

Dungeon S 801

Chapter 801 Claiming Demon Metropolis

"Can't you at least let me rest a little bit longer? You know getting killed is not exactly pleasant, and the System's way of reviving is no vacation either. I believe I've done some major lifting in the defeat of my King," Moloch grumbled as he was being 'cuddled' by Kraft and did not like it a single bit.

"There will be more than enough time for you to sit on your butt after we resolve the ownership problem of the city." Kraft rebutted. The rest of the foxes placed their keys on the hidden door, according to Moloch's previous instruction. The door only had a single keyhole, and according to the grumpy cotton toy, they had to first place the keys in descending order starting from Limbo.

Slowly, the door opened and revealed the next door that was protecting the 'vault'.

"You know in games they usually give you some sort of chest or some other reward for opening a secret door. Like a treasure room or something before proceeding to the next door." Kraft said as he blankly stared at the second door.

"Too bad, this is not a game but real life in the Dungeon World," Moloch argued with his eyes turning lazy, but he had forgotten that he was now in the mercy of the fox handler. Kraft pinched the top of his head and pulled his cotton 'skin', causing Moloch to suffer some rather annoying agony.

"Should we just call King Baal to quicken the process?" Kiyu suggested as she was waiting for her turn to open the door.

"He has been defeated by Rex, so the Metropolis Dungeon Core does not recognise him as the ruler anymore." Moloch briefly explained to Kiyu since she might not know how the Dungeon Core ownership worked.

"Yeah, you could have told me your king was the last boss. Would have saved a lot of time." Rex sighed, recalling how stupid he was to question each and every monster he fought against in the Circle of Treachery while attempting to find out who was speaking the real truth.

"It has been some time since I walked on the roads of the Demon Metropolis, let alone the roster of these bosses. Though I had my suspicions that King Baal might have decided to be the reigning champion of the last circle since he is technically the defender for the Dungeon Core..."

"Judging by his impatience to get back to the Dungeon Core during our fight, it must have desperately called him back in fear you had a way to just fight your way through without using the keys."

"I didn't mind the chance to cause some havoc, but was there any point in us invading here if we ultimately ended up fighting King Baal anyway?" Ixel brought up an interesting point, and all eyes turned to the cotton toy.

"As I said, I didn't know. Not like this kind of information is openly available. But no your work wasn't entirely useless. The more havoc you created, the more panicked the Dungeon Core must have gotten leading to it calling King Baal back and him getting distracted. If he refused the summons of his Dungeon Core for too long, it could have selected a different impromptu ruler, so it wouldn't be wrong to call your work extremely helpful."

"Still, here I thought we were going in to steal the Dungeon Core under his nose. No fun at all." Kiyu complained as it finally became her turn to activate the key she had gotten from the Heresy stage. Similar to Pei, she did not have to really fight. Somehow her untimely appearance to a particular unrelated event being held in the Circle of Heresy caused a huge commotion. And with a bit of charm, she literally convinced an entire cult to follow her without any resistance.

When the foxes heard about it, they wondered if Kiyu had used her clan's secret technique the 'Butterfly Effect' to change the outcome of her particular endeavour.

The Butterfly Effect worked as the concept containing time travel terms and chaos theory. The sensitive dependence on the initial conditions in which a small change would bring about a large scale and possibly unpredictable variation in the future.

It was a mystery how the Butterfly Clan, who did not have the mathematical and scientific concept of their secret technique, had been able to create such a technique. However, playing with time was a dangerous concept so much so that Kiyu herself had once claimed she would rather not use the skill if at all possible.

Yet, on the other hand, despite how convenient everything turned out for her, to use the technique literally required Kiyu to sacrifice something very significant in return. Be it physical or emotional, it would put a toll on Kiyu's overall well-being.

Thus, they doubted she had used the technique. Maybe it was her womanly instinct that led her to kick out most of her male fox counterparts? (Or so they at least chose to believe for her sake.)

"There we go!" Kiyu said as she stepped backwards and allowed Tsu to place his key in. Eventually, it came to Rex' turn, and the simple concrete room revealed an exposed Dungeon Core, waiting for input before the timer ran out and destroy the Demon Metropolis in an instant.

"As much as I would enjoy having all those Demon Nobles looking up to me, I have my hands rather full with Pandapolis. I suggest we should let King Baal continue running it. That way there's normalcy in the demon city." Moloch offered his opinion.

"Meh, that is not fun at all." This comment coming from Itori surprised everyone, but Moloch shook his head.

"We can do something similar to what Jin did by putting the System and me together. This way, the System has a say, and with King Baal at the helm, it would just be a dent in their city's combat record." Moloch argued as he considered that too many changes to the city might bring forth unwanted guests.

Right now, the Demon Metropolis was a city that churned a decent amount of revenue as well as resources which could potentially aid Jin in his future battles and projects. They needed the money if they wished to expand rapidly in Jin's world, or others for this matter, without outside help.

"Yes, it makes sense." Rex, who had a diplomatic mind, understood Moloch's logic. To some extent, the foxes all were familiar with some form of governance as they were initially groomed to be their clan's leaders. "But unfortunately, what Itori said is true too. This is no fun." Rex started to grin in a way that made Kraft laugh.

"Oh, you don't mean... Are you willing to take up such a large responsibility that quickly?"

"Why not? Would you prefer for me to always stay mad at the past? I had enough time to think over everything in there, and I am not looking forward to returning there anytime soon. Besides, I might not have been out for long, but I'm dying to do some work." Rex argued.

"If it helps to keep Rex calm while working, it would be a definite plus. That way, the System can use its processing capability for better use than trapping him." Pei reasoned and the System, aka the ultimate eavesdropper, concurred with her.

"It will free 5% of System processing capabilities and taking partial control of the Demon Metropolis only requires 0.5%."

"However, Moloch is also right. The change cannot be too drastic. Demons live here in this city and having too much law and order as well as knowing a human is controlling them would only breed chaos." Pei added.

"Oh. You do not have to worry about that." Kraft announced as he grabbed Rex's hand and placed it on the Dungeon Core user's interface along with Moloch's. "There we go!" Kraft threw his phone which was his connection to the System on the user interface as well. Instead of a two way, the Dungeon Core finally accepted that three entities would be the new rulers of Demon Metropolis by playing the core's standard welcoming theme.

"It's a brand new day~!

Brand new day~!

A brand new morning has come~!

Be Happy ~! Be Happy~!

The wind of happiness continues to blow as we start our day~!

One, Two, Three, Let's Go~!"

"Urgh. No matter how many times I hear that..." Moloch moaned as he grudgingly accepted the added responsibility.

Chapter 802 Royalty in Retaliation

If anyone else had forced his hand, Moloch would have cut their fingers off or even their heads (or more likely gotten Sebestia to do it for him) since it was something he really did not want to do. However, this was Kraft that made Moloch sign up for the partial control of the Demon Metropolis.

"Don't worry you will just be like a puppet leader...for familiarity's sake. After all, everyone still thinks that you are the true leader of Pandapolis." Kraft informed the unhappy-looking Moloch as the interface changed a little and he inspected it curiously since it was the first time he was checking one out.

"Well, technically...I am ONE of the leaders of Pandapolis. 'True' is not wrong since the demons do not know that the core can choose more than one... erm ruler." Moloch agreed and tried to run through

various scenarios in his head. However, he did not know whether it was resurrection fatigue, but the Minotaur Lord's mind got cut off after a short while.

"Anyway, I can vouch that Rex here will make an outstanding lawmaker and a respectable 'Demon' to rule this land," Kraft said, and the rest unanimously supported their Panda Remnant.

