

Dungeon S 771

Chapter 771 Limbo - Part 1

"Listen up, the last nine floors have the keys we need to carry out our mission. The name might be familiar for anyone who's heard about the Divine Comedy. Though in my opinion, the naming is pure coincidence." Kraft had explained when they first teleported to the building's roof for surveillance.

"Who cares? We have 18 levels of hell, sounds like this will only take half as long compared to that. Hahaha!" Ixel stated with such bluntness, the rest couldn't help but laugh at his comment bitterly.

"Limbo, Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Anger, Heresy, Violence, Fraud, Treachery. Those are the names of each floor, and according to Moloch all of the floors are themed in that manner too. Any prisoner gets to try and challenge any supervisor of those floors to their advantage."

"Can you elaborate on that?" Pei asked, and Kraft smirked.

"The themes must have to do with the personality of the corresponding guard supervisor. A person with more greedy traits would be more suited to be a supervisor in the Gluttony post as compared to getting a post in Lust." Evon imagined, and Pei nodded at that explanation.

"Unfortunately the system continued to evolve after Moloch's time, so his information on that is limited. Nevertheless, we are not here to challenge them to become the next guard supervisor. Feel free to get the keys for the Dungeon Core any way you like. But, looking at you guys, none of you seems willing enough to walk away from a good fight. "

"Anyway, there is no reason why we should go through each floor one at a time. Time is a luxury we don't have, so I expect you to NOT play around with your enemies. Nine foxes for nine levels... I do not see why we shouldn't break up and get each key." Kraft continued.

"Well if you want, we can make it more interesting to see who among us will get their key the fastest. Also, whoever needs a helping hand will have to pay for it with one of Lynn's desserts!"

"Sounds like I am going to the last floor," Rex said with a nonchalant face. "Treachery sounds right up my alley." Even as he tried to stop thinking about the betrayal he had faced from his father, there was this dull burning ache in his heart.

"Going by normal logic, the first floor should have the weakest supervisor, so I should take that one then." Pei decided as she raised her hand. Kraft somehow gave her a cold face though it later turned into a verily slight grin which none of them except the watchful Pei had noticed.

She understood why he did that. The theme 'Limbo' suited her quite nicely. She had not been the most faithful among the foxes in Kraft's skulk despite her fulfilling her obligation by keeping a watchful eye at Jin's every moment since he was the newest master.

Though not as poetic as one could imagine, the further Pei moved forth, the more the beautiful and mesmerising corridor hallway became until she found out that the four walls started to split. At some point, it turned into something akin to a shattered mirror revealing the ugliness of this prison core.

Pei was unsure if that was a normal illusion. Her high resistance should have allowed her to not fall under any such spells, but right in front of her, the scene turned into something grimmer. It appeared as if she was standing on the edge of a barren mountain cliff, void of life and the only way forward seemed to be the series of stairs that eventually spiralled into various paths into the abyss.

Cold winds started to blow from below, and Pei could finally see some enemies approaching. Shaped like babies, they were moving as fast as Jin's robot crawlers. Not only that, but their faces were also all distorted, leaving their eyes crossed out with a bleeding scar and horns growing abnormally throughout their bodies.

Pei did not know which path to take, but instead of thinking too long on the issue, she took out a special paper fan. Unlike her regular paper fan, which she used to regularly beat Jin or sometimes Kraft with, this one was considered as one of the many heirlooms from the Crane Clan.

It was golden with a beautiful scene of cranes flying to the east, and more importantly, it was imbued with the chi of herself. "Since all the paths lead to the bottom, I shall take the quickest one down." Pei thought to herself, assuming that diving into the cliff was the fastest way.

But the moment she stepped over the cliff, the entire mountain turned upside down and both her and the disgusting baby abominations fell due to gravity.

Those baby abominations quickly adapted to the situation by growing wings to get closer to their target. With Pei free falling, all she could do was to defend herself. While still in her fox form, she was agile enough to whack any incoming abominations with her large paper fan and evaded their assaults whenever needed. Nevertheless, their numbers did not seem to be dropping at all, instead rather increasing, forcing Pei to transform to her human form and releasing her cultivation aura.

The burst of aura burnt any incoming baby abominations giving Pei space to fully utilise her paper fan. "Advanced Fan Art, The Crane Descends into The Lake," Pei announced her fan technique, causing the paper fan to split into two and a subsequent burst of energy was released as she used the two fans like the crane's wings open widely to glide into a lake.

That twin burst of energy cleared the surrounding of all the baby abominations, and soon enough, Pei realised that she was able to touch on some 'ground' in the air even though the mountain and spiralling stairs were still upside down.

"Ah...please do not tell me that the spiralling stairs leading to heaven are some stupid metaphor." Pei criticised out loudly, and she heard a loud laugh.

"HEAVEN?! HAHAAHAHAH!" The booming low voice echoed all around her. The sky shattered once more like a mirror and Pei returned back to the very same momentous hallway she had been at a few minutes ago. Only this time, there was a throne chair at the very end of the hallway.

The person on the throne chair beckoned her to come closer. She followed the request cautiously and the closer she got, the more confused she was. The 'person' on the throne resembled ...Moloch?

"Huh, a minotaur. And here I thought I won't see any of you around." Pei wondered as she combined both of her paper fans into one large weapon again.

"WHY IS THAT?" The big faced Black Minotaur abruptly shouted with curiosity.

"Woah, I'm right in front of you, is there really a need to shout, big guy? It's just...erm ever since the invasion, I've never seen a single minotaur on the demons' side. So I thought that all of them were under Moloch's care." Pei explained her thought process.

"did you just say Moloch?! you saw him? where is he now?" The Black Minotaur's expression turned into delight, but the more Pei spoke with him, the more she felt that there was something seriously wrong with this particular minotaur.

"So you do know him? Currently, he is defending a city we made together. Well, I didn't do much per se...but he created the city for our new master."

"MASTER? NEW MASTER?" The Black Minotaur questioned once more with an earth-shattering volume, but this time Pei got a scrutinising look at him. His face would shift, but the voice wasn't emitted from his mouth. Instead, the two pauldrons on his shoulders, one on each, would light up.

"did Moloch really betray king baal and go for another person? we have been trying to search for him for so long. we even killed someone to go into this prison to look for him. even when we became paradiso prison supervisors, we still did not see him. why hasn't he come looking for us? did he abandon us as well?"

"We? Us?" Pei could only see one minotaur on the throne, and she could sense no one else in the area. "Who are you to him? He didn't mention anyone of his people being down he-"

"MOLOCH FORGOT US? WHO ARE YOU? WHY MOLOCH FIGHT WITH HUMAN?" Now Pei could clearly see. The loud voice was emitted by the right red pauldron while the other gentler one was from the left yellow pauldron.

"looks like our invader has more information about him that we know. let's subdue her and get information out of her."

"THAT WE SHALL, BROTHER."

Chapter 772 Limbo - Part 2

The Black Minotaur stood up, and this action finally made Pei realise why it reminded her of Moloch. More accurately speaking, it had reminded her of Moloch's man puppet. Like the Minotaur Lord, Pei believed that her opponent must also have been reduced from their former self into a set of pauldrons who were now controlling that Black Minotaur like a puppet.

"Is that why they are in a state of limbo? Unable to find their master and having doubts about serving the new one?" Pei wondered to herself as she readied her weapon. There should be no need to pull punches for she knew that delaying time here would only cause more problems.

Besides, killing them should allow the Black Minotaur to reunite with Moloch, and he could explain the situation from there. No use babbling at an enemy who refused to listen.

