

## Dungeon S 731

### Chapter 731 Murder of Crows

"I know that you are truly eyeing for the two clay statues we have left but trust me. This is not the right time to use them!" Moloch beseeched Qiu Yue to stay calm in her tactician work. She just did not know that there were other types of monsters that would perfectly counter the size and strength of those two clay statues.

Using them now would be a disservice to their powers hidden within those runes that Jespa had specifically created. (Although she was outright complaining why those human idiots at the top of the food chain still had not used them by now.)

"Urgh, fine let's use our V2 rockets to stall the gian-" Qiu Yue was subsequently interrupted by an urgent shout from a Goblin telecoms operator.

"Mdm! Another magical portal appeared right above the safe zone, and unlike the previous time, there are thousands of different signature readings coming out of it right now!" The operator said with much anxiety in his tone.

Qiu Yue quickly zoomed into the safe zone area using whatever surveillance devices they had left there as well as the birds from Que Er.

"Damn, they are here." Moloch cursed as he shook his head. The aerial nightmare he had dreaded for so long, had indeed arrived.

Marquis Forneus, Commander of the Dragon Devils with his army of Dragonlites had finally joined the fray.

As expected from his regiment of aerial units, the Dragon Devils consisted of Dragons that were as large as Boeing 747 planes and Forneus had hundreds of them coming onto the scene. With battalions of Dragonlites' armed to the teeth, Marquis Forneus was not going to pull any punches after hearing the commotion back in the Demon Metropolis.

"About damn time." Earl Barbatos smirked as he saw his own reinforcements come at the same time as Marquis Forneus' troops. His Elite Giants were armed with full-body armour, along with crossbows and two-handed halberds which made the siege weapons look like miniature items in comparison.

Kraft had been right all along. That battle of attrition at the sky bridge had been nothing but time stalled for the heavy hitters to arrive. It would have arguably a smarter choice to wait for them to arrive, yet fortunately for Jin's side, their demon pride forbade them from just sitting around when faced with what should be a weak enemy.

Seeing that his father's subjects had complied to the request he sent out earlier and the immediate threat to his siege weapons being averted, Prince Stolas quickly retreated back to the safe zone where the mana shield was being upheld.

"Heh, here I feared we'd be just on guard duty. Looks like we do have some things to play with." Colonel Kan Jian sent on the radio channel to his fellow comrade Chen Lai.

"And of all scenarios, they had to give us the worst one." Chen Lai chuckled as he watched the Dragonlites and the Dragon Devils approaching the floating platforms from the comfort of his temporary guard tower.

"Well, hard times make strong men." Major Boon Tiong replied as he stood at the edge of the Agriculture Sector 1 with the instructions to release something rather ominous once the Dragonlites managed to touch the ground. For now, the Goblin Anti Air Company were stocking on the ammunition and had their target reticule dead set on the incoming boogies.

"Goblin Wyvern Knights, you are barred from flying. I repeat. You are barred from flying! Any offenders to this will get sent to personal reeducation by Kraft." Qiu Yue threatened through the loudspeakers, surprising the Wyrstriker and the rest of the knights who rushed to refill their ammunition while the goblin mages healed their wounds as well as the wyverns. The crafty fox meanwhile gave her a thumbs up, while his attention remained glued to his laptop.

"Why? We are still operational!" Wyrstriker walked towards a temporary communication post built at the side of the hangar and asked if the telecoms operator knew anything before going to the System Channel to complain.

"Because it seems that it is time for my debut!" Que Er answered as she gracefully floated down from the ceiling of the hangar and shortly after her touchdown, hundreds of ruby eyes glowed simultaneously. "You heal up and prepare for the actual fight against these Dragon Devils which Moloch warned us about. That is if I leave some of them for you to kill." She teased with a slightly protective mother look on her.

As much as she wanted Wyrstriker to grow, this definitely proved too much for him and his guys to handle. A company of knights against a full-fledged army of aerial units? They were not like those couple hundred Spartans who had the advantage of surrounding mountains to reduce the number of enemies coming at them nor did they have any lightning storm or fated winds to aid them in their battle.

This truly boiled down to being a numbers game. And unfortunately, numbers were just what Wyrstriker lacked on his side.

"So let me be his mountains in the sky so his spear can concentrate on the prize alone." Que Er thought as Huginn and Muninn left her shoulders and took off into the skies, followed by a massive murder of crows cawing behind them as they momentarily darkened the hangars to support the two ravens of Odin.

"Fine, if you want us to rest, then so be it." Wyrstriker guessed this was a good time for a proper refit of his Wyvern. "Knights! Since we have the time, we might as well equip properly for the showdown against those Dragon Devils!" He shouted, and the rest acknowledged his orders fervently. (Even the Wyverns growl with approval!)

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"FIRE!" The Goblin Captain shouted, and every member of the Goblin Anti Air Company was eager to bring down as many Dragonlites as possible, delaying the inevitable scenario of them landing on to the floating platforms.

Black smoke filled with pellets burst into the sky, hurting the Dragonlites and killing some unlucky ones in the process. Still, it did not stop the overall Dragonlite Horde from moving systematically towards each individual platform.

Those Anti Air fires were nothing to the frontliners until the Dragonlite scouts caught with their keen eye a large black blob with glowing red sparkles emerging from one of the platforms towards them. Thinking it was some magical spell, the captains ordered a magical defensive shield to be placed in front of them.

In unison, the Dragonlites performed it impressively fast, and the mages from the Dragon Devils were also supplying mana to the existing energy shield to stop whatever was coming towards them to reduce their burden.

However, the shield was of a single direction instead of a spherical one like the one Countess Dantalion had on Flashy.

So, the Anti Air Gunners were still able to inflict some damage but the retaliation was something it did not expect as well. During the protection from the black blob, some of the Dragonlites were ordered to throw magical Harpoons infused with a high amount of mana towards the Anti Air Gunners.

And when thrown, those harpoons acted like missiles in the context of the modern world. It was devastating enough to pierce through the Lost Tech Shield that the Gunners used for safety and damaged the Flak guns.

Yet, in hindsight, the Dragonlites should have kept it for the incoming murder of crows.

### **Chapter 732 Collective Raid Objective**

When this blob of night approached the Dragonlites, they realised it was just a bunch of crows. They did not take them seriously, opting to wait for them to get close enough to get turned into roasted chicken...erm bird.

Many in the frontlines laughed when those suicidal crows voluntarily splat themselves onto their shields as they instantly evaporated from the heat. They had mistakenly believed that their enemy was resorting to such a tactic to waste their mana so that they would have less for the later fights.

Because of this lapse in judgement, some of the mages slacked, and part of the shield became less reinforced, allowing the crows to penetrate through the shield. After the sacrifice of their predecessors and the cackling crows zoomed through and caused significant damage to the frontlines.

However, any Dragonlites that had been hit were quickly replaced by the following row of their comrades as Marquis Forneus bellowed out commands to take control of the situation. He demanded the second batch of Dragonlites to put up another shield to keep the flying horde moving forward.

Yet the crows were not some dumb birds, especially under the influence of Odin's Ravens. After learning that the direct assault was futile, they quickly retracted and attacked from the sides instead, seeing that it was just a shield at the front.

In the skies, the horde was vulnerable from any direction, and thus Marquis Forneus ordered for a swift landing to prevent the murderous crows from hurting them anymore. In the meantime, he ordered a few of his Dragon Devils to prepare a counter-attack should the crows come too close to them. After all, the rest of the prized warriors needed to carry their weight for the rest of the 'show'.

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Meanwhile, the Pandarens realised what was coming would be a hell of a battle considering the Giants were rushing towards them without any hesitation. The land hovers and Venus Four Pandawans were doing their best to delay the Giants, but they could only do so much against their sizes and massive numbers.

Despite their lack of firepower, Sarge Rocher and the others had devised a method they had seen in the first movie trilogy of a galaxy far far away. They used the land hovers with grappling hooks and went around the Giants, binding them on their legs and tripping them.