"If you cannot trust anyone, you can at least trust me." Pei stepped forward and grabbed the Minotaur Lord away from Kraft's embrace and placed it on Rex's head. "I can already hear some footsteps coming our way, so we should hurry the process a little."

"I can punch them away if you want." Itori offered, and Rex laughed.

"There is no need to. So, what are these options here, little Minotaur?" Rex asked.

"I guess you must be as old as Kraft so stop calling me little. Despite my current form, I am way older than any of you. I am in my golden age as a demon, though!" Moloch mumbled a little before releasing out a heavy sigh. "They are the same options given to Master and me when he first conquered the Dungeon Fortress."

"Then, I am assuming we are going to preserve the integrity of the city?" Rex questioned, and the cotton toy nodded his head.

"Just for your information, most conquerors do not like this option since it gives the least amount of reward. Mainly because the Dungeon Core will usually destroy the entire city and kicks everyone out, giving the conqueror the ultimate right to the place. Raiders also prefer the 'raze it to the ground option' since it will give them the most resources."

"Then what rewards do we have if we preserve the Demon Metropolis?" Tsu asked.

"Not much really. Aside from some extra cash and resources, we get an entire city. Although it will be exactly in the condition as the previous ruler has left it. Well, triple the rewards since we won the defence game against them too." Moloch added, and suddenly he heard a weird whistling sound. Rex did not waste any time and selected the preserve option, and they were officially crowned the new rulers of Demon Metropolis by the dungeon core.

The whistling sound screeched with each second and Kiyu stood at the front and stopped a projectile. The rest of the foxes walked out and noticed a group of beautifully armoured demons waiting at the middle of the Circle of Treachery.

"Since you are the new rulers, we might as well challenge you now. I am Prince Agares of the -" Without any warning, Kraft cut them off by shooting near their foot, missing by merely a centimetre. The rest of the group immediately picked up arms, but Rex came forward and tried to calm them down.

"Can they really challenge the new rulers this quickly? Don't the Dungeon Cores have some cooldown period or something?" Pei asked, and Moloch nodded his head as he tried to slide down from Rex's head, but the Panda Remnant kept him up.

"Something like that... the defeated side still has the option to take back their Dungeon Core within 24 hours kind of thing. That is why most winners would usually take the plunder or conquer everything

route." Moloch explained in the System Channel so as to not let the royalty suspect that they are amateurs to this.

"Doesn't that mean all we have to do is to kill anyone who comes at us within that period?" Ixa came forward as she was displeased at how Itori had grabbed the Boss of Greed away from her despite her younger sister's insistence that it was an accident.

"Look, I am sorry that my little brother has offended you all. Please allow me to explain the current situation." Rex continued to try calming the royal family down even though someone decided to throw a seemingly high-level fireball at Rex.

"Like hell, we will! We have battalions of troops waiting outside for you if you try to escape!" One of them shouted from the group.

Unfortunately, the fireball bounced off from Rex because of his barrier, and the rest got cautious immediately. "Look, if I want my guys to finish you off, it won't take more than a few seconds. A minute tops, so let's be rational for a moment. You saw that hole that just one of us made to jump in here. We killed each and every one of your guard supervisors as well as fending off the invasion you all initiated." Rex tried to be civil.

"Oh, shucks. I left that prince's Pailmon at Pandapolis." Kraft blurted out 'accidentally' as he felt like bragging, but one of the group members started to be angsty.

"You are the one who beheaded my husband?!" A middle-aged demon lady shouted, but a few of the guards were restraining her since they knew how strong Paimon was.

For someone to behead Paimon without any resistance as indicated from his cleanly dismembered body showed that the monsters in front of them were leagues above their pay grade. "My husband's name it PAIMON not PAILMON!" The lady shouted despite being pushed back by the guards.

Even Prince Agares, the eldest of all the royalty, started to have a sense of fear welling up in him. He finally grasped their aura and realised the difference between him and them was too huge. It's akin to heaven and earth. Yet, he still had to maintain a strong front.

"Give us back our Dungeon Core, and we will give you a hefty reward in return. Considering that you have yet to destroy the city means you had intentions of using it." Agares reasoned, and Rex nodded his head.

"Yes, but I like hefty rewards in the long run too and I see potential in this Demon Metropolis. Which is why I have yet to destroy it. So, how about trusting me as your new lord and ruler?"

"NEVER!!" The group shouted unanimously, and Kraft shrugged his shoulders.

"I think your communication skills seem to have gotten a bit rusty. You've spent too much in the System." Evon tried to defend Rex who gave him a resigned look.

"No problem that should all come back in due time. As for those before us. You haven't forgotten how to quell a rebellion, right? Besides, the demons only answer to true strength. How about we show them that since seeing is believing." Kraft commented, and Rex reluctantly nodded his head as he asked the Grizzly Bears to clear the lines.

"With pleasure!" The siblings cried out with joy simultaneously rushing forth.

Chapter 803 Demon Home Guards

"Stay at the ready!" The Demon Captains handling their platoons shouted as they heard movement coming out of the prison. Even though they were quite confident that the Royal Family would be able to handle whatever threat was in there, they still had to act their part.

Besides, they had been active enough to catch any possible prison escapees that resulted from the Foxes' reckless actions.

The Demon Home Guards entrenched themselves deeply near the gates of the prison by deploying mobile barricades while mages and archers took the high ground on the nearby buildings (Or whatever was left of that in the aftermath of Kraft's Gravity Manipulator device.)

"And here I thought the royalty would put up a fight. It's such a disgrace." Ixa complained as she walked behind Rex.

"I held back just as I promised. It's not my fault they were this weak that you didn't get a good sweat in." Itori hoped that her actions would at least appease her frustrated sister.

"Nah, I do not hold any grudge against you," Ixa said as she pulled Itori closer to her and rubbed the head of her younger sister.

"Looks like the royalty wasn't making empty threats" Kai pointed out as the foxes walked boldly out of the front door of the prison.

What seemed to be the General of the Demon Home Guards stood in front of the foxes. He stared at them for a while and noticed that there was not so much as a scratch on their physical bodies. "No signs of fatigue as well..." The general thought to himself as he removed his helmet and revealed his face beyond the metal plates.

"Vual. General of the Demon Home Guards." A demon with a camel face came forward and introduced himself as he extended his arm for a handshake.

"Rex. The new ruler of the Demon Metropolis." The Panda Remnant came forward happy that at least someone had some common decency.

"I assume you have subdued the entire royalty?" Vual asked, and Rex nodded his head.

"Not really me, my comrades did most of the work." Rex smiled as he looked back, and the rest were ready for a second round.

"I see, then we will step down." Vual nodded his head as he put his helmet back.

"No fights?" Ixel asked. It wasn't meant as a provocation, more the realisation of impending disappointment.

"Since you managed to kill part of the most powerful noble elites in less than the span of half an hour, there is no use to waste my troops against you. Besides, the fact that you came out here of Paradiso without any signs of the Demon Metropolis in ruins indicates that you have far bigger ambitions than simply raiding us." Vual answered and then pointed at Rex's head.

"Also, because of him."

"I am glad you still place reason and logic above emotions." Moloch praised the other party, and Vual chuckled for a bit.

"The Home Guards knows how bad the corruption between the nobles was. While some might be disappointed they never got the chance to fight against 'that traitor Moloch', it is good to see that the Demon Metropolis will be in a pair of better hands, especially if Lord Moloch will act as their advisor."