Surprising her less and less with each time, the 'reality' in front of her shattered once more and in the next moment, the Black Minotaur appeared behind her, attempting to strike her back with one fell swoop. It was only through instinctive reflex that Pei was able to block it with her reinforced paper fan. Following up on it, she redirected the force energy as part of her counterattack.

"THIS HUMAN STRONG!" The red pauldron lit up, giving his opinion while the emotionless Black Minotaur merely complied to its puppeteer's orders.

"i agree. usually most people are already dead by this time. we should be more careful with this opponent, brother."

"System, do you think killing will work against these pauldrons? They are ...non living entities." Pei recalled that the System should be unable to get anything that was not alive and breathing.

"Unable to confirm. The capture of Moloch was based on his renewed fealty to our User and not because of User's blade. However, other instances in the Dungeon World have proven that System has also been able to capture robotic beings despite them not being a form of natural life. Former Crane Bellator Pei should experiment." In short, all the System stated was to just give it a try. If she killed the Minotaur Lord's subjects, and they were not able to be captured, they could only curse their wretched fate.

"What? And if they die?!" Pei did have time to reply as she had already restrained her strength allowing the Black Minotaur to have the upper hand for now.

"Former Crane Bellator Pei, it is best you concentrate on the battle. This is the Dungeon World. Death here is nothing permanent. Remove all thoughts and get the key to the Dungeon Core. User has already begun his counterattack. No failures allowed." The System emphasised the need for victory and Pei began to recall why she was in such a dilemma.

She had been like that for most of her life, unable to make her own decisions. She had wandered through life following her parents' instructions to train to become the next clan head... until the rebellion.

Some of her clan people believed that Pei's insistence of interfering was because she had been roped in due to her innocence and naivety, making her think in 'righting the injustice'. In contrast, others assumed that it was because of the enhanced coercion by Kraft of the Fox Clan. Nobody believed it was her path nor her own decision to follow through the rebellion.

Ironically her actions, along with the others 'foxes' who had all acted according to what they each thought would be for the greater good of their clan, had inevitably caused their clans' rapid decline.

After the most promising candidates for the next chiefs of their respective clans were gone, the ones left behind had resulted to infighting. Despite the rebellion going well in the first stages, the fallout of the involved clans had led them to their rapid decline.

And once Panda Clan Head Zhou Lin had been taken out by them, with no one else to obstruct the annexation of the Royal Zodiacs, most of these clans were decimated by the Royal Clans as part of the revenge for the damage their 'leaders' had caused.

It might have been their victory to stop the frenzied Zhou Lin... but ultimately was it worth the cost? They had partially gone out to spare their clans the exact fate, their actions had brought upon them... Kraft, as the first Original Bellator, had been the one to suffer this realisation.

To spare his weakened comrades from feeling the same, he had decided to place his 'foxes' into bullets, partly to help them recover, but mostly in order to shield them from all these unwarranted hate from the remnants of their clans.

Yet, they were not oblivious to it since the System had revived them as part of a deal. Even if it was in the initially unstable form of foxes, they were privy to listen to the hearsays and rumours as Kraft forged ahead alone into the future. Pei was the one most affected by it and her uncaring attitude when she came out of the 'fox' bullet was due to the unseen consequences she could not bear the burden with.

She had once looked up to Kraft as a mentor, a leader, and possibly a person who she could trust with her life. That had been her faith for him until the end of the rebellion.

"AN OPENING!" The red pauldron shouted once more, but it awoke Pei up from her needless thinking. Still, there was sufficient time for her to react, and she transformed into a fox, preventing the Black Minotaur's axe from slicing her into two.

"Ahhh...why am I bothered with so many thoughts all of a sudden? Is this one of the functions of this floor? SHIT, Moloch could have mentioned that!" Pei cursed under her breath before she did a backflip in her fox form and landed on the throne chair.

"Do you wish to see Moloch?" Pei shouted from the throne, and the Black Minotaur lowered his guard for a moment.

"how can we know that you are his ally and not someone who has manipulated him to go against our king?" The Yellow Pauldron asked.

"And that is your reply after what the King did to you? Tell me, wasn't your King the one to have reduced you two brothers into this pathetic state? Wasn't he the one to banish Moloch in the first place? Yet, you still have loyalty to your King?" Pei questioned.

"YES. KING BAAL FOREVER OUR KING. MOLOCH MADE PRISON TO SAVE KING BAAL. MOLOCH NEVER BETRAYS."

"Then, there you have it. Right now, Moloch is fighting against King Baal to save him. If you don't trust my word, maybe you will trust his. Take this mask and look through it. System patch them through to Moloch." Pei demanded as she felt there was no need for slaughter, the more she thought about it. Not everything needed to be solved with violence.

The Black Minotaur picked up the mask and did not smash it, throwing the System's expectation out of the window. Thus, the System complied to Pei's whims and connected it to Moloch's private channel.

"Pei? Is that you? Do you need help with Paradiso's defences? Be quick, I do not have much time to talk with you. Jin's already riding halfway through the sky bridge wreaking havoc amongst the enemy frontlines to fight against Baal. If possible, you guys should clear it even faster to help Jin. Otherwise, I

don't know if we have enough powers to stop Baal's rampage." The constant yapping of Moloch suddenly broke the spirits of that pair of Pauldrons on the Black Minotaur.

"milord!"

"MILORD!"

Chapter 773 Limbo - Final

Suddenly a change in tone could be heard through the intercom of the fox mask visor. "Ani?! Ototo!? Is that you?! I've sent out Sebastia countless times, but she couldn't find you! How did you two end up in Paradiso?! Wait, does that mean the two of you defeated Pei?!"

"I am still here, you dumbass cotton butt!" Pei shouted as she transformed back into her human form and sat on the throne chair comfortably.

"How did you find-?! No, there is no time for that now. Ani, Ototo. I beseech the both of you to help Pei with her quest. We need to get the keys of the Demon Metropolis' Dungeon Core to weaken King Baal. I promise to have a long talk with the two of you about what has happened after we separated."

"BUT THAT FOX...LADY SAID U HAVE NEW MASTER!"

"Sorry Ototo, I do. In order to save King Baal, I had to switch sides. That is all I can reveal for now. If you do not trust me, I believe Pei can convince you enough with her strength. Ani, continue to protect your brother. – FIREBALL INCOMING!" Moloch was interrupted, and the voice channel got cut off.

"What are you going to do now? Continue to fight me?" Pei asked as she rested on the throne, only to realise how comfortable it was. Was that the reason why so many kings and queens loved their throne chairs that much? "If not, hand me the keys, swear an oath to protect Moloch and I will teleport you to him immediately."

"FOX LADY CAN DO THAT?!"

"careful. she might be using magic to deceive us. like how we were constantly being deceived by this place's illusion."

"BROTHER, YOU MEAN THIS IS ANOTHER TEST FOR US?"

"i can't say for sure. but what if we trust her and this happens to be another test?"

"Seriously? I cannot believe I went through all that effort to try convincing you guys! I thought you were Moloch's subjects, comrades, friends or whatever else you might call yourself. Sigh, fine... brute force it is, then." Pei said as she stood up with her paper fan, and decidedly walked towards the Black Minotaur puppet. Their guard was still down, and they continued to treat her as a being with little to no threat.

"rules dictate that we cannot easily give up the prison supervisor role or else they- ow!" the yellow pauldron was hit by the Pei's paper fan that swooped in and whacked him from the side nearly sending him flying.

"Please, just stop wasting my time and give me the key! I promise I'll send you to Moloch right now if you do!" Pei bargained while continuing to whack the yellow pauldron forcing the Black Minotaur on the defensive.