Unfortunately, unlike the AT-Ts in Galaxy Wars, these Giants were sentinel in nature, and they had the ability to untie those ropes themselves after they fall.

"Unless you bash them hard on their head...or nose." Sarge Rocher shouted with glee as he sped up fast enough for a quick impact against the nostrils of the crouching Giants and sprayed a rain of bullets into their nose. (If not for his safety gears attached to the seat, he would have flown forward.)

With the armour piercing shots, some of the bullets went through to their brains and killed them instantly. For those who were fortunate to survive, other Royal Snake soldiers slammed the land hovers again with the usage of the boosters into their eye sockets and shot through them too. It was extraordinarily bloody yet highly effective.

Still, Earl Barbatos was not relenting with his charge of Giants. Right now, he knew that the overall advantage was on his side. Those minor annoyances may take out a couple of Giants, but it was a drop in the bucket against their numbers.

Sometimes, no strategy was also a viable strategy, especially against Moloch's trickeries. The foot soldiers at the front continued to apply pressure, preventing the Pandarens and Pandawans from helping out the Venus Four and others any further. Because of the importance of the sky bridge, there was no need for Qiu Yue to send any more Pandarens as excessiveness would reduce the effectiveness of the troops too.

Nevertheless, the Pandarens were not prepared for another little tweeny surprise that suddenly popped up at the side of their vision.

"Collective Raid Objective:

Annihilate a total of 3,000 enemies with thy powers.

Currently slain: 057/3,000

Rewards: Special support from Yun."

Some were too busy to look at it while others wondered a little about the objective why it showed so little until they eventually came to the conclusion that what Jin meant was to kill 3,000 demons without their monster allies' support.

"Ehhhh, why did you decide to use me after all? I thought that was just an optional idea?" Yun questioned Jin on the System channel once she saw the impromptu message on her phone. Jin didn't inform her before he decided to apply the alternative plan given the current situation they were in.

"Yeah, mainly because I thought it would be great for the Pandarens morale. After seeing the huge and powerful Giants and Dragons, the System notified me, that it calculated that we need something big and flashy to make up for it on our own side. So I thought since every single Pandaren knows and loves you dearly... Besides! I know you like some special attention once in a while." Jin urged Yun to continue with the plan.

"Fine, what can I do since you silver-tongued devil has already established the objective before consulting me?" Yun replied with a sigh.

However, a small little curl involuntarily appeared at the side of her lips, and her heart was beating faster than usual. The 'mother' figure for Jin knew what he had planned for her in this particular situation, and she started to check her phone to see if there were any final adjustments needed for the special costume she would come out in.

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"What the hell is this collective raid objective? Is Yun really that powerful that she can change the tide of battle?" Jing Ru thought to herself, trying to recall if she ever saw Yun in action before. As she reloaded her shotgun, she saw a land hover from a distance and waved at it to pick her up. Meng Ruo was within the vicinity and did not hesitate to rescue the damsel in distress.

"Ah, you are that brave female gun cultivator that we saw jumping around hitting the Giants." Meng Ruo greeted her as he extended his arms out after an impromptu stop to let Jing Ru upon it.

The soldiers had been briefed about this joint exercise and were therefore aware that among Jin's customer base, there were veterans who had earned the nickname of Pandawans. And the one Meng Ruo picked up was a member of the Venus Four, which was its own group within the Pandawans.

"Army?!" Jing Ru was a little shocked when she saw a soldier in his military fatigues despite his Half Snake Mask.

"Yep, we are doing a bit of exercise, courtesy of Boss Jin." Meng Ruo knew this was a piece of information the soldiers were allowed to say to the civilians as he quickly started the engine and moved forward to another Giant.

"Could you distract the Giant, that way I will be able to shoot my grapple gun up to its waist." Jing Ru suggested, but Meng Ruo felt his masculine instincts were taking over, wanting to show off in front of the girl.

"How about I use this land hover and trip the giant down, and you can grapple on his ass to place a C4 or two?"

"Don't be dumb. We do not have enough time, and two more Giants are closing in. By the time you are done tripping it, we will be in some hot mess. My friends will tease me to death if I am the first one to get eliminated in such a shameful way." Jing Ru stated as a matter of fact after bringing down a few Giants until she had no more AI squadmates around her.

"If you're here to play some form of hero, do it with some other girl, not me. Either you listen to me, and we can both survive this or I can jump out of the-" Suddenly the land hover swerved, and it made Jing Ru grab the rails of land hover tightly as she saw a giant war mace barely swinging away from the area.

"You were saying?" Meng Ruo shouted back since the wind draft was starting to pick up and Jing Ru did not know whether to be mad at him.

"Stick to the plan as I asked. Please!" She shouted back, and Meng Ruo reluctantly acknowledged.

"If only I could show my cultivation out!" Meng Ruo grumbled to himself as he amped up the speed to reach the giant further in front of them.

In the meantime, 101 demons had been killed, 2899 left for the collective Raid Objective.

### **Chapter 733 Meng Ruo & Jing Ru**

As the murder of crows were keeping the Dragonlites busy, a few platoons managed to avoid them and penetrated through the Anti Air defences handled by the Goblins. They became the very first demons who managed to enter the floating platforms.

"Now!" One of the Royal Snake officers issued the command to fire. Immediately a spray of bullets mercilessly tore them down. With Agriculture Sector 1 filled with natural fauna, the Royal Snakes soldiers had the element of surprise on their side.

The Dragonlites had been caught off guard, and the first wave that entered was killed, as the snakes left no survivors alive. To make things worse, the Snakes themselves hadn't been lazy. They had taken the time to plant mines and traps turning Agriculture Sector 1 into a terribly dangerous area to cross if one was unaware about where those were hidden. (Luckily, the System showed them to the cultivators through the half mask as well.)

After learning that Agriculture Sector 1 was fully guarded, some squads of Dragonlites attempted to move on to other islands, only to discover similar Anti Air Goblin Companies waiting for them. The tactics employed were identical to what they had encountered earlier. Regrettably, this revelation cost their lives, but it provided Marquis Forneus with a basic understanding of the current defences of his enemies.

"Guess Moloch really does have a sponsor not just with lots of gold in hand to entice the adventurers to work with him but also power and technology at their side." Marquis Forenus thought before he shouted to pep talk his demons further.

"What we are facing is not a conventional army. This might possibly be one of the toughest fights you will ever experience! But do not falter as the Dragon Devils will always prevail. The stronger the enemy, the more glory shall we gain for defeating. Let's show those bastards what Dragonlites can do!"

"Wow, they even have rallying sessions. Boss Jin's work is really above top-notch. Proceed with Plan Broccoli when required, we need to follow up after the crows dispersed!" Commander Boon Tiong ordered as he observed the Dragonlite leader through the binoculars. They were giving their own subordinates orders even as the murder of crows attempted to destroy them.

Eventually, Que Er did tell the crows telepathically to stop trying and instead go for another target as the cultivators were achieving their collective raid objective rather quickly and that should deal with the rest of the Dragonlites.

With the increase of Giants already amassing at the front of the bridge, Que Er believed it was now the Giants' turn to be harassed since the Venus Four and most of the land hovers had already retreated except for Meng Ruo and Jing Ru who were still hitting the stragglers ignoring the commands given.

"Playing hero won't do you any good, CPL Meng Ruo!" Sarge Rocher warned through the intercom of the land hover.

"Sarge, I know! Just one more, and we will come back. It's too convenient a target to ignore!" Meng Ruo argued as he quickly shut his intercom and concentrated on the task at hand by sending his land hover as close to the Giant. After seeing Jing Ru personally deal with the previous few giants, Meng Ruo decided to keep quiet about her tactics and allow her to kill off the threats. However, this current Giant was different from the others.