"I am surprised King Baal had someone this perceptive on his side. Shall I say it was our good fortune you stayed home~? But unlike you, most of the Demon Metropolis might suspect that you are in cahoots with us, if you let us go just like this." Kraft butted into the conversation, as he too hadn't had his fill of carnage. There were still some weapons he could try out.

"And if the Demons lose the respect of their Defence team, it will be hard for you guys to enforce the city despite our common interest of helping turn the Demon Metropolis even grander."

"I hate having to admit that you make sense sometimes." Pei sighed as she digested what Kraft had said. "Although the underlying tone is... never mind."

"General Vual, I do agree with the demihumans here." Moloch decided to use the term demihumans to make it seem that they were also part of the demon community despite their human features. With their ability to change between fox and human form at will, it wouldn't be hard to convince the demons.

General Vual was quite surprised about his ruler's new identity and decided to hear more from the revered Moloch. "We can cover the cost of resurrection for the Home Guards, so do not worry about that."

"What we need right now is an impactful yet civil enough fight so that the people are aware of the strength and ferocity of their new ruler. Killing those royalties without any witnesses would bring bad rumours which will undermine the authority of the new crown." Moloch reasoned.

"Sire, I agree with Lord Moloch's opinion. There would be dissent in the ranks if you just let them go like this. Unlike you, the troops do not have enough war experience to tell the difference between mercy and knowing when to retreat." One of his advisors agreed with Moloch's proposal.

"Very well, it does bring up a good point, especially with the rumours flying around that Lord Moloch was using some forbidden methods to defeat our king." Vual commented.

"...I won't deny that I have made new friends and gained some new powers." Moloch whispered to himself and Rex, who's the only one who had heard it, patted the cotton toy's head and handed him over to Pei.

"As the upcoming King, I have to show who's boss. Can't let you guys have all the fun. Otherwise, they will think of me as just another pencil pusher." Rex stated and told the rest to step back.

"You against the entire Demon Home Guards? You cannot be serious." Vual was in disbelief though the rest were already too excited to see Rex in action once more.

"Wooo! Rex is getting serious! Can't wait to see his real form." Evon was getting excited as he turned into a fox and climbed onto Ixel's broad shoulders. Kiyu followed Evon and did the same by sitting on the other shoulder and cheered for Rex.

"Say, you think he will use his Panda form or his Fox form?" Pei asked Tsu about his opinion.

"If I were him I'd go with the fox form. The Panda is not menacing enough. He won't like getting a nickname such as King of the 'cute killer white bear with black spots' form will he?" Tsu answered as Vual returned to his troops and readied them to attack the group.

The Home Guard General had major doubts that one person alone would have the power to fight against the whole battalion of Demon Home Guards. But considering that he said his comrades had taken care of the royalty, implied that Rex should be stronger than them.

In his life, no one would follow a weaker person than themselves. Thus, he decided to take extra precautions and started sending orders to his officers.

"Listen up! Demons of the Metropolis' Home Guards!" Rex's voice was imbued with chi enabling him to reach every single demon in the vicinity. "I have struck a deal with your General! It will be you lot against me alone. If I win, I expect you to offer me your loyalty to serve without question. If I lose, I hereby solemnly swear to abdicate myself from the throne and never disturb the peace of Demon Metropolis."

"This will also be a match for the entire city to learn that the once exiled Lord Moloch has returned! He came back to retake the city so that his King can wake up from his nightmare! When I win, the ugly truth shall be exposed, and we will move on to improve the Demon Metropolis!" Rex said, and many assumed that the demihuman was only saying words that would bring him down. Some laughed at his absurd condition of one versus many.

Yet, the General was calm enough to get his troops under control and ordered them to get ready once more. The troops obey fiercely, and Kraft could see that the defensive formation was rock solid....to invaders other than the foxes.

"Huh, if only they brought this General to the battlefield, then perhaps their losses would not be that significant." Kraft thought to himself as he appreciated and pitied the entire battalion for ending up as Rex' stepping stones.

Chapter 804 Angry Pandawans

Jin stared into space for a moment.

The ringing sound of the Demons retreating was music to his ears, especially since he knew that the fight was finally over. The cheers heard from afar also confirmed that particular fact as he felt like the boss battle took a significant toll on him.

"If Panda Remnant Rex had not intervened along with...Original Bellator Kraft and his companions, User would have lost the fight." The System stated the obvious, but Jin was too tired to argue.

"Was it a coincidence that they arrived on time? Or has it always been possible for them to interfere with the fight." Jin questioned the System.

"Negative. The System has run through the rules for the fight. Normally, no one would be able to do such a thing, but because Pandapolis' Dungeon Core was willing to make an exception for King Baal to settle his local threat, the loophole was there for the System to exploit." The System explained. "In essence, it was an unprecedented situation agreed upon by two Dungeon Cores themselves."

"Huh, but shouldn't their Dungeon Core know that the last key was with Baal? Why would it not tell Baal to stay away from them, instead of asking Baal to defend the core."

"The Dungeon Cores are not as sentient as the System. It appears to be an instinctive call to action when feeling threatened. Would User take any chances if he felt his life was in danger? According to System's analysis of our own Dungeon Core, they appear to have basic AI functions that are leagues ahead in terms of technology for the current Dungeon World."

"System suspects that the Dungeon Cores may have originated from other worlds or they might truly be relics left by high tech civilisation similar to how the Dwarves left Lost Tech to the Goblin and Orcs." The System analysed.

"Shhh...I do not need a boatload of explanation right now. It just makes my head hurt at the moment." Jin said as he tried to sit up. The pain was dull despite the recovery from his 'vampire bones' and legendary inscription working overtime. If not for Pei and Rex aid, Jin would already have passed out from the pain from his speedy recovery.

"Sometimes, I do not know why I am putting myself in danger." Jin chuckled to himself.

With a bit of Green Panda Wind Energy, he managed to scoop up the remnants of the wretched crown and brought it close. Then he took an empty container and placed the broken contents into it. The System immediately took everything that was within the box and Jin was slightly amused since it behaved like a small child who couldn't wait to open his Christmas gift. All this for some processing capabilities... at least Jin was looking forward to his own reward.

"The broken pieces of the crown definitely contain traces of defunct Dungeon Cores which are now highly reactive because of the magic inside. Decades of hard work by King Baal has turned the defunct Dungeon Cores into valuable resources capable of enhancing the System's work-frame."

"I keep thinking you are some sort of server room, but at the same time, you guys are not. What are you actually?" Jin asked as he tried to stand up and started to see some silhouettes afar. It seemed like the Pandawans and the shopkeepers were moving towards Jin. (Conveniently the System was taking this opportunity to keep silent.)

"Oh shit. I did promise them that I would show some of my skills, didn't I? Haha... They're probably gonna scold me for this." Jin sighed with a light smile.

"BOSS! YOU ASSHOLE!" Xiong Da shouted as he jumped off of his hippo mount and allowed it to dash towards Jin. Thankfully, the dungeon supplier was still nimble enough to move away from an angry

hippo charging towards it. Alternatively, he could have easily disintegrated the black sludge since it was originally part of his chi.

"Ya, Boss! You lied to us! We thought we were going to fight side by side! In the end, I had to fight along with this Fat Hippo!!" Luo Bo complained, and Shi Zuo allowed her to do so. It was best to let his fiancée-to-be rant it all out.

"More like Boss ran away before he could reveal his skills to us. He tricked us again, I am not going to believe his words anymore!" Yue Wen snarled.

"Boss, I cannot help you this time. You are really in the wrong." Bu Dong agreed with the rest.

