be used for self-detonation in case they were massively swarmed by enemies, but this seemed like a decent situation to use them too.

\"Ignore that stupid fist thing! Continue firing at your position! Do not stop applying pressure against the enemy!\" The Orc Captain for the Orc Artillery Company relayed the information.

\"Wyvern Goblin Knight, Tomas! Going in to annihilate the target!\" Tomas, who had experienced the Orc Goblin War as a fresh knight, had been wanting to prove himself and this seemed like an opportune chance to do so.

\"Tomas! Don't be foolish!\" Wyrstriker warned but the foolhardy knight ignored direct orders and overburst his air boosters to combat Duke Vepar before he could inflict serious damage to the sky bridge or the surroundings.

Chapter 724 Suggesting A Strike Force

Should I interfere as well?" Jin asked but Qiu Yue, Moloch and Kraft simultaneously and vehemently shot down the suggestion of the dungeon supplier.

"You might be more powerful than your customers, but you are not all mighty. Don't forget you will be up against an entire army. If you start to interfere they might get pressured too much and it will be more likely for King Baal to appear on the battlefield. Let's also not forget your symbolic value. Watching you get defeated will plummet the morale. It would be equivalent to checkmate in our eyes." Moloch explained to him why it would be better for Jin to wait for the right time.

"Let your customers have some fun. Duke Vepar knows not to destroy the sky bridge. It will make things harder for his troops and the rest of the demons that have yet to appear. He is probably aiming for the watchtowers to reduce the number of defences that we have."

"Hmm, that seems strange. Shouldn't they be able to create something like a sky bridge with magic?" Kraft argued, and Moloch was quite stumped. The plushie was unsure about whether to answer truthfully or create an excuse.

"Technically...they can, but just believe me when I say they will only do it if there is a need to. I know it sounds tactically stupid, but sometimes that is just how us demons work. We really prefer to let the underlings do the job and claim the glory so that afterwards we can gloat about how much our guys contributed. I'd think someone like you could appreciate that line of thought." Moloch tried to reason, but Kraft easily countered.

"Sure, sure. However, it's one thing to send your people to accomplish something, yet it seems there is more glory to be had if one leads them directly. Haven't we deployed the Royal Snake troops on standby at every single floating island platform for that particular scenario?" Kraft pushed, and Moloch gave up.

"Yes! But they didn't do that yet! And I have no idea why that is! The only person off the top of my head that could do this without a problem would actually be Princess Gaap herself. And yet, for some reason, she did not do so before getting shot in the chest. I mean, she sure had plenty of time before she got killed. So, stop asking me about this!" Moloch suddenly lost his temper and yelled.

"Woah, woah. Chill down, little cotton butt. I was just thinking about other possibilities. Besi-" Kraft was suddenly slapped in the face with a duct tape courtesy of Qiu Yue before he could make the situation any worse.

"Moloch, take five and cool down. I do not need a hothead on the war table. If I see any irrational decisions, I am sending you out to the battlefield." Qiu Yue ordered, and Moloch sighed. Nodding his puppet's head in silence, he walked out of the room for a breather.

"Now that our little friend is gone, may I be so frank to tell you that we are probably gonna get fucked by these demons?" Kraft bluntly stated after ripping the tape off, which made Qiu Yue and Jin on the line, perplexed. All seemed well so far, so the crafty fox sighed at their blissful ignorance.

"I can understand Jin since he wasn't part of the planning process, but you disappoint me, cutie. You have started focusing too much on our own plans without imagining yourself walking in your enemy's shoes. We've been fighting over this chokepoint for more than four hours. Since the start of the battle,

our side has defeated their soldiers ranging in the thousands... and yet, there is no sign of relenting at all. Instead, more elites are coming in, and even more foot soldiers are trying their luck to have a piece of us."

"For once, you are rather pessimistic of the situation." Jin was a little wary. The Original Bellator had a point but knowing Kraft, there's got to be some angle in this.

"No, I'm just being realistic and probably taking more things into consideration than you two due to experience. In this instance, it would be their reputation. From what I have learned talking with our cotton friend and that metal slug, they really are a prideful bunch, and they care about their image."

"...Maybe a little too much. So don't you think it would be strange if they were sending their soldiers to be slaughtered for so long if they did not have any ulterior motives or were planning something else?" Kraft continued to babble on without allowing the others to interrupt his line of thoughts. He was dead set of keeping the conversation in his favour.

"Oh and speaking about alternate plans... Before they began their attack, Moloch had suggested a very 'interesting' idea. Suffice to say he briefly told me how we could infiltrate the Demon Metropolis and get to their dungeon core. That is of course, barring changes from his knowledge of the city." Kraft replied with his trademarked slight grin. Somehow he actually managed to lead their conversation into a direction where he offered them a solution to their problem. (Was all of this interaction planned by Moloch and Kraft?!)

"So, you are suggesting that we should send a strike force into the Demon Metropolis. You already stated that we have our hands full here, how are we supposed to assign a strike squad in? If we are going in, we will be going in fully blind unless Moloch enters with you...which you know that is clearly insane." Jin asked, and Kraft shook his index finger.

"Uh uh, my dear master. I am suggesting that yours truly should go instead. I've looked through cutie's plans, and my little foxes nor I have any essential role to play in her plans. But I'll need the whole crew including the one that is locked up by the System just for...you know as a guarantee that we will win this." Kraft deviously requested from Jin, but a quick shout from the dungeon supplier's bracelet denied the plan wholeheartedly.