"SMALL SIS, STOP HITTING MY BROTHER!"

"SMALL SIS?!?!" Pei looked at the red pauldron with fiery eyes, and Ototo feared that he had said something terribly wrong. To his surprise, Pei went towards the red pauldron and gave it a little pet at the edge of it.

"Good boy. Looks like at least one of you brothers knows their manners well. But call me pretty sister next time, okay?"

"SEE BROTHER ANI? PRETTY SIS IS GOOD PERSON! SHE NEVER HIT ME!"

"gosh, ototo. that is why lord moloch wanted me to protect you." The yellow pauldron sighed at the situation. He understood by the way she had easily attacked that they wouldn't be her match and judging by the way she showed kindness to his brother she also wasn't a bad person per se.

"lady- i erm mean pretty sis. please wear us on your shoulders. we will open the Prison Core for you to get the dungeon core key. but if we sense any deceit on you, we will not hesitate to cut you down." Ani offered with a bit of trust in her.

"I will gladly take that blow." Pei nodded her head as she picked up the pair of pauldrons from the Black Minotaur and to her surprise, it turned into dust the moment she removed the pauldrons from its shoulders. Even the axe it was carrying dissipated like yet another figment of reality. "Huh, I wondered if that Man Puppet Moloch had been holding to, would also disintegrate this way if I forcefully pull him out like that?" She thought to herself.

"Also, don't tell me that was how Moloch looked like before he turned into a cotton butt?" Pei asked, and the other two had no idea what she meant by 'cotton butt'. They thought it was some magical artefact.

"NO, LORD MOLOCH MORE HANDSOME. HE HOLDS NO AXE!" Ototo replied though Ani decided to keep his comments to himself. Pei did as instructed and placed the pauldrons on her shoulders, and suddenly the pauldrons took over the control of her arms and got a shock.

"OH MY GOD, SHE COULD HAVE KILLED US INSTANTLY?!?!"

"i – i ...i guess you are right. we are sorry to have doubted you." Ani said in an apologetic voice. How much had she held back when attacking the Black Minotaur just now?!

"Hmm? I did not sense any release of memory and information or any psychological attack on me. What did the two of you do just now?" Pei started to check if this place had left any holes in her psychic barriers allowing the two of them to take over her body,.

"no, there is no need for us to do that. the moment we came into contact with your body, it has already told us you've been through more battles than us. that your duels were much fiercer than us. there was no need to – urgh why are you hitting us so hard?!"

"PERVERTS?! YOU GUYS ARE PERVERTS?! WHO ALLOWED YOU TO ANALYSE MY BODY?!" Pei screamed as she kept whacking the two pauldrons.

"SHE CAN TALK LIKE ME?!" Ototo was happy for the wrong reasons.

"please calm down, pretty sis! we don't have any choice in this form, we learn the prowess of anything we touch! we were only relieved that you did not kill us and instead gave us the opportunity to assist our lord! i will show you the key right now! " Ani surrendered in a hurried manner as the beating did not seem to stop and for some reason, she appeared to prioritise beating him over his brother. He really started to feel as if he was going to die.

Not soon after, when Pei finally calmed down, the pauldrons opened the throne chair and revealed the Prison Core. With a few mumblings coming from Ani, the core released the key which by itself looked rather unique.

The key was not made of any crystal but instead covered with a layer of reflective mirror all around it, reflecting whatever Pei saw.

"Seems fitting of 'Limbo' stage," Pei whispered as she kept the key and took off that disgusting pair of pauldrons. "Now repeat after me by swearing an oath, and then I can send you off to Moloch," Pei instructed the Pauldron Brother who did as instructed before being sent off to meet their long-awaited Minotaur Lord.

One key down... Eight more to go?

Chapter 774 Pandawans Regroup

"FIREBALL INCOMING!" Moloch shouted as he tightly held on to Jin's head. The dungeon supplier pulled the reins of his black sludge panda mount to evade the incoming projectile by jumping over it. For once, Jin's tactician had decided to come out and act as the bait, luring the enemies to work with newfound vigour.

Jin wasn't alone in his counterattack assault. He had followed the advice of Hou Fei to recruit the cultivators into his cavalry team to rush through the sky bridge infested with Demons.

"Any Pandawans still around at this time?" Jin asked in the open pandemonium voice channel.

"Boss Jin?" It was a familiar and somewhat nostalgic sound to the Pandawans who had toiled for the past few hours. Slowly, more of the Pandawans reported their presence and Jin could not believe it. Almost all of them were still around for the raid despite it being this late.

"You can't actually blame us since our generous donor here had decided to sponsor all of our expenses just this once. Although, I don't think anyone of us would mind being there next time." Blind Bat Cultivator Yue Han not so subtly hinted at Xiong Da contributions.

"Only if everyone in the Pandawan chat group appears. Otherwise no free rides!" Hungry Hippo Cultivator Xiong Da imposed on that condition very strictly since he wanted there to be unity among the Pandawans.

"He just wants to spend money after work hours. And here I keep telling him not to spend that much. Boss Jin had already warned him that if he doesn't watch it, the 'unlimited' fund for his help back then will eventually run out." Esthetic Egret Cultivator Ruo Ying shook her head in dismay, knowing that she could not stop him from using his money to 'help' his friends.

"You can spend more on me!" Luo Bo, the Illusive Rabbit Cultivator, said in the new temporary Pandawan only channel.

"Please Xiong Da, save me from eventual debt. Please! ow-!" Shi Zuo pleaded honestly in the channel, and they could infer that Luo Bo was the one that cut him off the voice chat.

"Ya, I am totally busted just from defending, it really sucks. Boss, to be honest, can't we have an easy win for once? Oh shit! Bin Yong! On your right! Lion Mantis!!" Yue Wen shouted as most of them were still in combat, mostly trying to delay the attacks coming from the Lion Mantis so Dread Reaver and Flame Ripper could kill them.

"Pandawans, that's why I have a proposition for you guys. Let's counterattack, and I will lead the charge." Jin's short and simple statement suddenly lit up the eyes of all the Pandawans. They had always wanted to see their Boss in action, and this was the first time that Jin proactively volunteered to let them feast their eyes on his actual strength.

"YES!" All the Pandawans felt as if their strength had returned and they did not hesitate to rush down any Demons that they were facing before moving to the coordinates Jin gave them to meet up with him. The Orcs who were in the field quickly filled their gaps to prevent the Demons from taking advantage of the gap they had.

The first to arrive were Angry Ape Cultivator Bu Dong and Towering Tortoise Cultivator Kong Xian. They were surprised to see that Jin wasn't there yet. Instead, it was a group of people they did not instantly recognise, but as they approached them, realisation suddenly struck Bu Dong. "Ah! Aren't you guys the bosses from the various instances in the Tree Mall?" He asked, and they all chuckled.

"Looks like I am not inferior to Boss Jin when it comes to being famous." Owner of Lele Castle Tower Instance and Cultivator of the Hunting Hog Si Fang boasted as he nodded his head.

"Boy! Catch!" Owner of Offshore Sea Store Instance and Cultivator of the Shimmering Shark, Lai Fu threw a vitality drink towards Bu Dong. "For the first one to recognise us, it's a small gift. Hahahah!"

"Who would not recognise you? You always shout from the second floor in the morning to promote your goods." Manager of Panda Burger Instance and Cultivator of the Hunting Hog, Ke Ru scoffed at him.

"Guys, chill. We are here to have fun. It's quite rare we can allocate some time to spend together." Co-Owner of the Panda Arcade Store and Cultivator of the Hunting Hog, He Rong tried to appease his friends.