"Not to mention, there is no footage of you fighting against the big bad monster. The streams only showed us. I do not need to know how well this move could be improved..." Bin Yong commented and suddenly thought of ways to do so.

"Didn't I guys tell you that the AI that runs this is highly advanced and that I left the actions to it? I was just as surprised as you guys that he had such a move. Besides, technically I did show you guys my powers quite a fair bit during the charge down the bridge." Jin tried to rebut yet the crowd jeered.

"Landlord, you gotta keep your promise somewhat. Else it is not fair to these loyal customers of yours." San Sun wasn't happy with this technicality as he too was curious of his Landlord's powers.

"Fine, fine!" Jin sighed as he started to think what would be a cool way to impress them, and the only thing that came to mind was the System Rider thing. Still, he felt that 'surprise' should be kept away from them (not to mention it was currently busted). Who knows whether the masked hero gimmick could be useful in the future if he needed to intervene in something.

"System wishes to remind User that masked vigilantes are probable causes for the police to catch you. They do not like surprises...although the System also recommends not to disclose one of your trump cards so openly."

"But what can I show?" Jin asked as he turned away from the crowd and pretended to fiddle with his watch. He did entertain the thought of fighting all of them, but it would be too much of a pain, especially when his body was still recovering.

"...User is hopeless." The System said as it transmitted a bunch of tickets in Jin's hand.

"Hahaha...seriously, are we playing this card?" Jin looked at the black striped tickets with a polar bear symbol on them.

"We've been luring them with that idea for a long while. Could not hurt to use them as beta testers for that 'dungeon' you have painstakingly designed."

"I am glad you recognise that fact." Jin chuckled as he turned his head with a smirk. Xiong Da could already see that Jin was plotting something bad but before he could say anything somehow a smoke bomb was thrown right in front of him and the Pandawans thought that Jin was going to attack them.

Only when the smoke subsided, they found each of their weapons were pasted with the very same black ticket that the System had handed to Jin.

"That Boss...as sly as ever." Xiong Da grinned. He knew Jin was strong but for him to paste a ticket so quickly when the smoke bomb was deployed?

That was some skill too. As for the ticket...

It was the privilege ticket to the elusive Polar Phantom Gentlebear Instance. "Come after Chinese New Year!" The Boss sent each and every one of them a personal text message while thanking them for their efforts.

Chapter 805 Post Battle Supper

The entire defensive operation was a tremendous success thanks to the teamwork of everyone...well perhaps with the exception for Derpy as usual.

As he was meant to be used for the last effort emergency backup plan, the Shadow Dagen had to be kept hidden and therefore did not get to do much. Nevertheless, it wasn't as if Derpy got the short end of the stick.

He got an unexpected snack in the form of the flying turtle, indirectly helped bring a clay Pandajilla to real life and also enjoyed the opportunity to play around with his friend Wolte making him more than satisfied despite the lack of his appearance.

Jin who had escaped the wrath of his Pandawans returned to his Dungeon Maker instance and officially sent a message that the Pandapolis Defence Raid was completed.

"A big thank you to all the fellow Pandarens who have taken part in this raid. In appreciation for your participation up until the end, I am giving everyone additional points to the ladder prizes you've obtained. Each one of you will be able to reach the next tier of rewards!"

That message alone quickly received likes in the Pandamonium Forum and gave cheers to the shop owner's generosity. While some requested for even more free stuff, the rest shared their thoughts for the Dungeon Raid.

Many claimed it felt a bit too real for them, but the experience was an eye-opener. They could feel the intensity of the battles and the death from both the demons and their own fellow cultivators left a great impact on their minds. However, many did realise that the recovery process during their stay in the Luxury Recovery Instance helped them come to terms with the incidents and experiences.

In turn, a number of new customers were able to reach their next cultivation grade rather easily with the understanding and appreciation for life and death as their breakthrough.

While breakthroughs were common enough occurrences in dungeon supplier stores, most of the Pandarens knew how difficult it was to get it done in one particular setting. Many had tried dungeon runs in other supplier stores for days, yet none could have provided such a breakthrough as quickly as Jin's Dungeons and Pandas.

At the same time, many of the customers also queried what kind of place they had been protecting. There was not much of a background of the city they protected compared to other stories where the dungeon instances were filled with hidden lore.

Even though a number of Pandarens managed to catch a glimpse of it due to the mass teleportation incident, the bulk of his customers were clueless. Also, it was not possible for the Pandarens could not have a closer look when their life depended on their fighting skills against the horde of demons rampaging around.

That was when Jin had written as a reply post that the raid was a prequel to the opening of a brand new Major 'Service' Instance. More information would be given to the cultivators in due time, and Jin was looking at the chance of possibly creating the very first "medal to real cash" conversion method in the world.

That reply post alone caused a lot of ruckuses even though it was in the middle of the night for most of his entire customer base.

"Am I revealing a little too much or too fast?" Jin wondered to himself, and that was when Lynn and Qiu Yue came in together to the Dungeon Maker to rest. While it was technically Jin's office, the Sub System Users had learned how to create furniture out of thin air and used them as they pleased before removing them when they were about to leave.

"What are you planning to reveal?" Qiu Yue asked as she managed to catch his self-talk.

"Oh, I was telling the forum users that I might implement a "medal to real" cash conversion. Is that really such a big thing? I recall seeing something like that in Europe... or at least in the United States." Jin answered, and while Qiu Yue tried to search for such a thing on the internet, Lynn took out an after battle meal for Jin to replenish.

"You should take some proper rest after that fight. I've seen the stream... I was really worried for you, you know." Lynn admitted as Jin left his 'office' desk and approached the small table where the three sat together to enjoy the supper.

"Speaking about that battle. How dare you?!" Qiu Yue had one hand scrolling through the searches while another pulled Jin's ear.

"Ya, how dare you to fight alone?!" Lynn pulled the other ear as a continuation of Qiu Yue's joke, thinking that her anger resulted from Jin not calling on his two Sub System users to assist him in the fight.

"Actually... Lynn, I think I was pulling his ear for a different reason than that." Qiu Yue admitted and later reconsidered by pulling his ear harder.

"But since you added that, how dare you?!"

"Ow ow ow! Okay! I sincerely apologise to both of you. I've clearly overestimated myself, and when it came time for the fight, my thoughts were occupied with fending him off. But I do think I know why Qiu Yue was so angry." Jin admitted his wrongdoing as he pulled the System Driver out of his storage watch and placed it for Lynn to see.

"Oh my god...it is true. You are literally a Masked Rider....hmm, but we cannot use that in public. Imagine Japan representatives coming down to sue you for copyrighting them." Qiu Yue talked about the superheroes children show that they had watched when they were younger.

"Maybe that is why the System named it after itself. System Rider." Jin said as he savoured Lynn's fried white noodles. "Gosh, Lynn. I swear I would never get sick eating this if you gave it to me every day."

"That would be troublesome. You might not get sick of eating them, but I would get sick of cooking the same thing for you every day. Hehe. Thanks, Jin!" Lynn appreciated the praise as she took a bite as well and already started forming self-critiques in her mind.

"Hey, System, do you think I can be a System Rider too?" Qiu Yue asked, and the System affirmed to it.

"There is currently only one driver, and it requires Jin's Astral Form ability to fully utilise the System Driver. System will look into making secondary drivers that could be compatible with the Sub System Users."

"Aww yes!" Qiu Yue jumped up and down with glee and told Jin to watch out.

"Original Bellator Kraft has also voiced his interest though System is wary of the powers he could possess."

"You're scared he will overpower you too much, eh?" Jin gave a casual comment, and the System sent an empty cupboard box falling to hit its user's head. "Ouch! What is that for?! I am eating!"