"Nope, not me. I'm definitely not following you." Pei materialised from the bracelet and looked through the video call on Jin's phone.

"Aww, seriously? I mean...it's rare for the foxes to come together as a group, assuming we can get Rex out to play." Kraft attempted to persuade Pei playfully, and it was obviously not going to work. It might also be his lone presence which only served to make Pei even angrier.

"How much bad blood do you guys have for each other?" Jin shook his head. How could it be that those ancie- 'experienced' bellators behaved like kids when put together?

"LOTS" Pei replied with a fit of anger, readying her fan and threw it through a portal.

"NONE." Kraft happily declared while dodging the weapon.

"THE TWO OF YOU STOP THAT! ... Alright, let's put it this way. Kraft, if Pei does not come along, will you be able to succeed with your objective in getting near their dungeon core? All I am looking for is just a

pure distraction to alleviate the situation. Reaching the dungeon core will not be necessary.\" Jin asked, and Kraft took a bit of time to ponder.

\"Should be possible. But without her, the possibility of us actually reaching the core falls hard. It will definitely be best if I have her since she is kind of our only healer. The rest of the foxes are all combat offensive in nature.\" Kraft tried to reason professionally, but it only inadvertently made Pei roll her eyes. That guy was lying... she only did not know why exactly.

\"Yeah right, Evon's drugs are enough to keep you guys going,\" Pei replied. \"Jin needs me more than you guys.\"

\"Come on, just one run for old time sake?\" Kraft asked rather nicely. \"Okay, fine how about I throw in 1000 System points in as-\"

\"Make it 3000 System points then I am in.\" Pei changed her tune so fast that Jin was absolutely stunned for a moment.

\"You drive a hard bargain. 2000 points.\" Kraft shook his head furiously.

\"3500 points.\" Pei raised the price further instead of negotiating.

\"Goddamnit woman, are you trying to rob me blind?... Fine. I can give you 2000 points, and as a little extra incentive, you'll get to play around with your signature weapon just for this fight.\" Kraft lowered his head and adjusted his trench coat.

\"Deal. I will be there when the System teleports me.\" Pei returned back to her bracelet with a happy glee.

\"But you guys are not going in until King Baal appears. Else it will end up being a big waste of time since the dungeon core owner is the strongest when his core is in danger. We need him to at least waste his time and keep him occupied here for your team to get to the dungeon core.\" Moloch came in at an opportune moment to interject his opinion.

\"Then...I guess I will authorise your strike team assuming you do as Moloch said. And it'll be only you and your foxes. NOT your Night Foxes. We need them on standby for future fights.\" Jin allowed the strike and Kraft secretly cheered especially since he got to have Rex by his side after such a long while.

\"Buddy, you will be out in no time, and we will show this world, how terrifying the foxes can be.\" Kraft thought to himself as he sent a private telepathy message to all the members of his skulk.

Chapter 725 The Reckless Wyvern Goblin Knigh

As the giant flying gauntlet grabbed the watchtower like a kid taking a piece of lego brick, the defenders reacted by attempting to annihilate the source of trouble, Duke Vepar.

However, knowing that their commander was now in a vulnerable state because of the size of the gauntlet, Vepar's personal regiment of Fallen Angels proceeded to protect him at all costs.

Royal Snake Snipers attempted to remove Duke Vepar from a distance, but those pesky Fallen Angels were always blocking the view to the target. Furthermore, killing one only exacerbated the situation as more and more Fallen Angels grouped together.

Alone, they were like a one-man army, but that title was quickly stripped off after a hail of bullets lead them to either a watery grave or bleed to death from the fall into the barricades. (If unlucky, the cultivators would take the chance to accelerate the fate of those Fallen Angels who landed near them.)

As a group, their odds increased thanks to their innate trait of chain healing. It allowed them to improve their healing potential exponentially the more of them there were. Even Duke Vepar's previous injuries were slowly being healed, making him healthy enough to wreak further damage on to the sky bridge while making sure the demon army was able to pass.

"You think you could give it a shot?" Yue Han asked after they managed to regroup with Bin Yong and Luo Bo as the giant flying 'gauntlet' was moving to break the watchtower it had grabbed and break it in half.

"I'd love, but I fear I do not have the energy! Half of my squadmate AIs have been killed trying to block the attacks for me." Luo Bo answered. She took a deep breath and exhaled quickly just to have a chug of chi potion.

"I'm no better. I also lost all my squadmates to delay the enemy's advance as best I could. Without their sacrifice, we would have been unable to retreat safely." Bin Yong recalled how dangerous the Wights were, especially the Soldiers of Ruby who possessed the fire affinity.

Their heated swords cut down his squad mate's buckler into two and proceeded to kill them. Needless to say, his squadmates were still able to inflict some form of payback before death since their tolerance to pain was almost non-existent as an AI.

Suddenly a loud sonic boom came from above, and one of the Fallen Angels got stabbed through so furiously that it was dragged along. Together with his Wyvern, Wyvern Goblin Knight Tomas had pierced a Fallen Angel through its chest while his buddy bit down on his torso, not allowing him to move as they sped away from the main group.

Without the chain healing from his comrades, the bitten Fallen Angel lost blood quickly, but Tomas had to ensure that his enemy died, thus with a command in goblin language, his long spear changed into a shotgun. He aimed and lodged his barrel at the Fallen Angel's neck which fit tightly, Tomas pulled the trigger.