"This is amazing! I've always lauded and admired Landlord Jin for his brilliance in creating the Food Pyramid Instance, but I've never expected him to get this crazy for his dungeon instances! Is it always

like this?!" Owner of the Mixed Rice Stall in the Food Pyramid Instance and Cultivator of the Waking Wok, San Sun exclaimed.

"It's not always that crazy. I frequented enough to know that this is indeed an epic raid event. He must have prepared it for a long time as something truly special for the start of the new year." Owner of the Meow Meow Karaoke Instance and Cultivator of the Cacophonic Cat Mang Tang reasoned.

"Heh, you guys will get lucky to see Boss Jin in action tonight. We cultivators have frequented his dungeon store for so long, and yet this is the first time he promised to appear and lead us." Bu Dong informed them. Not long after, the rest of the Pandawan arrived and exchanged greetings.

"How about giving them a small discount if they do well?" Jin was the last to arrive. He had dressed in a black and white jacket with an emblem at the side of his sleeve, with the words "BOSS" in English with a fierce Panda face affixed at the top of it.

All of them chuckled at Jin's way to show off his position as the leader. Given his personality, he was usually not that kind of person, which made the strange getup even more amusing. There was no need for him to reinforce his position. After he had bested the Triad Boss and established the Tree Mall, no one would doubt that he was the real boss of the Tian Gong Shopping District.

"So Boss, what is your counterattack proposal?" Xiong Da asked, and Jin took out a few Black Sludge Crystals from his storage watch. With a bit of chi manipulation, those crystals glimmered a little before transforming into a cloud of black sludge above the group's head.

"We are going to strike hard and fast, catching the attention of the server's main boss. According to my developers' kit program, he is undoubtedly one of the strongest monsters that the server has ever created, and even I may have some problem fighting against it alone. I hope I can count on your help for this once in a lifetime opportunity." Jin explained while asking for their help.

He showed them the picture of King Baal with the aid of some hologram. Many were aware of the capabilities of Jin's instances to create such a simple hologram, but cultivators like San Sun were surprised to see such futuristic graphics.

Yet the Pandawans on site, they were all grinning hard that they could finally hit back against the Demon Horde.

Chapter 775 Death's Grasp

The hologram then changed to show them the most straightforward and shortest route towards their target. Most of the cultivators immediately understood the meaning of the various flaring red dots in between themselves and the big X representing their goal. It only made sense that the instance would throw more obstacles in their way if they pushed back hard.

"So, it's like escorting our King Panda to checkmate their King?" Bombardier Beetle Cultivator Bin Yong summarised the entire 'activity' laid out to them.

"I don't think you can checkmate a King with a King in chess. Also, King Panda sounds rather ..." Jin wanted to continue, but the Pandawans were not giving him any chance to recover after Bin Yong's comment.

"By the way, Boss, what's the black ...eh liquid above us?" Breathtaking Bellflower Cultivator Jia Le questioned.

"Hahaha. That is a magic trick by itself." Jin laughed as he raised his hands up once more, and the Black Sludge started to whirl around each of the cultivators. Without touching them, Jin requested all of them to distance themselves apart until each black sludge only surrounded themselves without touching anyone else.

"Now, please emit your cultivation aura." Jin gave the next set of instructions, and the rest followed. Soon enough, the black sludge absorbed their chi from the cultivation aura the group had emitted and created a mount based on each of their animals.

The Pandawans were genuinely impressed by it as they familiarised themselves with their own animal mounts. For those Pandawans who did not have animals as their cultivation, the black sludge created item based mounts related to their cultivation. So, Jia Le received a floating Bellflower, Yue Wen got a winged angel looking maiden statue while San Sun's was a flying wok.

To Jin's surprise, the Black Sludge actually accommodated the colours and perception of the Pandawans, unlike his own totally Black Panda with varying shades of grey. It was a discovery that even the System started to take note of it. However, the reason for the differing results was a question for another time since time was limited, and they still had to take down the Big Boss of this particular dungeon instance.

"Say, since you are the creator of this instance, then can't you just teleport to the boss and fight him directly? Or better yet teleport all of us?" Man Tang slowly got up on her upsized cat mount, but Xiong Da answered her in the form of a question of his own.

"Where is the fun in that?"

The rest of the group nodded solemnly as they all saddled up on their mounts.

In the meantime, Jin briefly checked the situation concerning the Lion Mantises. They were currently further back on the defensive platform to prepare the group. "I need to dash out of the defensive platform without any of the Lion Mantises catching up to us. Do you think you two can do that?"

"I have a skill that should be able to stop them in their tracks for ten seconds. However, that is all the time I can buy, despite System's promise to give me unlimited souls. I am sorry, Master, for not being more capable." Dread Reaver apologised as he parried another Lion Mantis.

"You sure you can catch all of them?" Flame Ripper could not help doubting the ability of his sworn brother since he knew it would be a challenge to do so.

"No worries, Bro. I can do it. Trust me." Dread Reaver replied as his black sword glimmered with a bit of blue aura, preparing for the skill.

"Master! I... will power up my ...music." It took a bit for the Zither Mistress to speak out, but it was evident from her tone and voice that she was already panting and could possibly be reaching her limits.

"I will assist you with the restrain! You just need to catch them Dread, Reaver." Sandy encouraged the Death Knight, as she could not stand around doing anything when Ke Mi was playing so violently and yet meticulously on her zither to slow down the corrupted Lion Mantis.

"Hmph, I need to pick up the slack as well. Ifrit, I implore you to share with me your powers to burn these insects to a crisp!" Flame Ripper thought to himself, and the only reply he got was a deep ancient voice which apparently smirked at his resolve.

"Alright, everyone! Get ready!" Jin said simultaneously to his monsters as well as Pandapolis first-ever 'Militia Cavalry'. Some of the Pandarens on-site who witnessed the next scene could not believe the unison between Jin's monsters and his cultivator cavalry.

Suddenly the sound of a war horn was heard blowing out loudly, and that was the System's prompt to start the counterattack assault as Dread Reaver revealed his skill.

"This time around, all of you are not getting from me! Death's Grasp!" Dread Reaver shouted as he swung his sword to parry a blade and kicked the Lion Mantis away as far as he could. Then, the Death Knight plunged his sword into the ground, and a small void domain appeared with shadowy black arms emerging to target the Lion Mantises with the assistance of the System.

Although the arms were moving relatively fast, the Lion Mantises were certain that those would not be able to pinpoint and catch them.

However, they were dead wrong.

It had been Dread Reaver's intention to catch all of them ever since the evolved goblin consumed one of their souls. It was not his primary objective but eating just a speck of their soul had allowed Dread Reaver to keep track of all of them with his eyes imbued by the power of death.

He could clearly trace the souls of the Lion Mantises, and this extended to his ability Death's Grasp. No matter how they tried to evade, the shadowy arms were all chasing after them. Just as the cocky Lion Mantises tried to escape Death's Grasp at the very last moment, they suddenly realised their speed had further decreased.

This was solely Ke Mi's contribution. The Zither Mistress had summoned out a second zither on the stage, and she played both simultaneously. Using her magic to control the strings' pitch and tone, her fingers were the only thing left to play the musical instrument. Her multi-tasking ended up further amplifying the slow debuff magic by two-fold and helped those Lion Mantises to be caught.

"Not as fancy as Dread Reaver's but taste this 'Sandy's Grasp'." Sandy invoked her magic as she looked at a hologram presented to her by the System since the sand dome blocked all vision. With Death's Grasp inhibiting any movements on their part, the System was able to share the specific coordinates for Sandy to project her magic and further solidify the restraint created by the Death Knight.