"Even though I may feel like the secondary character here, there will definitely be a battle where I will shine above you!" Qiu Yue slapped Jin's back as he resumed eating his noodles again, causing him to choke slightly.

"Qiu Yue!" Lynn cautioned her with a stern voice, and she apologised as the trio dug in for the supper while giving Lynn a summary of their experiences from the battlefield.

Chapter 806 Post Battle Discussion

"Jin, you better add me to your roster for the next fight!" Lynn insisted with a pouty face when she heard about his take on the fight against King Baal.

There were System playback streams exclusive for the few to watch, and the Penguin Cultivator was envious. She knew that she had her very own battlefield at the kitchen, serving the hungry cultivators before and after the fight. However, she too yearned to fight alongside Jin to become someone equal.

"Haha, you should not request for him too much. He might ignore you and get another girl to accompany him. Speaking of which, how's that Tiger Princess? Hu Yang Ling." Qiu Yue asked teasingly, and Jin's face went blank as his hand with the chopsticks stopped moving.

"I ...haven't kept in touch with her recently. Too many things for me to deal with." Jin stated bluntly. He tried to recall if made any promises until he remembered about the issue where the Royal Snakes would go after this particular war. He was still unhappy about having been strong-armed into the Joint Exercise which should have merely been a cover-up for the portals.

"The Royal Snake Soldiers are helping to clean the battlefield and doing sweeps around the Pandapolis Islands even though the System had informed Panda Remnant Hou Fei that there were no more monsters around." The System reported the status out of nowhere, and it startled the group for a moment.

"It's just standard procedure. Got to make those buggers work a bit more before allowing them to relax for the entire day, right?" Hou Fei entered and greeted the young adults. Lynn created another chair and offered him a seat which he denied politely.

"Let me have a smoke first." Hou Fei said as he stood further away from them and lit his cigarette.

"How are the soldiers' reactions to the fight? I hope they weren't too bored waiting for their turns." Qiu Yue asked, and Hou Fei shook his head vehemently.

"That mass teleportation did a number on the soldiers. But most of them performed within expectations. We have discovered a few kinks that we will sort out, especially communication and group orders. My Colonels and Majors generally liked the experience and will convene tomorrow to express their thoughts out. Care to join, Mr Dungeon Supplier?" Hou Fei asked, and Jin pondered for a moment.

"I guess so. As long as I am being respected as a civilian and not treated as military personnel." Jin demanded, and Hou Fei laughed.

"I will make sure to emphasise on that. Though I'd like to know, any problems with military-related criticism?" The Royal Snake General queried.

"I've watched enough shows and read books to know that quite a number of civilians were being pressured to suit the military. If, we were in martial law... Sure, I will do as you ask. However, if they ask me to produce weapons or to hand over my minion's research for your own use, I will reject wholeheartedly and even disappear from this world if needed. The portal thing has already given me enough problems as it is."

"I thought you sent a few of your Demon Exorcists to the northern border?" Hou Fei asked, and Jin squinted his eyes at the general. He did not remember telling him any specifics, and Hou Fei realised that he made a mistake. (Or did he?)

"There is no need to lie since we are all part of the System. Since you already have some info... Yes, I sent them to take a look at the situation. The System informed me that their situation was not very favourable. Even Milk had to do some legwork to protect them." Jin disclosed and sent the information report to Hou Fei by asking the System to open it on his display.

"Hmm...those Demon Exorcists might be young, but they are talented warriors. To be able to have their special training done with Grandma Yuan had already proved that they were the cream of the crop." Hou Fei explanation made Jin realised once more that Grandma Yuan was no simple instructor.

"If those exorcists had problems fending off the attacks, I can't imagine how bad the situation might be if the Monster Horde breaks through the border walls." Hou Fei looked at the video clips that the System had caught with Milk's help, but he too did not recognise the monsters.

"Previous System User Yuan had been notified of the monsters, and she too had never seen such a variant before."

"You have a way to contact her? Wait, why am I not surprised..." Jin rubbed his temples as he shook his milkshake and sipped slowly.

"Are we going to fight against these bone spirit demons?" Lynn could already feel the chills going down her spine when she saw the Demon Exorcists desperately trying to fight against them. Even though one could say that they were only lightly armed, for an elite team to come barely alive was a cautionary tale.

"No, we will not!" Jin stated decidedly.

The tone of his voice left no room for arguments. "We already have enough on our plate. As long as we deliver the Portal Gates to that area and ensure they are in working condition, our job is done. The Military, Police and Border Guards will have to take care of them. And Hou Fei. I ask that you keep this to yourself. If JODE knows that I sent provisional demon exorcists to such a battlefield, they might have my head on a chopping board."

"But if your reports are right...that means the private contractors are not going to be able to subdue them entirely. We will need to depart as soon as possible and reinforce the borders." Hou Fei said, ignoring Jin's request as the Pandapolis Victory celebration for him was short-lived like the cigarette on his hand.

"I shall liaise Ke Loong to get it done, first thing in the morning," Jin replied.

"It's already morning though." Qiu Yue pointed as she looked at her watch.

"Let me get some sleep in... The previous battle was really tough." Jin complained with a sour face.

"Haha, just kidding. If you want, I can help you get in touch with Ke Loong after my shower. Besides, I am your store's assistant, right?" Qiu Yue offered as she stood up and stretched a little.

"A shower sounds like a lovely thing right now... Anyways, if you really do not mind, ask the System for more details. Most of the stuff should be ready by now." Jin thanked Qiu Yue, and she winked at him.

"Why are you winking?" Lynn caught her red-handed.

"Jin said he wanted a shower. He could use a backrub...you know." Qiu Yue answered as she made a towel appear instantly.

"I am going to keep putting barriers up against any intrusion, including the System!"

"Ouch, that's harsh Master. You should know I am right here, jealous that there are two young sprightly girls wanting to give you a comfortable shower. And yet you are rejecting them outright. System, I think you should start looking for a new master. This one isn't gonna give you any babies any time soon." Hou Fei teased, and suddenly he heard a particular device activating.

Jin had his System Driver nearby, ready to throw them out the door.

Chapter 807 Morning Debrief

Aside from the fact that Jin had indeed placed down barriers in case the System or the Sub System Users decided to do something funny while he was in the showers, he did have the chance to enjoy a good nap considering the circumstances for the duration of the night.

His bones and muscles did not ache as much though the Black Sludge Crystals that emerged out of him... seemed to be shinier compared to the dull, murky condensed appearance it once had. (However, he still found it disturbing that he could produce these crystals as if he was some magical clam making pearls.)

"System, what will happen if I do not produce any more of these Black Sludge Crystals, are you able to perform some of your procedures without it?" Jin asked casually while he changed his clothes.

"System already has multiple backup plans for such procedures but considering that User has created an excess quantity and the quality of the crystals keeps improving, System should have enough time to replace the procedures in the future."

"Well, at least it does not stink up the room nor creates a mess like that time in the Hot Spring Instance." Jin picked up the crystal and took a whiff of it. The crystal no doubt had a scent of his Maqi, but it was faint compared to the older ones.

"Any progress with the Metropolis? I recalled you saying that the foxes, especially the newest...oldest member has confronted a battalion on his own?" Jin asked as he performed his daily morning routine.

"Panda Remnant Rex had successfully subdued the entire battalion in less than 10 mins after he turned into a giant fox demon. To put it into perspective, he was as tall as Pandjilla and flattened the whole battalion with a blast of his chi." The System immediately put out a display screen and showed Jin the battle.