Its head was blown off and pieces of its brain mixed with a lot of its blood splattered on all him due to the speed they were travelling in the air. Even his wyvern crunched the armour of the Fallen Angel before letting go and dropping it into the sea. After which, the Wyvern Goblin Knight turned and tried to make another pass against the group once again.

The Fallen Angels had watched how their comrade got eliminated, and they did not plan to allow Tomas to succeed another time. Some of them angrily aimed their spears towards the incoming threat, shooting energised beams at Tomas as his wyvern evaded as many beams as possible. However, they seem to have forgotten that Tomas was not the only threat in the air.

While their concentration had been on him, another Fallen Angel bit the dust through the very same method that Tomas had just used and a second later, there was the third casualty. Wyrstriker and a few brave Wyvern Goblin Knights zoomed past Duke Vepar's gauntlet to hit the Fallen Angels while their backs had been facing them.

"You think you will get praised for doing something this reckless?!" Wyrstriker shouted in the System subchannel dedicated to their command unit.

"Sir! No! Sir!" Tomas replied as he and the other Wyvern Goblin Knights intersected and flew past each other. With the decrease of fallen angels, their healing output was not as powerful as before, giving Luo Bo a chance to shoot back while lying on the ground.

She was directly beneath them after attempting to hide from magical energy attacks and arrows with the barricade in front of her. Her shot spiralled upwards with chi, hitting one of the Fallen Angels from below, causing them to fall straight to the ground.

Duke Vepar somehow managed to see one of his regiment troops killed and since the enemy was within his radius of attack, he spun his large gauntlet and aimed at the cultivators on the sky bridge.

"Holy shittttt!! Incoming!!" Yue Han shouted as he and his other squadmates all tried to grab anyone near them and jump out of the area before the place got flattened. However, even as he tried to grab Luo Bo, the girl was surprisingly reluctant to move because she had literally expended the last of her chi on the shot to kill.

"So heavy!!!" Yue Han complained as he attempted to maintain his hold by her armpits and moved out with a shadow phasing technique with his Blind Bat style.

"EXCUSE ME! So RUDE!" Luo Bo retaliated by hanging her bow over Yue Han's neck and used her strength to pull.

"Oh my god!" Yue Han exclaimed and held his other comments. He now only cared about coming out of the attack area in time before the gauntlet fell on them, but they were too late. They had underestimated the incoming speed of the attack, crushing the two Pandawans and a few other Pandarens with them as well.

The barricades were also destroyed by the impact, and the rest of the cultivator could feel that the sky bridge shook a little from the impact.

"Huh, Duke Vepar's gauntlet attack should have no problem flattening an entire village with one punch, and yet our sky bridge is still holding with relative ease." Moloch wondered out loud as he tried to quickly assess the damage.

"Because most of the concrete we used came from Sandy's almighty sand products. I doubt there will be anything that could destroy the sky bridge. As for the construction of watchtowers, not so much. After all, Sandy can only do that much." Qiu Yue revealed.

"Seriously, we could make a killing in the construction business if we ever used her magic sand, but Jin forbids it. He even ordered the System not to do it at all cost." She sighed as she threw in the next batch of Pandarens into the fray straight after Duke Vepar released his gauntlet in order to prevent the demon army from taking advantage of the gap.

Lord Moloch could see where this was going and understood the possible negative implications of selling such sturdy material. \"No wonder you did not hesitate to throw that much defences into that sky bridge.\"

Chapter 726 The Gauntle

\"Support Duke Vepar!\" One of the commanders shouted at the frontlines to rally the troops. To them, it was now or never as they climbed over the debris of the broken barricades. Some of them even picked up pieces of broken metal to serve as impromptu shields and to strengthen the armour that they had.

\"All Pandarens at the bridge, fall back!\" Qiu Yue relayed the orders before she quickly changed her channel to Lord Wolte's Company of Tanks. \"Wolte, it's time for your debut. Have two of your most competent tank squads fire at the gauntlet while the rest should focus on providing supportive fire to slow the horde down.\"

\"Gladly.\" Lord Wolte said as he forwarded the commands down to his Dark Templars subordinates.

\"I will go to the front. Shermie 2 and 3 follow me.\" Zieg, Leader of the Dark Templars, volunteered with pride as his tank zipped through the barricades with ease.

\"If that's the case, leave it to me to take care of that naughty little Vepar. S-4 and S-5 provide long distance support while the rest fire at will and defend Zieg.\" Wolte commanded, and the rest willingly obeyed his instructions.

The sky bridge was a gentle slope up to the first defensive platform, so most of the Sherman Tanks were not able to fire at a high angle due to the curvature of the sky bridge. Thus, defensive platforms had been erected just to allow them to handle their tasks. Even the watchtowers further back had an adjustable landing platform that could elevate itself, so the tanks were able to fire at a suitable angle.

But for Wolte, his tank was essentially his body. All he needed to do was a little bit of stretching, and he would be able to angle his barrel without the need for a levelled platform. And unlike the Dark Templars who needed to manually aim and shoot, Wolte could easily do that with a twitch of his barrel.

He was one with the tank. Everything a Sherman could do, he could do better.

\"Wyrstriker, retreat along with your Wyvern Goblin Knights. You are overexposing yourself and we don't want the enemy to realise that you are the only aerial force that we have.\" Qiu Yue warned, and Wyrstriker acknowledged those orders, calling back the others while also making sure Tomas returned.

\"Enough playing hero, Tomas! It's time to fall back. Don't force me to ban you from flying via the System if you refuse to comply.\" Wyrstriker threatened in their System Sub Channel.