It was smaller in size and had donned heavy plates of armour as well as a crossbow that was the size of a ballista. Upon seeing the land hover coming towards it, the Armoured Giant did not hesitate to take out its crossbow and start shooting at it. Meng Ruo managed to dodge the first shot with ease but realised with fear that the land hover had been nearly hit on the second try. The third was a close shave with death as well, causing Meng Ruo to reevaluate the intelligence of this Armoured Giant. It seemed he was not as dumb or stupid as he looked.

Suddenly, he saw the Armoured Giant taking out two bolts and loading them together firmly. Meng Ruo instantly understood that he would be courting death no matter whatever direction he'd try to swerve his land hover.

"Sorry, Giraffe. I think I am taking the reins for this one, you just sit tight and-" Jing Ru shared his realisation. The land hover's odds of surviving plummeted the moment the Armoured Giant had placed two bolts into his crossbow. Thus, she had begun shooting with her Winter Wolf Sniper Rifle instead of trying the same method of bombing the Giant with several C4s. (Besides, she only had a handful left, and they might need it on the way back.)

Alas, it was in vain. The Giant had also been smart enough to place his hand near his face before he encountered the first shot from Jing Ru and she cursed loudly but still continued to fire towards the Giant's face. The shots did make the Giant bleed a little, but thanks to his thick plated gauntlet, it felt more of a needle prick.

"SIT DOWN!" Meng Ruo shouted sternly, his voice leaving no doubt that he expected the haughty girl to obey. Although she did not take it too kindly, Jing Ru held her shot and sat down behind Meng Ruo.

"Thank you." Meng Ruo replied, and he activated his chi that subsequently covered the entire land hover. Soon enough, a large silhouette of a snakehead became visible encasing the land hover while Meng Ruo continued to increase his speed while reminding Jing Ru to stay.

When the Armoured Giant felt no more shots and the land hover became the danger, he immediately shot out the two bolts from his crossbow. Meng Ruo could vaguely see that the Giant was intelligent enough to predict the escape routes of Meng Ruo's instinctive dodging to the right. Still, he had no way to account for Meng Ruo being a reasonably capable Snake Cultivator. When the shots came, instead of dodging, the land hover jumped upwards with Meng Ruo's excellent manoeuvring.

During that moment, it looked as if a yellowish snake slithered through the two huge bolts with ease and went straight towards the Giant's head. While the Armoured Giant instinctively block it with his hand once more, Meng Ruo finally gave the go-ahead for Jing Ru. "Give it your best shot, we might not be able to escape fro-"

Yet again, Jing Ru acted before Meng Ruo finished his sentence by brandishing the very same infamous triple barrel rocket launcher that was available on the Shop App. She shot all three missiles out and threw the launcher to the ground while taking out her Winter Wolf Rifle once again. Empowering the weapon with her Giraffe Cultivation, she released a shot of energy beam without hesitation the moment the missiles impacted the blocking arm.

A hole appeared through the palm of the Giant as well as in front of his face. As if that was not enough to confirm his death, Meng Ruo's land hover bashed through the hand leaving an indentation on the face while releasing the very last clip of his armour piercing bullets on the land hover.

The lone Armoured Giant was deader than dead.

It was finally time to retreat.

## **Chapter 734 Clay Dragon**

Marquis Forneus noticed how the murder of exploding crows had started heading in the direction of the Giants, so he chose to send over two Dragon Devils to intercept the murderous birds after what they had done to them.

Judging by the size of those crows and their ability to fly fast, they would be perfect for harassing the Giants who could provide a big push towards capturing the sky bridge. Although the foot soldiers were slowly gaining ground after they had managed to overcome the gauntlet obstacle where Duke Vepar had fallen, it would take them many hours to manage it by themselves.

The only silver lining for the Demon Army was that the number of Pandarens might seem constant, but the quality had dropped due to the influx of first-time customers coming in. Usually, Jin would have dealt with this by assigning his monsters as overseers, but here they needed to conserve their forces.

His Pandawans and Veteran Pandarens could only do so much to coordinate or help with the defences. It was nonetheless frustrating for some to die because they happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time or simply be unlucky enough to get hit by a random attack from the demons despite Qiu Yue's flash teleporting. (It would be a lie if the System did not help since a human could only process so much.)

Still, most accepted this as a realistic depiction of war and a selling point of this dungeon instance raid. (The System did, however, gave a discount coupon to encourage them to join again.)

Before the murder of exploding crows could take advantage of the situation and kill many Giants by going into their orifices and self detonate, the pair of Dragon Devils had already swooped down and spewed flames into the blob to destroy them as soon as possible.

To deal with this, Odin's Ravens quickly split the group as far as possible to reduce casualties to the rest of the murder. Que Er also gave the command to inflict as much damage before dying or else their lives would be wasted.

Hence, the exploding crows hastened their pace and hit anything in sight, slowing the Giants down as much as possible. This incidentally provided Meng Ruo and Jin Ru with the opportunity to dash away. Going one step beyond, Que Er had also commanded a small murder of crows to clear a path for them.

"Take it as thanks for doing your best in the backlines." Que Er thought to herself as she watched the land hover use the dead bodies and the gauntlet as a ramp to return back to the defensive lines and relative safety.

Separately, Qiu Yue was finally given the permission by Moloch to activate the Clay Dragon and Pandajilla as the horde of Giants were encroaching towards the Sky Bridge. The Clay Dragon which had been hanging in front of the Sky Bridge had surprisingly suffered relatively little damage from the ongoing exchange of fire.

Only when it started to shake and come alive, did the demon soldiers realise that it was not part of the architecture of the city, but instead the very same kind of clay soldier that had killed hundreds or even thousands of their soldiers.

Wights, under the previous command of Princess Gaap, began to hurl magic towards the Clay Dragon along with the mages within the army. Even Prince Stolas started to switch targets and called for the siege weapons to target the Clay Dragon the moment they saw its movement.

"I thought that thing was just some art piece decoration! Well played Moloch! Well played! A shame I will have to destroy this piece of art!" Earl Barbatos praised internally as he instinctively grabbed a ballista along with the series of siege weapons and started to demand the siege engine workers supply him with more ammunition. He was personally going to shoot the clay dragon down.

The more he shoots at the Clay Dragon, the higher it was flying upwards towards the Dragonlite Horde. Understanding that such clay statue was a possible threat to his aerial units, Marquis Forneus began ordering a platoon of Dragonlites to cut its head off, but that would be easier said than done.

The Clay Dragon was a masterpiece created by the collaboration of the most talented craftsmen with Jespa as part of their team. They had done way more than putting just one animate dead rune alongside another within its body.

Due to its size and serpentine length, the Clay Chinese Dragon had been packed with dozens of runes. Jespa made the discovery that putting such a combination of runes together had inadvertently created new unexpected but positive side effects strengthening it into a sort of superweapon. Though the secrets were not shared among the craftsmen, they respected Jespa well enough to not bother her much.

Once the System analysed this, it had ordered the Orc Engineers to place an AI Chip within the dragon's head to connect all the runes together. The AI Chip enabled the Clay Dragon to gain some form of basic sentience and when it first awoke, the Clay Dragon quickly made the Dragonlites out as the main threat.

It roared and proceeded nearer to them with the full might after being forcefully awoken from its 'slumber'. The Dragonlites did not expect the kind of speed the Clay Dragon was moving at, and a few were too slow to react before they met their demise at its crushing bite.

A breath of brownish-yellow fire followed up and burnt the first wave of Dragonlites that were approaching towards him.

At that point, the two Dragon Devils who had been assigned to kill the murder of crows recognised that the Clay Dragon had become the most pertinent menace to their fellow comrades. So, the armoured riders switched targets and led their Horned Dragons to engage the Clay Dragon in a dogfight.

However, as the Horned Dragons threw their breaths of fire towards the Clay Dragon, they noticed it was also covered by an energised shield courtesy of the runes in place. Upon closer look, the Dragon Devils also identified some sort of empty emplacements along the long body of the Clay Dragon. But in an instant after its discovery, those emplacements were filled with some small critter-like being armed with the very same projectile device that had released those deadly metal pellets.