"A little something special since my cute Ke Mi is working so hard," Shu spoke out of place as root spikes appeared and impaled straight through each and every Lion Mantises' mouth.

"That's a bit unnecessary, but we're grateful for the assist, Grandpa Shu!" Flame Ripper shouted as he brandished his red-hot flaming daggers towards the restrained Lion Mantises.

"Destruction Dagger Dash!!"

Chapter 776 Descending Down The Sky Bridge

Flame Ripper's attack literally ripped through all the restraints that had been placed on the Lion Mantises, including their ties to life. Ifrit had answered Flame Ripper's call for more power and blessed him with another increase in terms of his speed, allowing him to reach a high enough velocity to pierce through the Lion Mantises armour.

However, speed was nothing when there was no precision. Were it not for the combined teamwork of Jin's minions, Flame Ripper could not have steadily aimed for the necks of the Lion Mantises. By the end of his Destruction Dagger Dash, the cultivators around him would remember him as a monster not to mess around with in the future when they saw all the decapitated heads slowly sliding off Shu's spikes.

Instead of consuming the bodies, as usual, he now grew more roots to cover the rest of the bodies and even secreted some corrosive poison from his root spikes. This caused the Lion Mantises to melt to prevent them from have the slightest chance of regenerating.

At that moment, Jin had already led the charge forward with his band of cultivators towards the sky bridge while Qiu Yue ordered the rest to divert their fights aside to create a path for the Pandapolis Cavalry to push on.

However, the Demon Horde was not about to give any quarters for this newly formed band of humans to charge through their hard-earned progress. In record speed, they had already formed a defensive formation at the edge of the sky bridge awaiting Jin's group.

"Those insolent demons." Sandy cursed as she unveiled the Sand Dome for Ke Mi to take in some fresh air. In the meantime, she also used the materials from the Sand Dome to create an upward gradient over the Demon Horde's defences, allowing Jin's Cavalry to charge forward without any impedance.

"Guys, I don't see any ground after that point?! ARE WE JUMPING OFF THE SLOPE?!!" Yue Han questioned even though his Bat mount was already hovering along with the rest of the group. They all felt that they could exert control on the mount with some chi manipulation, but that particular idea did not really register to Yue Han as anxiety got the better of him first.

"YES, WE ARE!" Jin shouted as he placed more Maqi into his Black Sludge Panda while preparing Green Panda Wind energy to allow the entire cavalry to safely land further on the sky bridge.

"Stalingrad, commence bombardment on the sky bridge! Take note of our allies!" Hou Fei ordered as he watched the progress of Jin and Captain Gan Yang quickly acknowledged, relaying the command given by his general.

"Wyrstriker, prepare to sortie a flyby to clear any pesky remnants from the bridge!" Qiu Yue complemented Hou Fei's tactics with aerial units so that the threat on the sky bridge could be minimised when Jin's Cavalry moved through it. Wyrstriker and his knights gladly took the mission with pleasure.

He had already been worried that they would be out of commission after returning from their fight against the Dragon Devils and Bat Bottleflies.

Though the Goblin Clerics and Mages complained about needing a rest, some nearly vomited out the mana potions they had been drinking like water. All just so they could heal Wyrstriker and his knights in time. Mostly because they were very adamant about going back to the field because they believed that the situation could change with their presence.

"On my command... JUMP!!!" Jin shouted as he released his Green Panda Wind energy to his whole group, allowing the cavalry unit to soar into the skies as well as giving them an easier time to manipulate their chi onto their mounts.

From their elevated position, they had the perfect view of the last wave of Stalingrad's punishing bombardment clearing the masses of demons off the bridge. And as if that was not enough for, the Wyvern Goblin Knights were swooping in from their sides not a moment later, blowing wyvern fire into any remaining survivors.

"Holy shit, if this is not a massacre, I do not know what is." Mad Monkey Cultivator Shi Zuo said as he looked down from his soaring mount.

"Stay sharp! We are landing soon, so convert some of your chi into a forward point barrier." Jin reminded them and then realised some of the lower grade cultivators like Si Fang and Ke Ru might not catch on to this rapid development.

Even the seasoned Pandawans were confused about hearing such a term for the very first time. Noticing the strange silence, Jin finally recalled that he was only able to do such a thing because his chi had combined with magic. The same, however, could not be said about his group.

"It's alright, don't mind what I've said. Just stay behind me. We are going to charge without stopping. We'll only halt when we are in front of the final boss!" Jin then looked back at his shoulder. Right inside the hoodie of the jacket, Moloch popped out of it and was already aware of what Jin wanted.

"I will assist with the barrier, but it will be flashy. King Baal or Kiva will immediately realise that it would be my doing." Moloch said, making Jin grin.

"Isn't that the whole point of this counterattack assault?"

"Depends on whether or not you mind getting greeted with a giant fireball for sheltering your enemies' greatest enemy. Fine then, since we aren't going to hold back, I will also prepare some off-hand offensive spells to hurl at enemies while reinforcing your shields." Moloch agreed as he checked his 'seat belt' on Jin's hoodie to ensure that he was still appropriately secured.

"You sure you want to waste your strength on these rascals?"

"No worries about that. I left my puppet behind, which basically frees up my mana, so I should have more than enough to go by." Moloch said as he magically popped out his deck of cards (the look of the minotaur plushie with a mini-sized deck of cards was so cute, it gave Jin the idea for a celebratory plushie if they came out alive)

"Besides, I believe more help is coming in, so I should be fine."

"If you say so- Oh Shit!" Jin barely landed on the sky bridge, he suddenly saw a giant fireball coming his way and he quickly put up a Maqi Barrier to stop the attack (Did Moloch jinx them or was he just aware of his former king's characteristics?).

"Maintain position!" Jin shouted as the fireball splattered itself onto his barrier and subsequently spilt over to the sides of the barrier. The System detected that it was coming from the Safe Zone and specifically from their VIP.

There was no need for Moloch to show off his magic tricks. It appeared as if he had already managed to grab the attention of King Baal.

The Pandawans were impressed that Jin was able to stop a fireball head-on when all of them would have just attempted to evade it with fear in them. "Oh gosh, Boss. You are awesome!" Luo Bo sang him praises as she took out her bow and arrow.

"But I think you should not waste too much of your chi protecting us. You are, after all our lead!" She commented as she nocked her bow and this time there were three equally large fireballs incoming. Jia Le and Jing Ru also took out their weapons and prepared to intercept the attack.

"Thank you," Jin said as he concentrated on leading and protecting the front.

Chapter 777 Lus

"Seriously, what was Kiyu thinking sending me to this Circle of Hell?" Evon sighed as he recalled getting kicked out of the elevator nearly as soon as the doors opened. They had initially decided to let Kiyu enter since she had once been a manipulator of lust who had used that to her benefit to assassinate prime targets of the Royal Zodiac Clans. She should, therefore, be the ideal candidate to handle whatever this floor could hold and yet...

"Oven, I don't feel like it, you do it! You better hurry up! Although it should be hilarious if Pei comes to find you instead and sees that you are not done yet... or worse, finds you caught up in this place. Hehehe!" Kiyu had even made fun of him as she refused Evon entry back to the elevator.

The Bear and Wolf Clan Foxes did not seem to care which one of them went, and Rex only gave him a sorry look, so now the champagne pink fox lied on the floor already defeated before he even faced any 'lustful' enemy.

"Damn where did Kraft go off again? He is the only one who can somewhat reign her in... Who am I kidding, he sure as hell is out having fun wreaking havoc. ...whatever." Evon sighed even deeper before he got back up after staring onto the ceiling for a while.