\"Yeah, Tomas! Don't be stupid. You will have enough chances to be a hero, but only if you listen to Commander Wyrstriker.\" His comrades replied open, and Tomas reluctantly agreed since most of the Fallen Angels had disappeared.

"You think I'll let you all go after destroying my regiment of Fallen Angels?!" Duke Vepar looked more sullen than ever. He was not instructed in the ways of the gauntlet by his great-grandfather before the latter's passing and was instead forced to learn about it himself.

One of the first lessons he learned about the gauntlet was that it was going to take his life away bit by bit. After all, life force is seen as a cheap bargaining resource for extra power, and it was no surprise nearly every demon dealt or utilised their special skills with blood sacrifice.

Still, exchanging his life force to get revenge against these meddling dragonflies would be a worthy exchange for him. Thus, he brought his gauntlet up and started to offer up his lifeforce further to charge up the gauntlet for a tracking energy beam that would be able to hit each and every one of the Wyvern Goblin Knights.

"Oh no, you don't, Little Vepar! Not until you taste my iron fist of fury...or erm iron bullet of fu-nevermind. FIREEEEE!" Lord Wolte mumbled as he shot an explosive round out of his barrel and a couple of surface-to-air missiles from the sides of his tank. Smoke was seen at the back of the launchers and at the same time, the launchers were reloaded automatically from the belly of Lord Wolte, ready for the next barrage.

Separately, cultivators in the vicinity had to cover their ears in an attempt to block the noise from the loud screeching missiles, but it proved very much futile. Especially since the Half Mask they were wearing already had a module that would transmit a particular frequency to counter or mask the loud noise, making it not too painful for the cultivators in the area. A special Lost Tech technology yet again embedded for the convenience of the cultivators.

The sound of missiles being fired caught Duke Vepar's attention and he ordered the remnants of his Fallen Angels to protect him. There was no need for that. His guards had already prepared to lay their lives to allow him to unleash one of his mightiest attacks without the need of telling them to do so.

Despite the missiles being aimed at Duke Vepar, the Fallen Angels took the initiative to use their body and whatever magic they had to protect their Duke. One by one, the explosions ensued with a cloud of smoke as the Fallen Angels popped like balloons with their bodily contents raining down the sky bridge.

Their valiant self-sacrifice managed to buy enough time for Duke Vepar to charge his gauntlet.

"Shit! It's not enough?! Quick someone do something, we can't allow him to use that attack!" Wolte cursed as the smoke dissipated but suddenly they heard a sonic boom before Duke Vepar was able to release the energy in the gauntlet. While the Goblin Wyvern Knights had been retreating, Wyrstriker was the only one who had done a 180 degrees flip with Iwen and charged back.

Fortunately, the clouds of smoke had acted as the perfect distraction while Wyrstriker activated his secondary boosters, something which was unique to him as the commander of the Goblin Wyvern Knights. Ayse had emphasised many times that it was just a prototype and was only to be used in a true emergency.

"Well, I bet even Ayse will count this as a type of emergency. Either I kill him now, or he potentially makes a giant hole in one of the floating platforms with that gauntlet of his." Wyrstriker thought to himself as his speed punctured through Duke Vepar's head when the One-Winged Fallen Angel attempted to move away from the Wyvern Goblin Knight Commander.

Moments later, Duke Vepar's pathetic head flew off from Wyrstriker's shield and into the sea while the Spear Goblin retreated back with the boosters in an orderly fashion with his unit. Tomas and the other knights knew this feat was not as easy as their leader made it look. Considering the speed those secondary boosters could achieve when it burst to top speed, it would be hard enough to keep their balance let alone strike accurately. They could only strive to become like their commander in the future.

Now, without its user, the colossal gauntlet dropped down to the ground and squashed the ongoing demon army as it deeply caved in the first quarter of the sky bridge. So much for bringing down the barricades. Now the gauntlet itself had become a major obstacle for the incoming invaders.

Chapter 727 Extra: Chucka and Chucky

The colossal gauntlet fell down, blocking the way for the incoming demon army. The impact also destroyed nearly all of the Fortress Golems that had previously been holding on to it. Yet their deaths were not in vain with all the C4 that had been stuck on the gauntlet.

Only a single Fortress Golem had survived the toppling of the gauntlet because of the angle it was hanging on. Thus, it climbed up to the top of the gauntlet to make its last stand there aware that retreating now was the dumbest option he could choose.

The Fortress Golems had never been designed with speed as their main focus, merely their joints were responsive for quick minor movements. Running away would just be losing the advantage of halting the demons even though the pilot was aware that it would be impossible to hold them for more than a couple minutes at best.

However, to the defenders, every second was a precious commodity. Qiu Yue was finally able to take a breather and reorganise the cultivators that were left slightly stranded from the attacks. The same was true for Xiong Da, who needed this time to tend to his own wounds. Stray debris had cut into his arm when the gauntlet fell onto the sky bridge.

In a way, the other goblin pilots were a little envious of the situation for the one stranded right on top of the gauntlet. They had been ordered to remain in their respective watchtower picking off targets one by one while his demise was inevitable.

According to the protocol, he was now authorised to use up every tool he had available before his inevitable demise. Luckily, there was still the ongoing artillery barrage to aid him, so why not use that to its maximum effect?

"Maybe the System might reward me with extra points for being so courageously stupid to stand here on my own." The goblin pilot wondered as he checked on the remaining arsenal he had in the golem's backpack.