That's right, The Clay Dragon was not alone. Sentry guns had been grafted onto the Clay Dragon for the Mousefolks to operate and allow it to double as an effective anti-air flyer. Each metre of its body had been utilised to the fullest.

As for Pandjilla, it had awoken from his slumbers in the seas. It featured the very same sentry mounts for a platoon of Mousefolks ride it. The main difference being that Pandjilla had more space along its back, which allowed for heavier armaments to get placed and it could also hide those within its plates.

Yet for now, Qiu Yue chose not to have it make its appearance. Instead, it would remain to lurk within the sea, waiting for the correct chance to ambush the Giants.

Marquis Forneus perceived this as a make-or-break moment. The Clay Dragon was wiping out his platoon quickly despite their constant magical attacks. The Dragonlites' fiery breaths and even those magical harpoons they had used to defeat the Goblin Anti Air Company were practically ineffective against it. It was equally frustrating that they kept missing because of Clay Dragon's agile movements and with the mousefolks accurately gunning his troops down.

He needed to send the Dragonlites down quickly to the floating platforms and get a hold of a clearing. If they could only gain a firm footing on the floating platform, they could create another temporary safe zone for their other demons to teleport to. It was the very same for Earl Barbatos too, and whoever was able to do it first would create a notable milestone for the Demon Army's advance.

If this one gigantic Clay Dragon could be out terrorising the rest of the army, there was a chance other such 'creatures' might appear. He had to push his Giants fast to the end of the sky bridge despite them gathering at the start of it for a major push. It was a waste to step on the foot soldiers, but it would be more of a waste not to charge right now.

Unfortunately, Marquis Forneus and Earl Barbatos chose the wrong timing to proceed as the Pandarens incidentally defeated their 3000th demon.

The Collective Raid Objective got completed, and as a reward, Yun arrived at the top of the sky bridge's highest watchtower as a clocktower bell tolled loudly in the background.

### **Chapter 735 Collective Raid Objective Completed**

"Collective Raid Objective Completed. All Pandarens and Pandawans receive an additional 10 Battle Points to their current point accumulation. 100 Panda Medals are awarded. Please stay safe and enjoy seeing the special support in action." Each and every mini digital pet announced the same thing at every customer's side.

As Yun stood at the top of the highest watchtower of the sky bridge, clouds started to form within the premise of the Dungeon City Fortress. It resembled a phenomenon that should not happen unless it was some sort of spell.

At this point, every Pandaren's half mask visor had a small box dedicated to showing off Yun at the optimal angle. For the first time, they saw Yun in an outfit different to her usual white collar and black office skirt.

Right now, she has donned something similar to a Royal Empress Outfit. Using magenta coloured silk sheets with gold-wrapped metal trims as part of her dress, there was an aura of magnificence exuding out from her. Her neckline was decorated with an ornament made out of gold filaments to match the black outer robe she was wearing.

In her hands lay a crystal ball, glimmering with energy as she raised it up and began filling it with chi. It started to glow until it resembled a bright rising star. Its light was enough to catch the attention of even Prince Stolas back in the safe zone area who coordinated the incoming troops on the ground.

Each and every demon commander on the field acknowledged that it was someone preparing something that would definitely pose a danger to all of them. Alas, because of the distance between them and the probable source of danger, they were unable to intervene. The demon commanders could only resort to ordering their troops to hasten their work.

Suddenly, a lightning bolt struck into the crystal ball, yet Yun did not so much as blink upon receiving the energy from the clouds. Instead, she did an embarrassingly twirl around the peak of the watchtower with her awfully cramp outfit after the bolt struck and lifted it even higher. The Pandawans who knew her chuckled at the scene, and Yun could sense it.

She was unable to do anything about it, but she intended to hold this grudge and repay them in the future. (The System had noted the 'offenders' identities)

"A flash of light." Yun's words echoed throughout the Dungeon City Fortress that even the demons could hear it.

"HURRY! CHARGE! GET HER!!!" Earl Barbatos shouted at his Giants to charge through the defences of the sky bridge without any care.

"A break in the winds." Another phrase was spoken by Yun.

"Dragon Devils! Keep the snake-like dragon busy, so the Dragonlites can move forth! Do not let this imposter and abomination stay alive for long! Dragonlites occupy the place immediately!" Marquis Forneus commanded.

"He who sees it..." Yun crashed the Crystal Ball, and both sides of the war could see a gushing flow of chi energy mixed with thunder rising into the clouds.

"HOLD THE DAMN LINES! Do not let the Giants pass through any further!" Lord Wolte roared as he continued his volley of missiles towards the horde of Giants that had already gathered and smashed the cultivators left, right and centre. One of the Watchtowers even got destroyed by a Skullcrasher Giant when he continued to use his big skull to break it.

However, the Fortress Golems retaliated. They didn't plan to let him leave as they pounced on him and inserted slugs and bullets into its body, disabling it. Those Fortress Golems, in turn, were not able to retreat as they fought. Limited to whatever weaponry they had in their bags, they struggled to the very end before slowly ending up ripped apart by the Giants.

Sadly, the Giants realised too late that they had the same ability to explode as Chucky. Imitating him, they chose to end their lives after being depleted of ammunition and battery life.

"...awaken from your restful grave." Yun finally finished her 'incantation', and with a deep breath, she exclaimed.

"Keyrin! Come forth and bring down the hammers of judgement against these heathens!"

The clouds turned extremely black as it crackled with loud thunder.

Immediately, bolts of lightning could be seen flying down to strike the Dragonlites who were attempting to land on the edge of the platform.

As if inspired by the illusion of the Sanguine Stag and Healing Maiden Shi Hui had created earlier, Keyrin had been supersized by Hamatarou's Totem of Reverse Atem. It allowed the proud Thunder Ram Demon to finally unleash his full powers without any reservation.

Like in some popular role-playing games, the Pandarens could vaguely hear a choir orchestra sing accompanied by a piece of fierce sounding music in the background.

The arrival of Keyrin to assist them briefly excited the entire crowd, not only in the warzone but also in the shop instance and even the Luxury Recovery instance. Everyone was cheering crazily that the nonchalant looking Yun took part in the war and summoned a sick looking guardian to save them in their time of need.

Its dramatic entrance was further amplified in the shop instance when the orchestra piece was blasted in the speakers, and the various angles of Keyrin were shown in the auditoriums. Thunder and lightning visual and audio effects were also added into the mix, giving a surreal feeling for the people waiting at the shop instance.

Bear Cub One and Mr Patsu did not stop in hyping the success of the Collective Raid Objective to keep the interest up. Jin and the System also done their part to make the warring cultivators feel that they completed a major objective by bestowing them an achievement status.

"I was wondering what kind of surprise you and Yun had planned, but boy, that's a great entrance!" Kraft praised as he gave a series of claps when he saw the Thunder Ram Demon neigh to quickly charge his horns.

The lightning energy further infused through Yun's chi had greatly enhanced his combat abilities, enabling him to rain down multiple bolts of lightning in succession against the invading Dragonlites.

However, that was not his full ability. Just a nice little warm-up as well as a warning sign for the other Dragonlites to stop advancing. Unfortunately, they did not have the luxury to heed the warnings and thus gave Keyrin the 'permission' to execute all of them. While it galloped up high with steps of lightning trailing behind, Marquis Forneus had already demanded his Dragon Devils to chase after it.

"Foolish." Keyrin's voice boomed through the skies as he discharged the lightning power within his horns onto one of the incoming Dragon Devils. The bolt of lightning struck the Dragon Devil, temporarily paralysing it before the lightning chained to the following Dragon Devil. And while the lightning chain continued to move down the ranks, the Dragon Devils evaluated this particular demon under Moloch to be anything but a pushover.