After all, he really did not want Pei to make fun of him as well. Just what had he ever done to those two, that they picked on him constantly?

As he walked further into the corridor, it was evident that the Prison Core was already changing the environment around Evon to suit the theme of lust. Starting from a simple corridor hallway, it slowly transformed into a corridor of sexual parlours tempting Evon to indulge into his fantasies.

With a glance, he observed that there were various types of girls ranging from the girl next door, over the highschool sweetheart up to the exotic foreign exchange student... but also a variety of monsters that were synonymous to Jin's minions.

"What the hell?!" Evon exclaimed when he saw some distinctly female versions of Werejackals, Orcs, Goblins and even other members of the animal tribes. "Does this Prison Core have the ability to access my memory and change them into physical hologram forms? I believe my psychological defences shouldn't be that far off, if not be on par with Pei..." Evon mumbled to himself as he moved further in.

The projections, illusions or whatever they were only sent him enticing glances, tempting him to come over by his own accord. He continued going further in until he stopped in his tracks when he saw a very familiar person right in front of him.

The female shadow slowly turned into someone he knew...Kiyu. Evon was shocked to see how the Prison Core was able to flawlessly replicate Kiyu from his memory. Interestingly it wasn't the Kiyu who had just kicked him out. Instead, it was an image from their younger days right around the time he first met her and the rest of the skulk.

"Ah... could it be that this core is just like a programme accessing some innate desires? If so it must be taking out memories that have some sort of 'Oh my god, this girl looks good' tag... Wait, that does not make sense! I don't have any such desires for werejackals, orcs or goblins!" Evon mumbled to himself.

"Perhaps, you craved for them unknowingly when your eyes set upon them." The fake Kiyu suggested as she started to walk closer, but suddenly she felt a cut on her face. She did not even see when it happened and the fox in front of her seemed to be still pondering on the situation.

"Is the concoction not working?" The fake Kiyu thought to herself, pretending that nothing had happened. She decided to ooze a more potent mixture out into the atmosphere. However, that champagne pink fox had resumed walking around again, ignoring the fake Kiyu.

"Why is it not working?!" The fake Kiyu decided to maintain her façade and moved closer. To her dismay, she felt another cut, this time it was deeper and closer to her neck. Seeing that her enemy appeared to have seen through her, she decided to drop the act and materialised a scythe to swing at the fox.

"Oh. So it was you, after all. Mind telling me how you created all these fake monsters? I don't recall ever seeing a female werejackal up till now. Although those seemed to like how I would picture them. So is that it, you accessed my memories and just recreated what I thought of them?" Evon was still as calm as ever as the fake Kiyu tried to cut him down.

Yet for the fraudulent person, she found herself strung up with multiple strings all around her like a butterfly caught in a web.

"WHAT!? HOW?! How is the concoction not working on you?" The fake Kiyu finally revealed her form, which resembled a female Lich.

"Oh my. Didn't expect you to be a Lich. Or should it be Lichness? You seem to have specialised in performing illusions rather than summoning undead? Yet you don't seem to be a Banshee... this is very

interesting." Evon spoke as he transformed into his human form and started taking notes down. "What is your name, Lichness?"

"Why must I answer you?!" The Lichness shouted as she released a swarm of murder hornets from her mouth but to her surprise, each and every hornet was cut down with the emergence of even more strings.

"You don't have to, but you should know that I can just kill you now if you don't cooperate with me here. Perhaps that would be for the better. Kraft did ask us not to play around. We can have a proper conversation on how you conjure that at a later time, I guess. Still, you should tell me where the key is, so I won't waste time searching for it."

Since the moment he had entered the floor, he had been playing with the now bound Lichness. Despite their strange relationship, Evon knew that Kiyu wouldn't just swap places in a serious situation unless there was some reason for it.

Kiyu, who was a frequent handler of Evon's drugs, had noticed a faint scent of some illicit drugs lingering from the floor of lust when the elevator doors opened. At the time, Evon hadn't noticed it since he was too engrossed with his notes at the back of the elevator.

Only after Evon had been kicked out of the elevator did he realise it as well. With Kiyu providing him with the perfect excuse, he had decided to bide his time, by playing the part of a sulking person abandoned by his teammates.

In that duration, Evon had already begun analysing and breaking down the components used via the lingering scent alone. Although there were some disparities due to the difference in their worlds, he found that the senses and nerves triggered were the same so he created an immune response to block against the scent with his cultivation.

Only when he felt ready, did Evon decide to take a stroll along the corridor. Had the Lichness struck Evon while he was lying there weakened, she would have stood a fighting chance against the Psychedelic Fox, but now the Lichness found herself in quite the predicament.

The Lichness herself did not realise, that ironically, she was the one to have fallen under the influence of her opponent's drugs. Those strings, she was 'bound' by were mere illusions and not Evon's true weapons.

"One's perception of reality varies." Evon thought as he watched the struggling Lichness who 'experienced' the strings getting even tighter. Though it was part of his ancient cultivation techniques, he honestly did not expect it to work on an undead.

"So does that mean that you are not entirely an undead creature, but a mixture?" Evon continued to further cross examine his specimen, but after cursing him for a while, leading to more cuts on her body, she decided to keep silent. (Or perhaps it was just too tight for her?)

"Huh. The truth serum doesn't seem to be working on you. A shame. Fine, I'll just ask Peppers or Moloch about it, later." The Psychedelic Fox decided to strangle her with his string illusions as he took his notes.

Chapter 778 White Fox Itori

Gluttony.

The youngest of the Grizzly Bear siblings walked out of the elevator to confront the Prison Supervisor within the third circle of hell. Ixel and Ixa both bid her good luck, which she acknowledged with just a slight turn of her head. The strength in her side stare was enough to invoke confidence that she would win without a doubt.

As soon as the elevator doors closed, Itori could hear the sound of monsters rushing towards her. "As expected from the circle's name. Everyone seems to be quite hungry... to kill me," Itori thought to herself as she transformed into her human persona and conjured out her weapons.

Power Fists.

After seeing several cultivators from the modern age wield such beastly monstrosities on their hands, Itori had demanded an upgrade for herself. And since she was the fox Kraft most often utilised, that sly devil had immediately agreed to increase her fighting capabilities and gladly did so for free. Her ancient gauntlets were handed over to Vulcan and redesigned in a way that they could not only withstand Itori's strength but also amplified it further.

However, Kraft was not sure whether if it was the materials, the work Vulcan had done of them or a mix of the above had resulted in the modifications being far too potent.

During the testing phase alone, Itori had managed to decimate a twenty-floor building with just a single tap of her power fist. For once even Kraft had been at a loss for words, and they had to cut the testing short until Kraft would find something better to test it out.

Itori might have agreed as she always did for Kraft, but she too wanted more samples to test the full extent of her new toy and yearned for enemies strong enough so that she could use it to its fullest potential.

One might ask, what about the Demon Horde?

Kraft deduced that with her absolute new strength, the White Fox could have easily wiped out the entirety of them in a matter of seconds but she refused to do it. She would instead let other people annihilate the demons so that they could get stronger and possibly challenge her in the future even though it was just wishful thinking. (Though in reality, she was just too lazy to do it.)

With a swipe of her hand, she produced a shockwave that cleared the monsters so fast and from such a distance that she hadn't even been able to clearly make out their appearances. Yet whoever or whatever was behind the monsters did not seem to care for this display of might.

Reinforcements were emerging from the burrows and coming towards her not caring for the fate of their predecessors. The appearance of the hallway had also changed into a field of barren wasteland littered with gnawed bones of whoever came before. (Possibly the monsters stationed here could have feasted on them so cleanly, only bones were left.)