Four fully loaded sixteen gauge shotguns. There were extra shotgun shells to spare, but he knew there was no time to reload. A two hundred fifty clip heavy machine gun packed at the side of the metal backpack. A heavy calibre customised pistol at the back of the golem's hip. An emergency reactive

explosive buckler ejectable via the side of the backpack as well as a foldable axe. Oh, and a total of nine minutes of operational time before the battery wore out...

Chucka smiled as he watched the battery tick off second by second. \"Better not waste any more time.\" He quickly unloaded his machine gun and relocked his golem's soles onto the fallen gauntlet with its long steel nails. Surely he would be receiving a shit ton of attacks but Chucka, the Goblin pilot of Fortress Golem #046, or as he nicknamed it 'Chucky', believed it could- no, it WOULD weather the worst of all of the attacks until his power runs out. If not, Chucka would definitely complain to the Goblin mechanics and Orc engineers for slacking too much.

Before Chucka could even pull out the heavy machine gun, the Wight Mages of Rubies had already started sending fireballs in his direction. In the meantime, foot soldiers were climbing up the gauntlet to reach and destroy his construct, hoping it would fall and grant them glory for tearing it apart. Unfortunately, they had forgotten that Chucka was not alone as other watchtowers were still operational.

\"You lucky son of a bitch, you better kill a hundred before you fall. I do not care if your golem drops dead or you are limping, just KILL THEM. You have no rights to return unless you complete my order!\" A duty goblin officer from the watchtower shouted through the System subchannel, and the rest of the golem pilots laughed and added further insult.

\"Aye aye, sir!\" Chucka had already deployed his emergency buckler to protect the primary sensors at the head area while arming his heavy machine gun to spray at the crowd. A digital counter specifically came out when his duty officer relayed the order to him. Once he saw the numbers climbing up rather rapidly, Chuka could have sworn his duty officer asked for a thousand instead.

\"Don't push your luck, Chucka.\" The golem pilot felt a sudden chill as if the golem itself was talking back to him. But there was no time to be distracted, so he continued his incessant slaughter. With the aiming assistance provided by the console, the Fortress Golem was doing considerably well, targeting the Wights. However, their shields were more than decent, and only the foot soldiers died from the attack. Chucka stopped trying to go for them, instead, he concentrated on the foot soldiers to lower the overall numbers.

Suddenly, his heavy machine gun got stuck. His training instinct kicked in to check the chamber quickly instead of panicking, and Chucka realised he had yet to shoot out even half a clip of ammo.

\"Fuck, fuck!\" Chucka used his third arm to reach for the reloading mechanism to clear his jammed gun and simultaneously take out a shotgun from the automated backpack of the golem. However, it seemed like the Wights had been waiting precisely for this moment and a high-intensity fireball coincidentally impacted with the Fortress Golem's third arm, taking it out almost immediately because of the lack of a magical shield.

Fortress Golem Chucky did have a magical energy shield module installed, similar to the ones used for the Anti-Air Defences, but it took way too much energy out of the battery pack. Thus Chucka did not bother using it.

Seeing how the third arm got obliterated, Chucka inserted strength into its fist to destroy the handle and held the heavy machine gun like a makeshift blunt weapon, hitting on any potential enemies that came

too close to him as Chucka handled the enemies in mid-range with his sixteen gauges, oops now twelve-gauge shotgun.

The goblin pilot was able to stay alive up till now mostly due to skill and with a fair bit of luck, the situation he was in right now was certainly a testament to that. Chucka was just an ordinary pilot, and unlike Tomas who wished to prove his worth, the goblin pilot had considered the bigger picture, which was why he stayed behind to hold the line. Besides, Ayse and the rest of the engineers had spent hundreds or thousands of dungeon dollars on this piece of metal.

Some of the enemies managed to slip through the cracks of Chucka's buddies support fire and tried to pierce the golem with their weapons. Unfortunately for them, the steel armour it wore was not something to be underestimated.

Inscribed with defensive inscriptions beneath each plate of armour, the golem had increased resistances against slashing, piercing as well as magical attacks, making it quite a terrifying defender, if not for its limited mobility and single battery pack system.

"Only three more minutes!" Chucka gritted his teeth and kept moving the controls to defend his primary sensors while dealing damage to the surrounding enemies. The shotgun subsequently got turned into a blunt weapon too since the heavy machine gun had already broken into pieces after considerable smashing. The second and third shotguns were used the same way as well until he was left with the heavy calibre pistol.

But unlike the shotguns or heavy machine gun, the heavy calibre pistol was an invention from the Mecha World. It had a smart chip inserted into it, and the bullets could fly like mini-missiles towards their targets. Was there a particular type of target that Chucka was aiming for?

The C4s his comrades and him had previously planted.

A quick shift in programming with voice control from Chucka, enabled Chucky to make the necessary changes to the targets the smart gun was aiming at. Yet at the time, he was flailing his retractable axe to pretend that it was out of options. And that enabled the demon army commanders to press for an advance while keeping the golem occupied enough.

"Idiots."

Chucka smiled as he raised Chucky's arm and shot the bullets upwards, causing them to fly upwards and subsequently to their targets. Meanwhile, he too pressed the self destruct button three times, indicating to quicken the destruction time sequence to the minimum time as he retracted the handle to eject his pod.

In short, the series of explosions seen happening on the gauntlet was a magnificent display of fireworks too. (Oh and Peppers rated it a 3.5/10. The 0.5 for the blood spattering. Such a harsh critic she was.)