"Hahahah! Those Dragon Devils are indeed foolish." Qiu Yue laughed as she watched the lightning chain continue down the battalion of the Dragonlites. This was yet another epic scene she would not hesitate to record down.

## **Chapter 736 Sher Slimes**

"All aerial units have been tagged with your Chain Lightning. Thunder Ram Demon Keyrin, please proceed with the next stage of your attack before you retreat to rest." The System noted as Keyrin dodged around the ranged attacks from the combination of Dragon Devils and Dragonlites.

Simultaneously, the Clay Dragon, as well as the Mousefolks on top of it, took the opportunity to take down as many enemies while they were distracted by Keyrin's appearance and they were rather successful. This made the Horde needing to spread their offensive powers into two despite having a majority in numbers.

Unfortunately, the Giants continued their rampaging charge thereby destroying quite a number of barricades including some of the Sherman Tanks EX. Nevertheless, the Dark Templars within them were not waiting around to perish by being squashed from the Giants' assault.

With the Sherman Tank EX's new and improved ejection seats, the Dark Templars were able to exit from the side of the tanks, more often than not, in the nick of time before getting pulverised from the Giants' smashes.

And that was not the end of their tanks.

"Even in death, our Shermies will still serve the greater good!" Dark Templar Commander Zieg shouted, giving the Dark Templars the signal for the next step in shoring up their defence against the raging Giants.

"Hear me, oh vessel of destruction! You who have served and protected us in times of need! We request thy service a final time!" Squad Leader for Tank S-4 exclaimed as he cut his wrist with a sacrificial dagger and threw blood on the destroyed tank debris while his dark templar mates were distracting the Giants as best they could.

The blood served as a conduit of the Dark Templar's demonic beliefs and powers to the shattered tank pieces. Instead of summoning a demon with just a blood sacrifice, they were using the broken tank parts as the catalyst.

A purplish red ritual circle shone beneath the tank debris, and from a distance, the same phenomenon appeared on several other destroyed tanks.

The other squad leaders were also doing the same. A violent vibration occurred beneath the tanks, and soon, all of the parts were consumed by the ritual circle.

The Giants were neither blind nor stupid, they recognised those ritual circles could prove a major threat and knew the caster should be annihilated as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the remaining Sherman Tanks had to protect their brethren until they were finished with the ritual.

With the increasing threat of the giants crushing their clubs and swords, there was no need to fire long-distance shots anymore due to the threats coming ever closer. So, Lord Wolte took the opportunity to spit his current tank cannon barrel onto the road and forcefully emerged a double-barrel from within him.

"FEEL THE PAIN!" Lord Wolte shouted as he fired at the nearest Giant who seemed too keen on intercepting his minion's ritual summoning. The all new cannon barrels were shorter yet bigger, allowing him to shoot out bigger rounds at a faster rate. It also gave him the satisfaction to be a badass, and in turn, increased the morale of the surrounding troops too.

Having the support of a rapid fire tank was surely comforting.

Before the Giant could react, he had been gifted two large holes in his chest from the impact and fell to the ground gasping for air, unable to move and bleeding to death.

"We shall bless thine name Lord Wolte for granting us this sacrificial lamb to test out your powers! Shermie, the Fourth, go forth and consume the Giant!" The Squad leader hailed his creation as the tank parts reemerged as broken as before but with one distinct difference. The debris was moving as a whole towards the wounded Giant.

Only demons with vast amounts of knowledge would be able to discern what kind of monsters hid under the appearance of this debris. They were slimes hiding under the crevices of the tank part or as Lord Wolte had nicknamed them, Sher Slimes.

These Sher Slimes were not the ordinary kind of slimes at all. It would have been pointless to summon the sort that even Level 1 Adventurers could kill to gain experience or harvest their slime cores to sell for money. No, these were particularly special kinds of slimes. Upon contacting the wounded Giant, the Sher Slimes consumed the Giant's psyche by entering its orifices and wounds.

The more complicated the species was, the easier it was for the Sher Slimes to infiltrate as it feasted on fear and other emotions. Eventually, it took control of the Giant and equipped it with Tank Parts too.

What could be more dubious than a Giant turned Cyborg with Tank parts assimilated into its body? A Dark Templar having direct control over the slime's movement. As long as the Squad Leader continued to stand and survive, these Sher Slimes would be the new line of defence against the Giants. And the more Giants they felled, the more there would be for other slimes. (But that was a rare probability since the Dark Templar Squad Leaders did a hasty summon.)

Using the blood of the Giant as ammunition, shots mixed with blood and slime were released out of the tank's broken barrel killing the other Giants too. The other Giants were shocked by the transformation, as there should not be many things able to possess them due to their innate magical resistance.

But they failed to understand that this was no magic brainwashing them. Rather, it was a parasitic monster taking over their central nerve system.

Earl Barbatos saw the dreadful transformation of his soldiers and demanded the rest to take them down before they were taken out.

This new development provided some breathing space for Qiu Yue as it allowed the Red Panda to move her hand away from the brooding Pandjilla.

Ironically, this scenario enabled the Pandjilla to gather more energy from the surroundings. As demons (both land and flying) fell into the sea, the Deep Ones had started to feed the Pandjilla with everything they caught. Since their Lord and Saviour, Shadow Dagen was currently full thanks to feasting on the giant flowery turtle, it was a perfect time to cultivate the Pandjilla to an even scarier force to reckon with. If one would go down to the bottom of the ocean, he might also hear some light snoring.

Although Pandjilla was just a clay monster per se, its magical runes allowed it to slowly disintegrate every demon unlucky enough to enter the deadly sea and those 'nutrients' were stored in its clay-like plates for later use.

In the meantime, Keyrin was running around the skies along with the Clay Dragon despite the System's notice that he should proceed to the next attack. This was mainly because he was desperately trying to search for the commander hiding in all of these aerial units.

Keyrin wanted to make sure that Marquis Forenus died from the attack because once the Thunder Ram Demon proceeded with his attack, he 'had' to retreat according to the 'summon' support that Yun had made for the cultivators' accomplishment of the objective.

"There! I finally found you!" Keyrin dodged yet another attack while he made eye contact with a stout Dragonlite armoured figure with two pairs of dark orange wings. The System had also pinged, confirming that it was Marquis Forenus based on Moloch's previous memory.

It was finally time to unleash the hammering flashes of judgement against these trespassers.

Judgement Storm.

### **Chapter 737 Wyrstriker Strikes Back**

The clouds sparkled with blue, purple and even yellow lights. The lightning bolts split, hurting each and every Dragonlite that had been rubbed with the chain of lightning.

All who had been tagged by Keyrin felt the fury from the sky. To the cultivator on the ground, it did not look like a storm. Instead, it resembled an inverted tree sprouting instantly from the clouds, trying to reach the ground.

With the difference in electrical potential, many of the Dragonlites were burnt to crisp, causing them to drop like flies who had flown too close to the heater. Though right now, it was more like the 'heater' came for the flies. The Dragon Devils took heavy hits as well, but most were able to bear through the brunt of the attack.

They were not unfamiliar with having to resist lightning attacks, so their armour provided lightning resistance. Even the Devil Horned Dragons were oiled, and the ink of a distinctive tattoo had been painted on their bodies that allowed them to resist some electrical damage. (They never knew that in modern science, they were merely insulators based.)

Yet the Judgement Storm which literally annihilated 90% of the Dragonlites was horrifying to behold for Prince Stolas. To him, he had never seen such wide-area thunder magic in his life before, and he was very sure Mother Nature could never replicate such a terrifying storm.

He quickly attempted to contact Marquis Forneus for an update just to make sure that he was still alive, but he failed to get a response. "I hope this is only because of the lightning storm... Hold steadfast Marquis." Prince Stolas silently prayed as he continued to demand reinforcements from the Demon Metropolis.

"The Marquis is dead. I will make sure of it." Keyrin announced to the War Room as he conjured and shot dozens of piercing lightning spears towards the Marquis who was paralysed by his Judgement Storm.