"You guys are irritating, call your boss out now." Itori sighed as she extended her palm and swiftly slammed it flat to the ground, causing a catastrophic collapse of the area in front of her.

The ground did not shake, but instead soil and sand burst out to the ground from the impact. Those four-legged monsters that had been attempting to emerge out of their burrows were instantly splattered into blood and crushed bones.

Soon, new monsters rushed out of the large cracks Itori had created, these ones even larger in size.

"Isn't this supposed to be gluttony? So why am I fighting more and more monster hordes? Is it appeasing my appetite for battle? If so, why not? Bring it on! Just make sure to send someone worthy!" Itori cried out her challenge.

She turned her left hand into a fist and threw a punch in the air. The shockwave impact was enough to turn the front few canine looking monsters into bloody smithereens, and the subsequent ones were filled with cuts.

"Great! You guys are not dead yet! Come and stay for a while to play with me!" Itori began to grin as she started walking towards them with excitement in her fists and anticipation in her heart.

Above the circles of hell, there was another slaughter taking place.

Kraft had been toying with the unfortunate guards as if they were some child's unwanted belongings. With the System's cooperation, Kraft had successfully recreated a series of guns which he had stolen from his little stint on the Abyss Web.

While Hou Fei had given Jin old gun models, Kraft didn't much care for the old stuff. Instead, he had filled his head with the latest blueprints, ones he was not willing to share with his master. (Perhaps if he'd asked veeery very nicely)

After all, he agreed with the System that Jin needed a power gradient in order to get stronger. Unlike the System assigned Bellators, he and his skulk were in no way bound by Jin's cultivation levels, so if they were to solve all of their master's problems, he might eventually get complacent and stop growing.

Perhaps Kraft would one day bestow the Vulcan with all the new blueprints once he got the hang of them. But right now, he was having the time of his life trying out all of his new toys. From shotguns to pistols and even top-secret, classified experimental weapons from the militaries of various countries that were not out in the market.

Oh, did he mention that the weapon maniacs in the Abyss Web also seemingly had too much time on hand, creating a ton of 'what if' blueprints?

Although no one on Earth should have the capability to create them, it didn't hurt to share ideas. Who knows, perhaps it would inspire someone to create similar versions? It would be too crazy to think, someone might actually accomplish the ideas, mainly because if such weapons were made, most humans using them would most definitely die in the process of using them.

Guess what? Kraft had the System with him, and a speck of the System magic enabled those crazy sci-fi weapons to get created rather effortlessly. Of course, there was some external help to make it

feasible.(scientifically speaking, correcting the maths and physics on those blueprints) But right now, Kraft feels that all the honour should go to him for even thinking about this.

As for the possible strain on his body, Kraft believed his body was durable enough after hundreds of years' worth of cultivation. There was no way they could hurt him so much even if the weapon backfired.

The first weapon he had used to break open the prison front gates was the Thermite Blaster. An insect looking projectile, which was actually a grenade, flew out of the rifle's barrel and it latched onto the gates before burning the thick metal door down and exploding afterwards.

What an entrance.

He got naughty and decided to use it on some of the incoming guards, who were 'iron'-ically the same calibre as the Armoured Horned Knights that had suffered the brunt of the Orc's Artillery. Given their large sizes, it was nigh impossible for Kraft to miss any of those big wonkers.

At first, the Knights were all ignorant of the projectile that had latched onto their suit of armour, thinking it was a botched attempt to kill them. But when the thermite started to activate, it was already too late as they felt the intense heat emitted through their so-called impenetrable suits of iron.

Soon enough, the grenade exploded, causing them to suffer internal bleeding due to the large gaping hole in their body left by the explosive impact.

"Have fun bleeding!" Kraft laughed at their misery as he clicked on a button which caused the thermite blaster to slowly turn into a large thermite charge. "A little Kraft special for you guys. Boy, I wonder if it will create a large enough explosion for Peppers to judge." Kraft thought to himself as he leapt backwards after activating it on the Prison's main entrance.

With a phone in one hand and a separate new weapon on the other, he began filming the process. "Ah damn! Those pesky Dragonlites sentries have come way too soon. I hope their fall won't interrupt my explosion effect. Then again, maybe they could become my supporting actors." Kraft grinned as he held another weapon up towards the sky, already in anticipation of the Dragonlites intervention.

Chapter 779 Kraft's New Toys

The Dragonlites saw the destruction of the only intruder who hadn't jumped down the giant hole, and they were already starting to cast spells or used crossbow weapons against him. However, before they could even touch the trigger, their hands were cut off and suddenly their wings too.

They howled and screamed in horror as they fell to their deaths. Only a few managed to glimpse what had happened to their comrades before meeting the same fate as them. Kraft had released boomerangs of sorts that were all controlled by him with a little bit of chi manipulation.

The mini boomerangs' edges were sharpened to the point they could easily cut iron and steel with some chi enhancement. Yet that was not all, Kraft recalled all of them back as they combined into one large boomerang by itself.

"Phew! If I gave this kind of weapons to my Dark Elves... they would be unstoppable!" Kraft thought to himself as he looked up to see if any remaining Dragonlites were hovering in the skies. But not long after, he could already hear the sirens from afar.

"Gotta hand it to them, the response team is fast." Kraft praised them internally as he casually opened his laptop and accessed the cameras he had previously placed on top of the roof they were on.

"Five...Ten... damn that must be the whole city... I feel honoured! All of them rushing here to their own demise. But, oh ho ho! To use Raptor Demons to pull the police carriages. Maybe I should kill them for my Dark Elves as mounts." Kraft thought to himself, and eventually, the System had to interrupt.

"Original Bellator Kraft, please stay focused on the mission." The System demanded, and Kraft closed his laptop, returning it into his storage ring.

"What are you talking about? I am more focused than ever!" Kraft grinned as he exchanged the human-sized boomerang with another weapon he was here to test.

"System's analysis is that Original Bellator Kraft is taking this opportunity to experiment with his new weapons and prioritising finding ancillary support for his Night Foxes rather than focusing on obtaining the keys."

The System pointed out blatantly, and Kraft shrugged his shoulders.

"Yeah, that's called multi-tasking. You know, killing two birds with a stone." Kraft argued as he suddenly stopped on his tracks. "Huh, speaking about killing two birds with a stone... I think I have just the right thing to welcome those hard-working policemen."

Kraft returned the weapon he had taken out just now and ravaged through his storage ring for the new one that he thought of.

"Ah! There you are." Kraft triumphantly held the weapon above his head and walked to the main gate of the prison where he could hear the shoutings from the Demon Police to get the heck out of the way.

"Honestly, this weapon suits Sandy way more than my Night Foxes. Next time I visit her, I should ask for her opinion on how to further improve this. But first, let's see how many birds I can kill with this little thing." Kraft chuckled as he took out what literally looked to be a stone that he tossed around lightly with his hand.

"Can't believe those peeps in the Abyss Web have thought up all these crazy things. Perhaps I should go and meet some of them and show them how brilliantly their inventions actually work. Maybe I should recruit them or at least introduce them to Jin's dungeon instance." Kraft had this random thought as he infused the stone with his chi and threw it at the direction of the impending entourage of police carriages.

Naturally, it only looked like a normal stone, but behind this unspectacular appearance was actually a gravity manipulator unit wrapped with Metaquartzite.

Metaquartzite is a type of sandstone composed primarily of quartz and cemented with silica cement. Because of its metamorphic form of quartz sandstone, it was harder than granite which had a general score of seven on the Mohs Hardness Scale. For some reason, the metaquartzite was needed to

attenuate some of the unwanted beta energy waves the gravity manipulator created as a byproduct and at the same time acting as a shell to protect the device.