Chapter 728 Arrival of the Mad Gian

The gauntlet remained intact despite the detonation of multiple C4s and the Fortress Golems. The valiant Fortress Golem, who had been left with very little battery, exploded itself guaranteeing that it was useful all the way to the end. The detonation sequence of the Fortress Golem was also meant to break the golem into small unusable parts since there was a decomposition inscription hidden within the destruction ignitor.

By forcefully activating the decomposition inscription, it ensured that upon self-destruction, all the metal parts would rust and likely disintegrate. A sophisticated but surefire way to ensure that enemies would not get the schematics or reverse engineer any particular component.

These precautions had to be built in, in lieu of the Mecha World where their enemies would be smart enough to accomplish such a feat to learn more about their enemies. Jin and Qiu Yue agreed this was a necessary step until they found a cheap way to transport items back to the System's grasp without wasting too many resources.

The explosions did clear some of the debris away causing the colossal gauntlet sank further in, and the height to climb over it was lessened by a little. It wasn't much, in fact, it made it only slightly less tedious for the soldiers to climb over it.

Still, after the honourable death of Chucka, the Fortress Golems in the watchtowers were finally allowed to unleash hell on any soldiers that were climbing over the gauntlet. This forced the Wights to be creative in their defences so that the foot soldiers stood an actual chance in being able to push through.

At the same time, the cultivators had already dug in for the next round of defensive fighting, with some of them also shooting with their bows and guns against any of the foot soldiers.

Qiu Yue had also prepared a few surprises in the barricades for those melee cultivators. A variety of handguns and bolt action rifles were hidden behind the 'makeshift' defence barriers allowing the melee cultivators to take part in these shooting exercises with the foot soldiers as target practice.

While most of them missed because of the lack of training, it nevertheless applied pressure to the demon foot soldiers, causing them to be reckless and making them rather predictable in their ways. (Extra munition was sold through the Pandamonium App and would arrive by Spider Crawlers.)

Suddenly, distant loud trumpet noises came from the safe zone. A few soldiers in the backline turned to take a look, only to realise that Prince Stolas' reinforcements had arrived fashionably late. Trebuchets, Catapults and even mobile ballistae were coming out from the magical portal. The demon army finally had their very own long-range weapons in the midst of battle.

"Hahahahah! Yeah, I guess that evens the playing field a little." Qiu Yue laughed sarcastically at the sudden turn of events as she noticed that the siege weapons themselves were filled with mages.

Standing at the edge of the equipment, they were providing a spherical shield at each point, culminating in a four-layer magical defensive shield which was able to withstand the barrage of artillery strikes. Not only that, but there was also a staggering amount of mages behind those siege weapons, ready to further the protection whenever needed.

That was not all. Along with the siege weapons, Giants and Demon Trolls had begun coming out of the magical portal with a very special person which Moloch recognised almost immediately. A respected

tutor himself and well versed in the art of war, Earl Barbatos, the Mad Giant, along with his army of monsters entered the fray. The demon army whose morale had been dropping ever since the fall of Duke Vepar cheered intensely with the arrival of Earl Barbatos and his Giants.

"Hahaha! Oh, Prince Stolas! Of all the commanders, you are the only one here? Do you think this is a sign of Moloch giving you a chance to live? You should not waste it and return to the palace. This is not a place to earn any glory." Earl Barbatos had been earnestly following the development of the situation in the invasion of Moloch's city, Pandapolis.

A weird name to choose considering there were other things he could have chosen, but the problem did not lie with that. Instead, it was those humans which Barbatos saw that made him think Moloch was still hiding his trump cards.

"I guess that's the queue to release the Dragon and Pandjilla?" Qiu Yue asked when she saw the giants and Moloch shook his head.

"As menacing as they look, those giant statues only have high constitutions going for them. Otherwise, they have average defence and a rather average attack power...well power is quite debatable depending on who they are fighting with.

Against regular troops, they spell disaster but to Pandawans like Bu Dong? It would definitely be a walk in the park for him given that he now has access to squads too." Moloch stated further that those giants were just foot soldiers in the eyes of Barbatos. In his ranks, he still had more agile, smaller versions of giants and trolls that he had not taken out yet. Not even the armoured ones were present in the field yet.

"So, should we just use the artillery on them?" Kraft asked without looking up. The crafty fox seemed to be strangely occupied with his personal laptop.

"No, they will continue to strike the soldiers at the gauntlet. We need to lower their numbers, shell shock as many as possible." Qiu Yue replied as she glanced through her options. To deal with siege weapons, she ended up calling Hou Fei, asking him to send in one of the Royal Snakes companies.

To get through their thick shields, she gave Weslie's prototype vehicle even though it was still in the testing stage. The so-called speedy land hover which was capable of hovering above land with the aid of a Lost Tech engine. It has been modelled after the steampunk motorcycle and helicopter the Farming Demon Rats had used.

As much as Qiu Yue liked to control the cultivators to keep them for further use, there had to be a balance for them to see some action. Thus, she had decided to send an unorthodox group into the fray to deal with the giants since regular Pandarens were not capable to stop them.

The Venus Four.

Chapter 729 Venus Four's Grand Arrival

"About damn time!" Yue Wen, the Cultivator of the Healing Maiden style, grumbled full of impatience once she finally received the notification on her Pandamonium app that she was chosen to enter the dungeon raid instance.

"You were the one who said that you would wait for us." Shi Hui, the Shadow Swan Cultivator, replied as she closed her war fan, with the rest of her squad AI following suit.