It was a cruel sight as the first few spears broke his lightning resistance armour while the next three were covered by his right-hand man who had chosen to sacrifice himself for his lord. As for the last four spears? Keyrin had made sure he had condensed every little bit of magic he had converted from Yun's chi to zap Marquis Forneus out of existence.

Corpse? Hah! Keyrin ensured no such thing remained when he synchronised his shots with the Clay Dragon as it swept through the 'shocked' army. It smashed the body of their lord with its maw before it threw his body towards Keyrin who pulverised the corpse.

The Mousefolks on its back wore gas masks to ensure they had enough oxygen to resist the G force variation due to the Clay Dragon's manoeuvres. Some nearly flew out of their machine gun emplacements if not for the tiny seatbelts that were attached to them. Granted, they had parachutes and ejector seats too, but they knew it would not make much a difference, just the illusion of safety.

The masks also helped them avoid inhaling any discharge from the aftermath of Judgement Storm. With all the safety gadgets, it did give the Mousefolks a peace of mind to fire indiscriminately. The sound of their little rifles (or mini guns) was non-stop as they aimed at the surviving Dragonlites when the Clay Dragon cruised the skies.

As for the remaining Dragon Devils left, their only option was to redeem whatever glory they could obtain without their leaders so that their lord could preserve his honour after the battle. The highest-ranked commanding officer quickly took over the lead and proposed a charge towards the panting Keyrin.

"Too bad for you, I am retreating." The Thunder Ram Demon gave them a challenging smile before he reverted back to his normal size. The effects of the Reverse Atem had ended, and he subsequently disappeared into thin air with a bright flash of light. As his last parting gift, he left them a booming thunderclap that momentarily stunned and stopped the army in their tracks.

"NOW!" Wyrstriker ordered as he saw the Dragon Devils were paralysed by the deafening sounds. From Moloch's information, he knew that the Dragon Devils were the toughest and strongest bunch of units alive in the Demon Army.

Were it not for Keyrin's Judgement Storm to slightly weaken them, the Goblin Wyvern Knights might not stand a chance against it. Yet this was the perfect opportunity to take out as many as they could.

With the amount of time granted from Que Er's assault, the Wyvern Goblin Knights had collectively reequipped their weapons for the dogfight against the Dragon Devils. Their Air Boosters were also swapped out and replaced with the ones that Wyrstriker was using. Oxygen tanks and masks were also retrofitted for them to withstand the G forces although most of the knights already had magical abilities that would withstand such gravitational forces. At the same time, Ayse had also prepared something a little special for Wyrstriker, allowing him to stand out from his unit.

How could you improve a Wyvern Goblin Knight when you have already attached air boosters? Perhaps the answer to this was inspired by Ayse's frenemy, Peppers. She had developed special missiles for the goblin.

But unlike the missiles that most cultivators were used to, these were actually an improvement of Derek's former experiment of combining living things into inanimate items or vice versa.

Que Er's crows had been fused with the lost tech missile, removing the need for a guidance system. What's more, was that the missile used the very same Lost Tech air booster technology to fly them. The only difference was the amount of 'pow' within it.

"I've been waiting long enough to try these out!" Wyrstriker had lightly caressed them before he had jumped onto Iwen.

But right now, he is concentrating on his prey.

The missiles had a crow's head for that was where the 'soul' of the crow was. Guiding the attack with its own sentience, it boosted itself towards the said enemy before using its innards to explode the contents of the missile.

By using the Air Booster Technology, Wyrstriker could actually control the kind of explosion he wished for. The Air Booster in the missiles were built with the intention of blowing up, so most of its safety features had been removed.

In place of them was actually a closed-circuit system that enabled an implosion of air within the missile. Wyrstriker used his magic to telepathically open the valves of the rocket, allowing a possible timer control and adjustment of the strength of the air implosion. Naturally, he cranked it up to the max.

When the crow missile impacted, the Dragon Devil felt like there was a mini gravitational hole that sucked him and soon afterwards an explosion due to air pressure caused the Two Horned Dragon to lose one of its wings.

The Dragonlite rider tried to maintain flight by using magic but it was futile. Another Wyvern Goblin Knight attacked and released a bracket of bullets from above, killing the rider. Without magical support, that particular Dragon Devil slowly fell to the ground and braced for impact.

Needless to say, it failed rather terribly since the remaining Anti-Air companies had their sights on the dragon, making sure it would have no chance to get up.

## **Chapter 738 Giant's Gain**

The Giants and the foot soldiers were lucky they did not experience the terrible magic at work. Earl Barbatos who had been a little further from the frontlines couldn't help but curse at this sudden reversal.

They knew their Dragon Devil allies would have survived the massive magical assault since they were among the toughest he ever knew. This made it even worse seeing them get slaughtered after Keyrin's attack left them vulnerable.

Yet, their loss was the Giants' gain.

The Armoured Giants finally made it to the front of actual defensive lines since their enemy's heavy hitters had been busy in the skies. Once there they quickly managed to capture three-quarters of the sky bridge.

Qiu Yue's decision wasn't wrong. Through the wars in human history, Air superiority was not just necessary. It was deemed as the most essential. The 7 Day War between Israel and her neighbours, the prelude of Normandy, the invasion of Pearl Harbour and many others had shown that whoever controls the sky controls the battlefield. Thus the demons didn't realise how critical it was for Moloch and the cultivators to achieve that.

On the other hand, Earl Barbatos was confident the cultivators were in a losing battle. It had been quite the uphill battle with all the trickery that Moloch had employed so far. From poison gases, traps, clay statues and now a cramped battlefield, the Demon Horde managed to overcome them with tenacity.

However, something about their current advantage still ticked him off. His instincts told him that he was missing something crucial.

Despite the struggle the Demon Horde had to endure for his Giants to gain that much land, their triumph on the sky bridge seemed... too good to be true. Given Moloch's resourcefulness, or more accurately the one of whoever it was backing him, the Earl doubted that they had seen it all.

Unfortunately, there was only one way forward, and Earl Barbatos had no choice but to press forth. Even if he was worried it would be right into the next trap. More foot soldiers had finally appeared due to Earl Furfur's desperate attempts to get more help, and the word had also spread about how Moloch was putting up such a formidable defence against the Nobles of Demon Metropolis.

Several other Lords and Ladies were getting ready to enter, and they were dying to rush towards the sky bridge, yet most of them were being held back by the Central Command. The Royal Prince who kept asking for more aid did not understand why the Command felt they were confident that Earl Barbatos could carve a path to the top and put the next teleportation checkpoint for the army at the safe zone so they could proceed further safely.

This was a feature of all Dungeons in the Dungeon World. Whenever two parties became locked in a standstill for an extended period of time, the Dungeon Cores would interfere with the battle.

It allowed the invading army to place a temporary teleportation checkpoint down. At the same time, the defenders received something to even the odds as well. Jin's side was granted an emergency dungeon shield similar to the World Magic Shattering type of shield that Moloch had been bestowed with upon releasing the 'Newbie Protection' shield one day before it expired.

It acted as an ultimate barrier for the defenders to regroup and recoup losses. Unlike the other shield, the Dungeon Core allowed the defenders to have a final stand by resurrecting their dead thereby increasing the number of defenders (although not every single fallen one). The attackers would have to wait for their members to resurrect as per normal; After the battle was done.

Otherwise, it would be waves of relentless invasion against the Dungeon Core and the rules of the Dungeon World did not allow for such a thing. This gave the defenders a fighting chance, but in case you had numbers like the Demon Metropolis, quantity and quality was no longer an issue.

Still, the Demons were unaware that they were fighting an entity that was totally out of their world and thanks to its own powers, quantity and quality did not matter that much either. (Well, to a certain extent. Even though the System preferred to portray itself as almighty.)

Everything relied on the Mad Giant's advance with his army. If he succeeded, the demons were guaranteed to catch their second wind and the attackers would have a renewed chance to terrorise Moloch's troops.