"No wonder, you said there was nothing to worry about," Jin said as he stuffed the toothbrush in his mouth.

"His giant form had also caused some disgruntled demons to challenge him. And Rex further declared to revise his conditions that if anyone was able to defeat him in 24 hours, he would renounce his position and give all the loot they had accumulated to the winner."

"Then I guess, demons are still raging in the Metropolis to fight with him?" Jin accidentally spoke out via the System Channel, and it got connected to the foxes.

"If you are talking about me. Yeah, I am still sitting right beside Paradiso to wait for challengers until the period for the demons to get their Dungeon Core back is over." Rex greeted Jin via the System Channel.

"Meanwhile, the rest are shopping and doing some sightseeing in the Demon Metropolis..." Pei grumbled as she was seen sitting on one of the nearby rooftops.

"Do you need some dungeon dollars? I can send you some." Jin offered as he gargled his mouth.

"That's not the point. Kraft wanted to make sure that the foxes stayed through the whole endeavour as support for Rex. He's also filming the fights. He seems to be planning to use the footage for something."

"You know, you really do not have to." Rex yawned a little in his Giant Fox form. Expending his power via the Giant Form did make him feel more relaxed, especially with all the pent up energy for the past centuries still circulating within him. Rex could not send all the chi energy out as it could potentially wipe up the entire Metropolis and then some.

"It's fine, I am interested in what Moloch is doing with the System. He seems to be busy looking through the data of the Demon Metropolis." Pei informed their master as she placed her head near the cotton toy and took a sniff of it as if he was her stuff toy.

"Stop that, I know I smell good." Moloch boasted as he reported to Jin something out of the norm. "I did briefly tell you about the resurrection process and the organisation in charge of it, right?"

"Yeah, some church handles it on your end and they are also the biggest ruling organisation for the Dungeon World or something."

"Mmhmm. Not long after the fight with the Demon Home Guards, some of them came right here to Demon Metropolis wanting to pay me a visit apparently. Pei nearly wrecked them mistaking them for demon challengers until I noticed their badges."

"Why would they come to visit you? I recall you saying they hardly bother Dungeon Core owners." Jin asked as he sat at the toilet bowl and scrolled his newsfeed.

"You seem to underestimate the significance of us defeating Baal. Technically, we did defeat one of the larger Metropolis Dungeon Core owners by successfully defending and attacking at the same time. No one has ever accomplished something like this before." Pei had initially thought that to be the reason why the Church of the Afterlife came to see Rex until the agents asked for a private conversation with Moloch.

"Well, that and something else. The Church Agents wanted that wretched crown. I told them that we destroyed it completely and even presented the broken jewel and a few unwanted parts of the crown." Moloch added with a slight grin.

The words 'unwanted parts' had already confirmed that the System already assimilated the essential portion of the crown into the System. "The Agents were more than a bit suspicious about that, but my poker toy face allowed them to confirm that those were indeed the remnants after the fight."

"Hey, you got to give Kiyu and me some credit too," Pei demanded as she squeezed the cotton toy a bit.

"Argh! Fine fine! The girls did some tinkering to their minds. I do not know how, but they managed to make sure that even their top mages would not be able to see a trace of her -ARGH their meddling."

"They did, however, insist on learning where Moloch found our group of humans. I think Demon Metropolis and Pandapolis will be under their watchful eye from today onwards." Pei analysed, and Jin sighed a little.

"Not the first time we have eyes all around us. Don't think it will be the last." Jin then asked the System whether Qiu Yue assisted in liaising with Ke Loong.

"Yes, System had noted that the trucks have been procured, and Panda Remnant Hou Fei was willing to provide security details for us as thanks for the defensive training exercise. Qiu Yue has also contacted the Royal Tigers administration team based on your previous brief call with Yuan Ba. They will be providing us with the list of their bases shortly."

"In conclusion, the portal machines would be on their way to their respective bases. User does not have anything to do with it anymore and can focus on other tasks." The System gave the report, and Jin was surprised to recall how efficient Qiu Yue was in such tasks.

"Sub System User Qiu Yue did ask for a backrub bath in return. System believes that would be the most optimal reward for a job which User dreaded to be a part of."

"After learning about the consequences of the job," Jin emphasised as he thanked the System for it. After his morning routine, he headed back to Pandapolis, towards the Pandastic Hotel for the feedback session that Hou Fei asked the Dungeon Supplier to join. (Yeap, he is totally going to ignore Qiu Yue's playful advances.)

Chapter 808 Breakfast with the Snakes - Part 1

"Master, have you decided on your breakfast? We have toasted bread with bacon and eggs. Or would you prefer an assortment of dumplings?" A crocodile waiter asked Jin for his preference as he was the first to arrive in the private room of Pandastic Hotel's main restaurant.

"I shall go with the first option, ah but can I have some Xiao Long Bao? I have a sudden craving for it." Jin placed the order, and the waiter nodded his head and was on his way.

"Sorry to bother you again, Master. Any drinks to accompany your breakfast?" The waiter stopped in his tracks and quickly turned to ask. After all, he was extremely nervous about serving Jin for the very first time.

"Ehh...Give me one Pu'er Tea," Jin said as he patted the waiter's shoulders. "Don't worry, you are doing a great job. Keep it up."

"Thank you, Master!" The crocodile waiter bowed briefly as he hastily returned to the kitchen to report the order.

"It's as if you are treating your dungeon AI creations with respect." Major Boon Tiong said as he came inside together with his buddies and nodded his head in approval.

"Treat a person well, and they will remember the favour, treating you back better. It's a give or take world. What if one day my minions suddenly became sentient? I cannot bear the consequences of being bad to them. Hahaha!" Jin joked as the bigwigs sat down with him for breakfast. Now it was his turn to be a little nervous, although the atmosphere was less strenuous compared to the first time they had met.

One of the main reasons for this might be because all of them wore casual clothes, and they were having fun talking to each other sharing their experiences.

"That's good to hear. You can always tell a lot about a person depending on how they treat those around him who aren't necessarily their equals. I would not forgive someone just because they excused their poor behaviour because the one they were talking to was digital." Colonel Kan Jian took an apple from the centre table and passed it to Jin as a sign of courtesy.

"Thank you, Colonel."

"I am not in my uniform, just call me Kan Jian. No need to worry too much about formalities right now." Kan told him with a smile on his face.

"Ah, but the VIP is here. As fashionably late as ever." Colonel Chen Lai spoke up just as Hou Fei came in sporting a Hawaii shirt looking like an old man enjoying his retirement in a fancy holiday hotel.

"The view outside is just too terrific. Can't blame me for taking a nice walk to refresh myself." Hou Fei replied with glee as a new waiter came bringing in some refreshments.

"Firstly, let's thank the dungeon supplier for a good fight." Hou Fei picked up his glass even though there was only tea in it and asked the group for a round of cheers. The rest chuckled at the absurdity of it but were willing to entertain their General.

"Cheers!"

"Yes, thank you for the fight. That last part where all the demons came in was chaotic. It really tested the limits of our soldiers and our current operating procedures. Though I have to admit, this was one of the most real dungeon experiences I've ever had. The money spent on the battalion was truly worth it." Colonel Kan Jian told him bluntly, and the rest agreed.

"Now I understand why you decided to keep this monster creation engine secret and your reasons for staying as the sole proprietor. Over 30 years going into various dungeon supplier stores, and this has to be the one that made me reminisce the first time I've ever entered one. The Demons that we fought were not some useless cannon fodder as I had anticipated them to be as well. They had that realism in them, almost making me feel that I was truly fighting against a live demon soldier." Chen Lai added.