When Kraft activated the gravity manipulator with his chi, the metaquartzite also acted as a sort of buffer in emitting the chi into the gravity manipulator device to start up. Else, Kraft would have become the very first victim of his own weapon of mass destruction.

The front police carriage thought it was hilarious that the man in a long coat was throwing a stone at them. They mistook him for some protestor that hated the Demon Police or the Royalty, and so there was not a moment of care for him at all.

"Stupid protestors, can't they see that we are working right now." The carriage rider rolled his eyes as he prepared to evade the stone projectile that was coming towards him. However, his stomach felt weird and rather upsetting as if it was telling him that something terrible was going to happen.

True enough, when the ball zipped past him, not only the carriage but the demon police were all being sucked and dragged towards the gravity manipulator, wrapping them like a ball. However, the throwing force was so strong that the stone continued along the street, grabbing everything around it. The Police Carriages, the Demon Raptors, the stony pathways on the roads and even part of the building themselves.

"Damn! It's that powerful?! Hahahaha! I should have used it for the prison break. It might have possibly sucked the Dungeon Core from its hiding!" Kraft laughed while holding on his stomach as he watched a giant ball of demons both dead and alive being stuck under a huge pile of debris rolling down the street.

He sat on the ground, filming the ball of destruction growing larger with even more debris and Demon police as well as some unlucky passerby it collected. "No wonder, the System said it is a one time use." He checked his watch and figured it was time for the second review pending from Peppers.

With a timer set by Kraft with his chi, the Gravity Manipulator finally released the energy it stored from its dynamo engine after travelling a considerable distance. The counter gravity energy exploded, and it sent everyone and everything it collected within 50-metre diameter flying.

"Ayse and Rei will definitely like all this new data." Kraft thanked the miracle workers that had come up with all these crazy experimental weapons.

Chapter 780 Firestorm

"My Liege! What is the matter?" Kiva suddenly noticed King Baal's irritation was on another level. After being with him for so long, he knew for a fact that this particular expression was one that meant serious business instead of wimps.

"Someone's invaded Paradiso and stole the first key. I assumed it was Moloch since he was the one to have designed the place." King Baal said as he stood up. "But to that assumption, I am clearly mistaken." He could clearly sense the presence of Moloch in this city, and the scent of him was getting stronger and stronger. "He must have sensed his lackeys to do so."

"Do you need me to retreat and deal with the threat at Paradiso?" Kiva was hoping he could get out and survey the battlefield at his more luxurious comfort than this place."

"No need. The guards in Paradiso should suffice. Besides, I did order Paimon to visit the place for regular inspection. He should be there, and I trust him enough to be able to deal with the threat."

"Wonderful thinking, my Liege. To send one of your sons to protect the Dungeon Core should be his honour too!

"Kiva, stay by my side. I might need you to deal with the small flies while I deal with Moloch."

"I...understood!" Kiva replied so reluctantly that Prince Stolas, who had overheard the whole thing could not help but snicker at the direction of Kiva.

"What are you servants waiting for?! Dress your King for battle immediately!" Kiva, now irritated by an unwarranted giggle, shouted at the imp servants who were behind the throne, kneeling and waiting for commands. "Mages! Continue blasting your attacks against the incoming cavalry!"

"There is no need to. I will handle them." King Baal pushed the imps who were trying to don him his cape and instead he took one of the imps by its neck. "Thank you for your service." At that point, Kiva was already slowly grinning as he saw King Baal take his crown out and sucked the life energy of the imp.

"My Liege...!" The imp struggled pathetically in King Baal's hands as it withered into skins and bones before turning into dust. King Baal ignored his subject's suffering as he raised his palm right in front of the sky bridge.

"Firestorm."

A single word from the King of Demon Metropolis suddenly caused the skies to darken in a similar way as earlier when Keyrin, the Thunder Ram Demon, had used his technique. Just that this time around, it was more ominous orange than the usual black clouds.

"Oh shit." Moloch looked at the clouds and could already sense his King's magic at work. "Jin, this is not good. King Baal seems to be using world-class magic on the city." The Minotaur Lord warned as he gazed over the skies.

"Do we have to use the shield protection that we have been saving up?" Jin asked as they finally reached the descending end of the sky bridge.

"Wait, I think I am wrong... It is actually aiming for us rather than the city itself.??? Moloch gulped as he did some calculations with the aid of the System and noticed the concentration of mana was indeed aimed at their position.

"So?!" Jin had no time to think as he was bashing through the demon's frontline with his BamBoo combined spear, attacking any that placed themselves on their collision course.

"We're slightly out of the range of what our Dungeon Core would consider our territory, so we won't be able to use it effectively. Even so, using it for us alone is kind of a waste too. I suggest that we split the Pandawans up, while we go straight ahead to confront my King alone! That way, the odds of survival for us will be better."

"But not so much for the Pandawans?"


"That is the fate of reusable pawns, Master. Right now, we are the King piece that the enemies want, but first, we need to survive this." Moloch explained, pointing at the ominous sky and Jin sighed at the current situation.

"Then lets at least even the odds a little so we can increase the chances to meet your King," Jin said to Moloch before looking backwards to the Pandawans. "There will be a massive AOE spell directed at us! We need to split up as much as possible! At the same time, cover as much ground as we can!"

"You want us to fight hundreds over demons by ourselves?!" Yue Han exclaimed loudly at the back.

"Isn't that normal for us all? Hahahah!" Xiong Da went close enough towards Yue Han's mount and gave that Blind Bat Cultivator a slap on the back as a confidence booster.

"Normal for you, maybe." Yue Han replied with a pouting expression, recalling how devastating his warclub techniques and Hippo styles worked in sync to kill dozens of goblins. But the Hungry Hippo Cultivator did not pay it any heed for he was dying to put some pain into those demons' bodies.

"Alright so split up, survive the onslaught of magic and demons and then converge to fight against the main boss! I will go ahead and deal some damage to him first!  Jin shouted, and the rest acknowledged it.

"Qiu Yue, I need to request for fire support and give it to me whenever possible! We are rushing here at full speed!" Jin reported in the System Channel as he saw King Baal's World Class Magic, Firestorm begin to loom over them and activate.

Tornadoes started to descend from the clouds towards the ground, and it suddenly lit up on fire, chasing after the cavalry the moment they split up. As if breaking through the front was not hard enough, there's a fiery tornado chasing after them from the back, giving them pressure to work harder.

"Frost Echo, mind giving us a bit of assistance?" Jin asked as this was his way of evening the odds.

"Aye, I get your predicament, but I still need some time to counter this wide AOE magic spell. Shiva isn't as cooperative as I want her to be for some reason." Frost Echo apologised, and Flame Ripper concurred.

"Same thing here. I thought Ifrit would be equally excited to fight in this battle. He barely granted me a boost to kill those Lion Mantises."

"Maybe they still need to recuperate their powers after fighting out in the open against Queen Mab and Maeve?" Frost Echo theorised as the Orc King appeared at the cliff at Agriculture Sector 1 to look over the intensity of the Firestorm.

"You know them better than I do. Perhaps they just don't want to get ordered around by us inferior beings?" Flame Ripper questioned as he decided to move towards Frost Echo to see if he might be able to assist with the subjugation of the Firestorm.

"Alright then aid the Pandawans as soon as you can. I will deal with my side." Jin ordered as he looked at Moloch.

"Heh, you don't need to say anything else. I know what you are thinking." Moloch nodded as he revealed a card with a graveyard picture on it.

It was time for the second wave of Phantom Soldiers to show its might.