Without Marquis Forenus and his Dragonlites to relay the information they had discovered about the floating islands, Prince Stolas and the others falsely assumed that reaching the platform would more or less award them victory.

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Lord Wolte shot so many shells out that he coughed violently and gasped for air (also petroleum oil). As an old war dog, he was able to judge the limits of a defensive battle. He could see they were about to reach that point with the sky bridge.

The cultivators had been trying their best to overcome the Giants. Some of them had even gone for suicidal attacks to stop the Giants, but without something similar to Keyrin's appearance, there was no way the current defence team could hold out.

Just as Lord Wolte was wondering whether he and his Dark Templars should retreat or provide a cover for the cultivators to fall back, he received an incoming call.

"Wolte, we need you guys to hold them as long as you can. I have discussed it with Moloch, and we want the Mad Giant to be on the centre of the sky bridge before we fall back. We've been at it for hours, and the customers might get bored soon." Qiu Yue personally gave the orders to Lord Wolte.

Seeing that 'little' Barbatos was still at the start of the sky bridge, it was more or less a laughable command by the higher-ups.

"I can't believe we make decisions like that based on the wishes of some mortals. Are you really the rumoured great tactician Jin trusted you to be?" Lord Wolte argued back in the System Channel while firing his shells out against the Giants.

"To be honest, you are actually an important piece of the puzzle. If we want to lure Earl Barbatos to the centre, we won't be able to do it without you." Qiu Yue replied, ignoring the sarcastic remark. "...You know, you could provide the ideal 'platform' for the Mad Giant to be attracted to."

"You don't say..." Lord Wolte squinted his eyes as he fired another barrage of shots without any aim, hoping it would hit something since he was concentrating on talking to Qiu Yue.

"Yeap. You didn't think you could really hide it, did you? You should understand that I have the System with me." The Red Panda Tactician teased him.

"Pfft, you got me. I was actually hoping to keep that as a dirty little secret, an ultimate trick under my sleeve." Lord Wolte scoffed unhappily, and Qiu Yue rolled her eyes. This was war. They did not have the time to hold their punches.

"Unless we visit the Fishing World I don't think you will be able to use it. So, I see no reason why you should not show off your so-called ultimate form to us right now. Save the cultivators and us some trouble." Qiu Yue requested, and Lord Wolte was contemplating whether to act on Qiu Yue's proposal.

"You will be the shining star if you do!" Flattery usually worked wonders on those older fellows.

"So, if I really get his attention, what would you do?"

"If you can keep him occupied, maybe our Pandjilla will go all out against his Giants, and then we retreat to the hills." Qiu Yue's reply was firm, and if there was a hand for Lord Wolte to scratch his head at the particular dilemma, he would already have done so.

"Fine, fine. In return, I wish for- "

"At least 1,000 demons worshipping you so they can handle your operations? Consider that done." Qiu Yue quickly promised, and that gave Lord Wolte the go-ahead.

"YOU BRATS! HOLD AND COVER THE LINES! If I see any of you slacking from afar at sea, I will not hesitate to shoot you myself!" Lord Wolte ordered, and the Dark Templars all grinned upon acknowledging their patron's Command.

Finally, it would be time for the Metal Slug's ultimate\* form! (Obviously, he believed it was not the end of evolutions if he had more worshippers.)

### **Chapter 739 Transformation of Wolte**

Lord Wolte drove backwards from the guard emplacement he was in and took a turn. As if someone had pressed on his accelerator pedal, heavily dense smoke came out of his exhaust. The back of his 'butt' transformed into a pair of supercharger turbine engines, the ones generally used for aeroplanes.

The moment he released his clutch, his threads burst out from the front and his metal wheels slid across the side of the bridge as he smashed himself into the sea. All of this and he still had continued to fire at the Giants to let them think it was some accident.

As the only one to break the emplacement, Lord Wolte was briefly considered to be the most vulnerable. The Giants did not miss his abnormal behaviour and quickly sent a giant ballista his way which nearly hit him on his sides but in the end, only managed to break one of his back wheels. (Evidently, the ballista almost caused him to lose his balance if not for the fact that he was able to shift his own weight.)

"Tsk! Pesky Giants! You shall pay for this soon enough!" Wolte gritted his teeth and continued his dive into the treacherous sea right under the sky bridge. He became the butt of the jokes as the Giants praised him as 'the only defender with half a brain realising that protecting this bridge was futile'.

"Everyone should just jump down into the sea and save yourselves! We might not even hurt you!" The Giants taunted the cultivators as the morale of the demons inadvertently increased.

Yet, the rest of Dark Templars knew that their Lord was not suicidal. They kept their mouths shut and took the opportunity to attack when they were distracted. Oh, but they relished the wait for the last laugh once their saviour would appear once again to punish all of them.

As Lord Wolte submerged himself into the Deep Sea, he was not prepared for what he saw with his eyes. The Deep Ones including a somewhat drowsy Mr Derpy were having fun redecorating the

Pandjilla. It was to the point that the bored Mr Derpy even started to grant some magical energy to the waiting Pandjilla, strengthening him until one of his subordinates made him aware that Lord Wolte was sinking down.

"Wolte! Have you come to visit me?!" Mr Derpy asked as he flapped his fins a little too enthusiastically, causing some disturbance on the sea's surface. (The same Deep Ones Mage cautiously requested him to quieten down to prevent any further suspicion.)

"Hahaha, Dagen! It's always a joy to see you! I'd love to stay and chat, but sadly things up there are a bit more hectic than down here. I have come to conduct some business with you." Wolte 'spoke' with bubbles coming out of his mouth.

"Oh, oh! How about I connect a live line to you like how we did before this stupid skirmish? I assume you are transforming, right?" Mr Derpy immediately suggested, and Wolte agreed without the slightest hesitation.

In fact, he knew how gullible Derpy was and had always tried to use him as much as the old man could. (Why would he say no to a living magic battery willing to provide him with the energy to maintain his ultimate form?!)

"Dagen, for your generosity, I shall share my line of sight as well as a cannon for you to control!" The submerging tank agreed, and Derpy was over the top. He did not expect the old Duke to be kind enough to let him see this time around, let alone control one of his cannons.

Wolte quickly used this excuse to increase his consumption of the living breathing magical battery. There was no way he would leave Derpy alone after tasting his magical energies. (Besides, Mr Derpy was a little restless after consuming an entire island sized turtle. So, this after-meal entertainment became a win-win situation for both parties.)

"All right! Here goes! Witness the Grand Wolte transform right in front of your eyes!" The Demon Patron of Dark Templars announced with much fanfare to a clapping Derpy and his subordinates as tank parts started to fall out as if his skin was peeling away.

All that was left was a wrapped cocoon which was continuously rotating and growing larger in size. Slowly but surely, the cocoon began to rise to the surface of the sea, and when it stopped spinning, Derpy sent a tentacle of some sort and pierced into the cocoon.

Soon, the shell broke and dissipated in the water as a metal pointed shape appeared protruding out of it. With a large splash that was visible from the far end of their sight, A bulk of the demon armies temporarily stopped their fight to see what was happening. (The demons could not believe there were so many disruptions in a single battle.)

Eventually, the entire vessel became visible from the sky bridge. "Is...that a ship?" Earl Barbatos asked no one in particular as he heard a loud, long honking sound beyond the shoreline. He was just as surprised as his allies and enemies by the emergence of a metal ship. Those from Jin's world could vaguely tell it was not just a regular ship. Its size, its magnitude and the ferocity of its cannons lay along with the platform.

Its was one hella big battlecruiser!

The more astute Royal Snake soldiers who had been in the navy nearly had their jaws drop when they took a closer look at the battlecruiser through their binoculars. Some were just amazed that Jin could replicate it.

"DID YOU HE SERIOUSLY REPLICATE THE WHOLE THING?!" One of the soldiers with Navy experience had his mouth left open aghast.