"Remember guys, do not ask Jin about any secrets he does not want to share. He has the rights for it, after all." Hou Fei stressed, and everyone laughed bitterly, including Jin who knew the underlying tone beneath his words.

"Still, you got to admit. If we had those things in real life, it would definitely help us a hell lot. Not to mention the firepower we could obtain. It feels oddly realistic enough when I saw the Industry Sector. Wait a minute..." Major Boon Tiong picked up his phone and checked the Pandamonium Forums.

"Is that what you were implying when you posted that you could possibly create a medal to money conversation method? You can really build things in your dungeon instance like how the food here ...is erm all here?" Boon Tiong questioned, and it suddenly struck all the other Colonels while startling Jin quite a fair bit.

"Looks like the cat is out of the bag." Hou Fei had no choice but to side with his brothers in arms for this case. He too knew that eventually, people would find out about Jin's capability in dimension instances. It was all up to Jin to create an explanation for this right now. The only question was whether he could give them a good half-truth or not.

"Yeah, looks like you caught me," Jin admitted truthfully, surprising them all.

"I can indeed create things from raw resources to proper items in my dungeon instances." That one sentence alone blew their minds and left the entire group's mouths agape.

"I am not surprised that you are flabbergasted by the truth. Because for dimensional instances, people had been using technology to replace it ever since. Most either don't know or don't seem to care about the actual origins of these types of stores. Although not for the same purpose, the dimensional instances I create today are similar to the ancient times where they were an extension of the plane to live in."

"That is somewhat true. I can attest to that." Chen Lai, who was the most knowledgeable about Dungeon Instances concurred.

"So, I have looked into some ancient ways of remaking the dungeon instances alongside some of my trusted colleagues who have decided to remain anonymous and allowed me to act as the public face. We've managed to discover a method that allowed us to create a substantial reality with virtual assistance via technological means. That is why I am able to create some stuff from scratch because they are real."

"I assume there is a limit? Like I understand food farms and perhaps even creating simple tools. But production lines?" Chen Lai asked as everyone did not know how to reply.

"There is such a possibility, but I have not reached that level of sophistication. All those weaponry and futuristic items are still virtual items that could not be taken out of the dungeon instance. Still, I am looking forward every day to my colleagues and the researchers under us coming up with new ideas to broaden our horizon." Jin did not want to admit that he already could produce anything and everything as this kind of leaked knowledge could have catastrophic consequences.

"And here we thought General Ming's kid was just a nobody. We've always known that Ming was the secretive type. Seems like his grandkid inherited the same traits as him." Kan Jian said to Hou Fei as he laughed loudly.

"I wonder how those government honchos would react if they ever found out the truth..." Hou Fei thought to himself as he could see Jin was coming out of his comfort zone.

For good or for bad, only time would tell.

Chapter 809 Breakfast With The Snakes - Part 2

"You knew my grandpa?" Jin asked, and the entire group nodded their heads, and their smiles did not betray the memories they had with him.

"Not as well as our big boss here, but we also had the pleasure of being under his wings before he officially retired." Chen Lai explained and already recall all the old times which Ming whipped him and the others up to shape.

"We knew he had a grandson, but he wasn't one to share too much about his personal life. We never knew the whole story until Hou Fei told us about it. Looks like you did not have it easy when you are young too." Kan Jian said, but the dungeon supplier could only smile, withholding any comments he had about his childhood.

"Still, this is quite a surprise. I never thought to see a dungeon supplier embracing those old ancient ways. Even the Royal Dungeon Suppliers are all about the latest technology and gadgets to increase the realism of dungeon instances." Chen Lai tried to change the topic to a more positive one.

"Yet we experienced first hand how intense it can be with Jin's. Those Royal Dungeon Suppliers could not hold a candle to him if they were to meet up in the National Dungeon Symposium." Boon Tiong commented, and the other colonels voiced agreement.

"That is assuming we can keep the peace here by succeeding with our assignment, else you can kiss goodbye to any major conventions." Hou Fei emphasised, and his brothers in arms turned more solemn. "Jin, I have already relayed your report to my men. Still, they would like more information if possible."

"Heh, to think our new friend here is also a Demon Exorcist, let alone the upcoming Branch Manager of Shenzhen still continues to blow my mind. Sorry, General for not picking up this particular information. Our team should be reprimanded." Boon Tiong who was in charge of information collecting apologised publicly to the entire group for not getting the intelligence that Jin had collected.

"It is not entirely your fault. Dongguan and Huizhou are not exactly our jurisdiction anymore, and the Border Guards like to play punk because of that, saying we have no rights to interfere with their defences anymore. The Tigers are also a rather prideful bunch of people, but hey they at least bowed their heads just enough to let us come in to assist them." Hou Fei told Boon Tiong to hold his head up.

"I am honestly confused with all these...it's yours and mine thing." Jin blurted out, and the rest chuckled. For a moment they had forgotten that despite all of his accomplishments, he was technically just a civilian.

"Even though our clans hold a few territories and guard them fiercely, the government puts the Royal Clan's Military branches in rotation to protect each and every region equally. This is to ensure fairness among the clans and also to cross audit each other in case they are doing something nefarious like corruption or planning an uprising." Kan Jian explained.

"We rotate about every three years or so, and for our battalion, the last position we've been stationed in was Dongguan. From this year onwards, we will be in Shenzhen. The Tigers' military recently moved out of here and will be going into Huizhou." Boon Tiong added.

"You okay with me knowing all this?" Jin asked and Boon Tiong shrugged his shoulders.

"As an upcoming Branch Manager, I am sure it's fine for you to know. It's rather common knowledge despite it being classified to the public." Boon Tiong exclaimed.

"So, does that mean the Border Guards are in a way blaming you guys for not taking responsibility, and that is why you got called to go into battle?" Jin asked for confirmation on what he had just learnt.

"Not quite. We know the lay of the land better compared to the Border Guards because we actually trained in the forests and mountains. They are only responsible for wall patrols to ensure no dangerous monsters emerge out of them. If one tries, they would subdue and call the military to go in and find the source of mutation." Hou Fei explained.

"The situation was not as bad when we began moving our bases in November. We nearly lost a few troops, but they were able to locate a nest and destroy it. We thought the ruckus was over. Yet during

the transition in December, we received reports that there were more of those nests." Chen Lai revealed.

"Yeah, and because of the transition, we hired some private contractors to get the job done and informed the Border Guards to increase the security until we were done moving the bases. Only later in the middle of December, at the request of the Royal Horse Battalion, did they demand the Snake Battalion to come and finish up the job." Kan Jian grumbled.

"They are the ones stationed in Dongguan now?"

"Mmhmm. The Royal Horse clan always used its position to exert influences on all other Royal Clans because of their economic output and overall property value. But when it comes to combat, the Royal Horse Battalion is a joke. It's where all the softy, useless, snorty officers have assembled and their troops are such asses." Hou Fei cursed as he munched on his food, albeit a little angrily.

"Someone offended him before?" Jin asked, and the rest nodded their heads with a sigh.

"A lance corporal had the guts to badmouth our General here in public. Instead of receiving some form of disciplinary action from their officers, the Royal Horse General concurred to his soldier and let him off. If you were to do that such a thing in any other battalion, the offending party would receive punishment immediately because we respect rank rather than clan." Boon Tiong stated as he drank some juice to wash off the bad taste of that particular incident.

"Then why help them?" Jin asked as if he was thinking if they were giving the battalion some favour.

"We aren't." Hou Fei replied with a stern voice. "We are helping the Tigers instead. If the Royal Horses are so great, they can defend that place with the dirty money they have."