"Well, I had to. There hasn't been much of a chance for us to play together ever since we started working at that bubble tea store. And when we are not working, SOME PEOPLE have to have their urges filled by SOME WOLF." Yue Wen emphasised and Jing Ru, the Gunning Giraffe giggled at the side of the conference briefing room.

"Play nice Yue Wen, we agreed not to be too critical about their relationship." Jing Ru reminded her, and Yue Wen faced her with an angry pouting expression as well.

"You too! Ever since you got along with your father in Jin's store, you have been running along with him and his buddies a lot! Leaving me behind!" Yue Wen pointed sternly to the Sniper Cultivator, rendering her slightly speechless. Somehow she decided to explode at the wrong time when everyone should be getting along for the upcoming battle. Instead of arguing back, Jia Ying, the Sanguine Stag Cultivator merely went in front of Yue Wen and looked through her eyes.

"Calm down. Set your mind straight. Don't forget you are still our healer for this round. Shouldn't you be the most level-headed given your occupation?" Jia Ying stated objectively, and Yue Wen sighed after staring into her for a moment.

"My bad. Perhaps, I just really miss the four of us coming together." Yue Wen replied meekly and subsequently, the Pandamonium App asked for their confirmation to teleport. Shi Hui patted Yue Wen's shoulder and squeezed it a little as a sign of encouragement before they simultaneously pressed the confirmation button.

In an instant, they got teleported into the battlefield flying down from the skies. The first thing they noticed was the Giants they had seen on the projector in the conference room. The Venus Four immediately knew who their targets were as they readied their weapons while they were swooping down from the skies.

Without any parachutes to guide them, Shi Hui released her chi into the surroundings, and illusionary animals of their cultivation were seen diving down towards individual Giants.

Proud and majestic in its appearance, the Sanguine Stag could be seen diving towards one of the Giants who was holding a large shield. With the aura of nature emanating out into the skies, the stag's horns were growing and trailing along as the illusion descended. Plants and flowers of various species were popping out from the horns creating a scene as if the Sanguine Stag was akin to a major Guardian of the Forest.

And right beside it was Jia Ying, prepping her spear technique while her AI squadmates were close behind her. It was one of the larger illusions that Shi Hui had created and it immediately attracted the attention of not just the Giants but everyone in the vicinity.

People were mesmerised by it especially since there was an illusionary aura of a blindfolded maiden in hood and cape descending with a bright shining light. It appeared as if it was radiating the path for the Sanguine Stag to walk upon. The Healing Maiden was like a bastion of hope for the cultivators who saw it when the Giants emerged from the portal.

In the meantime, Yue Wen timed the release of the shining light with her release of a wide area technique with the aid of her squadmates AI to provide the cultivators at the sky bridge a slight regeneration of chi accumulation.

However, being at Grade 4P, Yue Wen's technique was still too weak for it to be very effective for a battle of this magnitude. The duration was cut short due to her lack of understanding of the skill along with her lack of high-grade cultivation. Nonetheless, it was quite a pretty show to watch, and the warmth from the illusion did increase the morale of the Pandarens.

Likewise, the Sanguine Stag cultivator Jia Ying descended elegantly whilst overcoming the shield that the Giant had been holding up. She pierced through the Giant's neck without him being able to stop her. With a hole the size of a tree trunk in between the Giant's trachea, it gasped for air and struggled by flailing its weapons around, only to succumb on the ground and suffocate to its death.

"Urgh, I guess I should not do such a thing again." Jia Ying coughed as she was covered with the innards of the Giant all over her body. So much for the look of 'nature' after one was filled with Giant's blood from head to toe. (Perhaps, that IS nature. Survival of the strongest prevails within every one of us.)

Unlike the Healing Maiden and Sanguine Stag's grand entrance, Jing Ru did not portray her Gunning Giraffe, instead, she and her squad used grappling guns to reach their targeted Giants earlier and set a thermite C4 explosive on the body part they managed to land on before jumping down to the ground.

To prevent the Giants from suspecting too much, they had been 'wasting' their bullets by spraying the large creatures to distract their attention, and it worked effectively. But at the same time, the Giants were rather unsuspecting having one or two humans trying to come too close to them since they treated them as trash insects. What was one or two needle pins poking them when they had tolerated years of war against other monsters and demons?

Sadly, that underestimation was their downfall.

Once the thermite C4 explosives were ignited, the Giants suffered burning pains which caused severe bleeding at various parts of the body. There were also a few instant kills because of a well-placed C4 at the neck area, yet most sustained only minor injuries. Still, the burn and bleeding had hindered their movement, allowing Jing Ru as well as Jia Ying's squad to disrupt them.

Shi Hui descended down with her chi powers (and grace) as she too had begun to use her chi powers to hold the injured Giants down with shadow grabbing techniques.

Earl Barbatos had never seen a small group of humans able to contend so aggressively against his Giants and at such a lightning pace as well. There was something about them that seemed to separate them from ordinary adventurers. Even the spells they cast or the techniques they performed were out of this world.

Thus, Barbatos decided to do something drastic to cope with them. There was no point in being considerate if his opponents had the upper hand in terms of brilliant soldiers.

"All Giants. Regroup and charge towards the bridge. All restrictions are off. Do not care if it is friend or foe in your way. Break their defences so that we can reach one of the floating platforms. Proceed to secure a safe teleportation space for our brethren." Earl Barbatos commanded as he looked at his pocket watch.

"We will show them the true order of nature."