"Holy shit, I think he did. Someone pinch me, I must be dreaming!" His pal joined in with the fanboying, but their companions around them had no idea what it was. Sure it was awesome to look at, but was it seriously this impressive that the two of them nearly drooled?

"What is it? Why are you all so amazed by it?" Someone finally asked them, awakening them from their stupor.

"You might not know this, but Russia's leader during the Cold War loved battlecruisers. One day he demanded the military to build one that would put all others to shame. His engineers followed this order to the letter, yet the resulting blueprint was simply absurdly impossible to create from a nautical engineering standpoint. All they ever managed to build had been the platform, yet they subsequently scrapped it. Still among us, sea dogs all who had seen the blueprint as part of our education could never forget it. THAT is the rumoured ship that was once abandoned by the Russians."

The Stalingrad.

"What's so special about that?" His pals asked with more interest incited within them. They explained how it was heavily inspired by the heavy battlecruisers Yamato and Musashi which had been considered the Legends of Battlecruisers back during World War Two.

Powered with nuclear energy, its design was supposedly able to hold even more main cannons, and their anti-air would have been top-notch. There were also rumours that in an actual creation there would be anti-submarine technology built within the ship, allowing it to transcend to become the Emperor of the seas.

"From what we heard and read previously after the war was over, some enthusiastic engineers had made another iteration of the initial blueprint designs where they designed an internal hangar within the ship's cargo hold. It would allow it to operate similar to an aircraft carrier. Personally, I believe the idea was scrapped since it was more likely once the pilot took off, it could never come back again due to the lack of space."

"Shouldn't be a problem if you have those Land Hover kind of technology! Hahaha!"

"Man, that would be a fantasy come true. I wish I could board the ship! It would be a dream come true!"

"Perhaps, that is already happening right now!" The soldiers exclaimed with excitement as they anticipated what the Stalingrad would do. Obviously, Lord Wolte did not know his appearance had already granted him some fanboys. (unknowingly increasing his numbers of casual worshippers)

What would those two say, if they knew that all Lord Wolte had cared about was that his final form would be a majestic ship. He had found this massive ship as part of his transformation and merely copied the design the System had extracted from the Abyss Web.

Perhaps they would not care about the reason how it came to be... as long as they could fire some shots on this baby!

## **Chapter 740 Stalingrad**

"Woah, are you for real?" Hou Fei laughed as he saw the live-feed of Lord Wolte emerging out of the waters as a heavy battlecruiser. Although he hardly used it since he was busy with real-life commitments, Hou Fei still had a phone with System capabilities on it.

Jin had recently assisted him with installing it as he was long since considered a part of their family. Moreover, it would be easier for the System to teleport him around this way when needed. (Him being the General of the Royal Snakes provided the perfect excuse for the control type that was the System.)

Thus, with a simple voice command, within seconds, Hou Fei was sitting down beside Qiu Yue and started querying her about the Stalingrad. She quickly pulled the blueprints out for the General to preview them.

"Does Lord Wolte need help operating the controls or something? Because it would be a great help if my boys could have some naval refresher too." Hou Fei asked bluntly. He figured Qiu Yue should be smart enough to see through his intentions anyway, so there was no need to pretend he did not want to join in.

"You'll have to ask Lord Wolte himself. As long as you allow him to still call the shots, I don't see any reason he might be against it. We can disguise him as the Ship's advanced AI if required so your guys won't question much of his commands." Moloch suggested, and Hou Fei agreed.

In the meantime, Kraft had established a secure channel to Wolte, and Hou Fei began his rapid-fire round of questions. Fortunately, Lord Wolte was still happy basking in the glory of his ultimate form. Did Kraft decide to connect to him when Wolte was at his pinnacle of happiness? Was the world going under that this crafty fox did something for someone else?!

"Sure, why not? I am still not used to handling this many weapons so the extra help will be appreciated. It should allow us to increase the efficiency of my firing output." Lord Wolte gleefully accepted the proposition.

"Alright, if that is the case, I will gather and inform them. System, please teleport me over to my men and then teleport us on to Lord Wolte." Hou Fei requested as he personally entered the fray, getting his troops ready.

Many were shocked when they saw their General, assuming it was some sort of audit to make sure that they were still on guard with the current battle and didn't slack off just because it was an exercise in a dungeon.

The ones he selected couldn't thank their lucky stars enough for the new task their General entrusted them with. A lot, in fact, all of them who were handpicked knew the legend of the Stalingrad and could not hold their expectations in when they found out Hou Fei was taking them there.

As soon as the soldiers with naval experience were teleported onto the ship, they were greeted by Wolte. The voice was crusty and dense, a stark contrast to the robotic sound used by the mini snake pets they had with them. This 'advanced AI' was informing them about which stations needed to be manned while at the same time adjusting its guns towards the siege weapons as a test.

Lord Wolte figured they were a good first target to practice on since they were quite the nuisance when he had been defending the bridge. Most importantly, the siege weapons were stationary and hence allowed him to perform a quick configuration of his guns.

Unlike the siege weapons, whose demon engineers needed more time and shots to confirm their distance, Wolte had the System to rely on, which only required to consider all the external factors that could be affecting the trajectory. The System was sure that its calibration for Lord Wolte was more than sufficient since the seas were artificially calm and there was no wind in the skies...unless Prince Stolas' wind magic would interfere.

Some of the soldiers that were on the upper deck watched the firing of the cannons and regretted not being able to record it. Most of them felt nostalgic as the sound of the main cannons was like music to their ears.

One even quickly took his binoculars out to see where the shots were going to land and holy shit. He could not believe the power of the gun when he saw the explosion from afar. As a soldier with much naval and land experience, Gan Yang could easily differentiate what a cannon shot looked like compared against the old fashion artillery their monster allies were using.

"This is a great ship. No, that doesn't do it justice. It's a supreme ship." Gan Yang praised under his breath as he took a glance around the consoles as well as the blueprint design that hung on the wall. After which, being the highest-ranking soldier among their group, he quickly took over command and started to dispatch troops to their respective stations.

All the sailors within the vicinity also acknowledged his experience in the naval scene since he was one of the only few guys in the Royal Snake Battalions that had more than ten sorties to the Somalia Bays for peacekeeping efforts.

Despite copying a Cold War design, the consoles were modernized and with the AI, it was easy to control the ship. Lord Wolte did not mind these humans interacting with his consoles (it did tickle him though) as he observed them himself. He got more information about how the soldiers communicated with each other and the things to monitor for a ship.

Useful knowledge he planned to apply to instruct his loyal followers. (After all, the only types of ships he ever sailed on were solely from the Dungeon World.)

"All weapon systems nominal, main engines operational, targeting systems are online and working fine! Captain Gan Yang, awaiting your instructions!" A sailor reported with a slight hint of joke which made Gan Yang feel embarrassed. He knew the responsibility of a Captain and had no intention of becoming one.

But it doesn't hurt to pretend as Captain for a day, right?

"Alright, the AI named Wolte has determined the Giant's leader, Barbatos, to be the most important threat that needs to be eliminated. And so, we will be firing at him until he retaliates or when the AI said so. Reports have it that he could be strong enough to jump on board, so get those anti-gia- erm..." Gan Yang stuttered, and the sailors around him chuckled.

There was definitely no anti-giant defences back in their world, so it was natural, they didn't have any term against such monsters.

"Prepare weapons with armour piercing rounds. We have to protect this ship as if it was real. If this sinks all of you will have to stay on board! Let's pay them back for everything they did to the cultivators protecting the bridge!" Gan Yang cleared his throat and gave his briefing. The sailors acknowledged and began sending communications to the crew in the munitions storage to start reloading the next round of shells to be fired.

"Ahhh, I feel so alive having people working under me again!" Lord Wolte happily thought to himself. The sailors used the System's data to continue their fire on the Siege Weapons before the 'AI' recommended to start pointing them at Earl Barbatos.