"But not everyone in the Royal Horse Clan is horse shit, Uncle Hou Fei." A female voice intervened in the current conversation when she opened the door to their private room.

"Sorry to tell you all this late, but I invited her as well since she was the one who wrote the report." Hou Fei's expression changed when Su Zhen came into the room while giving a quick wink at Jin. He had secretly turned to the System channel and told Jin that the System allowed him to bring her in.

The rest of the army officers casually greeted the Great White Snake Demon Exorcist, and she waved at them... except for Jin. She bowed slightly in front of the dungeon supplier before sitting right beside him.

"Heyyy... why the sudden courtesy towards me." Jin felt very awkward, and the others laughed.

"Because you are her big boss, you idiot." Hou Fei pointed out as he called for the waiter to bring in more pancakes.

Chapter 810 Breakfast With The Snakes - Part 3

"I know it's ironic to say this since we are talking about your report, but we are off work... So, you do not need to be so formal." Jin did not know how to react to Su Zhen's overtly polite manners, especially when all of them had been rebellious towards him up until now.

"We are all her uncles in the Royal Snake Clan. Unlike you, the upcoming Branch Manager of JODE, she had been taught to respect you more than us. Her mother demanded it so." Kan Jian was gleeful over Jin's helplessness.

"One day they were rebellious and the next, they were too well mannered. The situation stinks." Jin thought to himself.

"Sorry, Branch Manager." Su Zhen once again apologised politely for her 'proper' etiquette, but Jin vaguely suspected that it was actually sarcasm, and she was taking this opportunity to make fun of him.

"Ah, whatever. Just tell us what exactly you saw." Jin told her, and Su Zhen proceeded to tell everyone at the table about her experience. Although her food was served quite promptly, she never touched anything and continued until her report was completed.

"I personally believe this is not the time for politics, and both provinces should be aided equally." Su Zhen said, and the rest kept quiet for a while.

Even Jin who barely got into this business knew that this was wishful thinking from her part. Upon experiencing the Rat Triad himself, he knew that it was everyone for themselves and the 'good guys' could only do so much while the rest fought amongst themselves about whoever got a bigger piece of the pie.

"We will do what we can. Su Zhen, please eat your breakfast. It's getting cold." Hou Fei reassured the Snake Clan's newest Demon Exorcist.

"It's okay, I do not wish to burden you at the big men table for too long. Please continue your discussions without me." Su Zhen prepared to take her leave, and Jin did not stop her. He knew how uncomfortable it would be to sit beside someone you had to respect out of courtesy than be respectable at someone you admire.

"She is not an easy person to work with, but she's a nice lass. That is if you get to know her more." Chen Lai praised her to Jin as if he was doing some matchmaking procedure rather than for work purposes.

"Gah, why is everyone introducing me to someone as if I have to get married quickly so that I won't die alone by the end of the year?" Jin thought to himself.

"Probably because integrating User in the Royal Snake Family will certainly boost their reputation. They have recognised your abilities and believe it would be beneficial for them in the long run. System would like User to be cautious so as to not get influenced by them."

"Yet if User really does like Demon Exorcist Su Zhen, System takes back the advice. As long as there is a baby at the end, it's Users choice who to end up with."

".... You just want someone to inherit the System and continue my work." If Jin ever found out that the System had a physical entity, he was itching to beat the crap out of it.

"Affirmative. Thus far, User's work has led to positive growth in the System's capabilities. According to the numbers, a 2nd generation should be able to even further increase this positive trend. Naturally, the more potential candidates there are, the better. Nevertheless System is somewhat grateful."

"Somewhat. Wow. After all I've done, you are just 'somewhat' grateful."

"System believes User would prefer words more than statistical percentages to the amount of gratitude the System has in you."

"Whatever..."

"Jin, you listening? Or you are in your mind thinking about our Su Zhen already?" Boon Tiong snapped his fingers rudely at Jin when he was having a conversation with the System and staring into blank space and the others enjoyed teasing the little boy in the room.

"Oh! Sorry! No. I was just thinking about the Bone Spirit Monkey Demons that Su Zhen mentioned." Jin was quick enough to come up with an excuse.

"Tsk, you are not being honest to yourself. Hahahah!" Hou Fei teased as he realised that the System must have been having a chat with Jin.

"Any idea to quell such demons? They sound to be more difficult than the Demon Army you created." Chen Lai asked for conversation sake and to move that sensitive topic away from Jin.

"Not really. Besides, my advice would be useless since you guys are the true experts in the field of annihilating large threats. I will, however, send a report to Grandma Yuan and see what she says about it. Maybe, I can convince her to send some people to assist against the incoming Monster Horde." Jin said even though he already knew that Grandma Yuan does not have any idea about those Bone Spirit Demons. It was just a way to get them off his back for the moment.

"Actually, I already did that with Su Zhen's mother. Sorry to bypass the chain of command in your area of expertise but this is an emergency." Hou Fei stated that this was not a joking matter to him nor the people of Huizhou and Dongguan. Since Su Zhen's mother was the COO of the JODE organisation, the report should be able to reach the Chancellor faster than via Jin or his alleged mentor.

"Oh and eh, don't worry. I did say you were with the young ones when she queried why Su Zhen was fighting in the enemy lines... Also told Su Zhen to collaborate for that lie and she felt a little guilty upon learning that you were covering them for their... let's say initiative and curiosity to find out more about the truth." Hou Fei informed him via the System Channel since it was still a secret between the two of them. "But hey, they all came back safe and sound, and that's what's important!"

"Sigh... no wonder she was unable to look me in the eyes, unlike the previous times. I understand. I will take responsibility for my 'words' and actions."

"Attaboy. Sorry to put you in such a predicament." Hou Fei apologised to him via the System Channel.

"So, if things go well, the Demon Exorcists might be reinforcing the Royal Horse arses since JODE's chancellor is their clan's puppet and we can focus on cooperation with the Tigers."

"Hahah, this is the General Hou Fei we know and love. Even though you hate your enemy, you still send them aid." Kan Jian smiled at the news.

"We cannot allow ourselves to steep as low as the Royal Horse Clan, right? Besides Su Zhen's right, not all the Horses are black horses." Boon Tiong agreed that this was the best course of action to avoid conflict while keeping the peace between different battalions.

"Then if the Royal Battalions are in, will the normal part of the erm China Armed Forces come in to help?" Jin was a bit confused since he had always viewed them as one big organisation."

"After learning this much, we will probably not be using the people's army for battle, especially if the Monster Horde could be so dangerous. I believe the governors of Huizhou and Dongguan will use the local troops to evacuate the city if necessary." Kan Jian theorised, and the rest seem to agree to it.

"Yea, Tiger Head Yuan Ba also said that he would deploy police forces on that day to expedite the evacuation if necessary, from Shenzhen and Huizhou." Hou Fei added and realised Jin could not keep up.

"The police...is yet another field of politics. Let's just say that Yuan Ba is one of the co leaders for our local day to day protection services."

"I am more surprised that your Snake Clan's Head seems to leave everything to you to settle." Jin wondered, and the rest chuckled.

"Yet another layer of politics within the Snake Clan. Our Head dislikes getting out in the public too much, so that is why it feels as if Hou Fei is handling almost everything. And most of the public knows why...hopefully you too." Boon Tiong said, and Jin laughed bitterly.

"How can I not know? After all, snakes are infamous for their intelligence services." Jin replied.

"Yes, intelligence 'services'." Hou Fei said with an annoyed face although his mouth betrayed him as it was showing a smirk.