Chapter 730 Land Hovers

"Holy shit! You sure this is the same vehicle we did the test drive in?!" Meng Ruo shouted as the Royal Snake Corporal accidentally throttled the land hovers that they had been loaned as part of the Dungeon Instance experience.

"I heard they made some adjustments afterwards! But you're right, THIS IS AWESOME!" Zhang Min added as he smashed his land hover onto an unsuspecting Tiefling soldier before it sped off towards the siege weapons.

"Squad, Focus!" Sarge Rocher shouted through their intercoms, and his soldiers gave a resounding Yes, Sir. However, he could not deny that it was fun. When they had been tasked to fly off the floating platforms, they thought the commands from the upper management had been a bad joke.

No one dared to do that as the test run had shown a completely different result. Yet, their orders were to jump off the cliff and straight into intervening the siege weapons.

Looking at them from afar, the soldiers understood that the shields had already been strengthened by their enemies, a testimony to the adaptable algorithm Jin was using (at least that's what they thought).

Their monster allies appeared to have come to the same conclusion. Instead of targeting those shields, they had switched to the vulnerable army at the front. The Royal Snakes who saw this knew that they had to contribute some form of help too. So, being the leader of their squad, Sarge Rocher had determined that since this was all a giant dungeon instance and given how the situation was developing, they might as well follow those seemingly crazy orders and see if these land hovers could take them.

Modelled similar to a motorcycle out of the movie Tron, the head of a land hover was reinforced to act as a battering ram so it could keep the rider safe. At the same time, it also bashed the enemy out of existence which was a hell lot of fun.

The land hover featured two internal machine guns which could be triggered with a tight squeeze of the handles, and the hover engine was similar to the Lost Tech Air Boosters that the Air Wyverns had used. Only unlike the wyverns, it only had one engine booster, but it was the revised version, allowing it to be rather durable too.

A complicated and only half visible Epic Floating Inscription along with Peppers' magic also ensured that these land hovers could not get replicated.

These precautions were the reason the System did not mind that the commanders openly took photos of it, in hopes they could make something similar even though most of them believed it was fiction only possible to achieve in a dungeon instance setting. (Oh, if only they knew they could use it in the real world too.)

Prince Stolas didn't doubt for a single moment that the siege weapons were the prime targets for the defenders right now. What he didn't expect was that they could perform such outlandish yet drastic measures to go after them. He had already ordered his very own personal guards to protect the siege weapons. The old adage was true if you wanted something accomplished.

"You had to do it yourself."

Alongside his troops, he went forth while taking necessary preparations to ensure that he would not share the fate of his elder sister being gifted a surprise hole in his head. It was a deadly gamble but seeing how the defenders had released a new form of cavalry that were speeding through to the Siege Weapons at speeds he could not fathom, it was a sign that Stolas was doing something right.

His guards who had been with him throughout the whole battle were also worried about the dangers he might face and had already raised their energy shields as high as possible to ensure no harm would come to their prince.

As for the land hovers, they too realised something was amiss after they escaped the frontlines by jumping over the floating island platforms. Upon charging through the fields of dead bodies from the Demon Army and clay statues, Sarge Rocher felt that the winds were behaving abnormally. With the speedometer sensing a change in altitude meter, there was no doubt that wind magic was being used or prepared. If they were to move as they had, it was possible the squad of land hovers might get cut in half by a sudden attack.

"All units, split up! Move along Perimeter C and go backwards! I suspect some mass wind magic is at play! We shall confuse the enemies by going after the back of their frontlines!" Sarge Rocher ordered them to do a diversionary attack and his soldiers obeyed.

True enough, a massive wind draft appeared about 10 metres away from where the land hovers had split up. Were it not for their Sarge's keen intuition, half of the land hovers might have been destroyed. Now they used the full squad to deploy hit and run tactics to disturb the back end of the frontline, in hopes that the wind magic will die down with time.

Yet because of this delay, the siege weapons had enough time to finish charging up and fired their very first volley shots towards the sky bridge. The rocks thrown by the Trebuchets and Catapults were laden with oil, and thus when fired, the shots were lit up.

But because it was their first shot, most of the rocks missed the sky bridges vital defences and instead went into the sea or the side of the sky bridge. Some lucky shots though managed to hit the physical barricades and even destroyed a Sherman Tank.

"Fortress Golems, concentrate on smashing the incoming projectiles." Qiu Yue commanded and relayed orders for General Hou Fei to get the land hovers to try again.

Suddenly there was an incoming message from the sky bridge's watchtower.

"Mdm, the Giants...they seem to be congregating towards the sky bridge!" One of the Fortress Golems had noticed that even as the Giants were moving separately, their general direction was still towards the sky bridge."

"That should be rather obvious since there is only one way to enter the floating platforms. So what's the worry?" Qiu Yue said as she zoomed out the map and observed the patterns. There was nothing wrong with the enemies' tactics. In fact, it was evident that the Giants were first spread out to avoid concentrated fire on them.

This was rather apparent with the emergence of Venus Four assaulting them head on, taking out one giant at a time. Qiu Yue allowed the deployment of Venus Four mainly because of Earl Barbato's loose formation of the Giants. Else, she would not dare to waste the Pandawans' chance in the field.

"No Mdm, he had also noticed that they were moving without care for their fellow comrades and stomping many in the process." The Goblin operator replied. It made Qiu Yue hesitate whether she should divert the land hovers to stop the Giants first or continue to allow the Venus Four to wreak havoc to the Giant Horde.

And then she saw on her war table that the Dragon Clay Statue and Pandjilla were still near the shores away from the sky bridge waiting to get activated.