

## Dungeon S 821

### Chapter 821 Metropolis Justice - Part 1

"General Vual, please get up." Rex smiled when he saw General Vual kneeling right in front of him, pledging his fealty towards the new king. Ever since Rex had full control over the Demon Metropolis, he had been busy looking through the policies that had been made by King Baal and his predecessors. Without anyone disturbing him, he had delved deep into all the paperwork in the office and only got out for occasional mails which he placed at the door for his servants to deliver.

This was the first time that Vual finally had a physical face to face contact with his King and thus his kneel. "This is my office, not the throne hall. You don't have to abide by some sort of protocol when you are in here." Rex quickly dismissed the need for Vual to reassure his fealty.

"Thank you, my King." The General who had presented calmness and logic above all had been appointed as the right-hand man for Rex after the Panda Remnant had declared himself the city's new ruler. (Of course, the System had a hand in changing his allegiance as well.)

During the 24-hours recapture period, the Demon Nobles who hadn't participated in the assault against the Pandapolis had decided to band together all for the sole purpose to challenge him. (Even though he had warned all of them that he and his colleagues had defeated the entire Royal family, they kept coming at him as if that warning does not matter at all.)

"Now I understand why Moloch was extremely concerned about the state of the city," Rex concluded after he went over the current laws and decrees as well as the leftover letters and envelopes. The number of complaints from various advisors had been left ignored in a corner, and Rex was shocked to discover that this city was nearly at the brink of collapse were it not for its predatory way of conducting dungeon raids to keep it alive.

"But with your reign, I hope that these flawed issues can finally be righted." Vual bowed a little when he stated his wish.

"Hahaha! I certainly plan on doing exactly that. For now, we shall clean up the mess left by the previous administration. Assemble all of the officials in charge of the various ministries to meet up in the Grand Meeting Hall." Rex ordered.

"Understood." Vual immediately went to fulfil his objective while Rex called up Evon via the System Channel.

"I'm getting Vual to bring the ministers and advisors to the Grand Meeting Hall. Are you ready with your drugs?" Rex asked, and Evon was already grinning from ear to ear.

"I have prepared the truth serum and a bunch of other stuff in case we need it. I aim to please my King. " Evon teased Rex with his new title which the latter rolled his eyes away, but Kiyu supported Evon's teasing fully.

"My King, do you require some additional performance to quell your need for entertainment during the minister bashing party? If so, this humble butterfly is willing to dance for your sake~!" Kiyu offered with 'grace'.

"I heard bashing. I am willing to bash those corrupt ministers until their bones turn to dust." Ixel volunteered enthusiastically.

"Ah, let me have some fun with them as well! I suggest we should live stream it all and put it on national TV for everyone to see. Once they see what kind of fate awaits corrupt guys, no one will want to risk it. At least they'll learn that we are going to reform the city." Kraft added on, and Rex snapped back at all of them.

"You guys! I love you all but NO! This is meant to portray as the good guys, not some evil goons! I want to show the Demons that the future for them will be bright...well erm bright enough, hehe. Though I agree that broadcasting it citywide should be great entertainment and prove educational." Rex stated in a domineering tone.

"Tsu, Kai, mind doing the honours?"

"Definitely. We've rebelled for righteousness and justice. If this Metropolis is a step to do so for our real world, I do not mind." Tsu said, and his brother agreed to it by proceeding to the Mages Broadcast station and started to use Rex's name to prep the national telecast.

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"No, Sir! We cannot do that even though the King has the absolute right to our city!" The broadcast director refused to comply and was ready to defend the schedule that was placed on their current broadcast station.

"How about this?" Kai asked again as he dropped a bag on the table and when the director saw wads of dungeon dollars in it, he coughed and changed his tune almost immediately.

"Well, if you all insist. I should be able to squeeze a slot out for the new King to address his people." The Director 'graciously' allowed the twin brothers request and suddenly Tsu disappeared from his sight and slammed the director's head on the ground, causing a few Demon Guards who had been standing outside the room to rush in.

"As of 1040hrs, Director Gutelamo, you are hereby arrested for accepting bribery and shall be persecuted under the new anti-corruption decree which King Rex had signed this morning. Guards! Bring him to the New Central Police Station for questioning!" Kai shouted as Tsu grinned quietly while holding the broadcast director down. His palm had also generated enough chi to burn the director's head away if he decided to do something nonsensical.

"Wow, you guys are fast." Rex was a bit taken aback when he learned that Tsu and Kai had spared no effort in enforcing the law that he had placed about an hour ago.

"Swift justice and free the oppressed. That's the whole point of getting this Demon Metropolis, right?" Kai asked with an audible grin via the System Channel.

"Are you not afraid that the Metropolis people will rebel against us?" Pei, who had been on the sidelines, had listened in on the conversation. "Not everyone will like it."

"That's the rich minority. As long as we have the majority on our side, we can change this Metropolis into a better place. If it succeeds, we can possibly recruit other monsters and maybe humans to join us

too." Rex defended the action of the brothers before he told Tsu and Kai to hurry the broadcast since most of the advisors had already arrived.

"General Vual reporting via the System Channel. Sorry to interrupt this channel, but as instructed, I have placed guards around the Grand Meeting Hall to ensure none of these advisors escaped. Some of our officers have also managed to convince a few of the richer nobles to participate in this meeting, stating that it concerned the state of the New Metropolis."

"Excellent work, General Vual. I look forward to our future work together!"

Rex clipped a grey overcoat over his formal business suit and started to walk with modern grandiose towards the Grand Meeting Hall.

"For a better Metropolis. For a better life. For the poor and discriminated." General Vual renewed his vows in the System Channel, and the foxes cheered. (Even Pei unknowingly hoped for it too.)

"Exactly, time for the much needed culling. Let's prove that our resolve from the past has remained resolute to this day!" Rex said as he walked down the stairs.

## **Chapter 822 Metropolis Justice - Part 2**

"What are we waiting for? I have urgent meetings to attend to today!" Shouted a noble dressed in all expensive silk clothes and an exquisite fur coat exuding his wealth status.

"Calm down there, Litr. There is no way your anger will quicken the current situation." Minister Phaspho tried to talk the other party down even though he was equally frustrated that they were kept waiting for quite some time now.

The advisors, ministers and nobles who were on the scene did not realise that Evon had purposely leaked a minute amount of a rage inducing drug into the surrounding atmosphere that led them to be a bit on the edge. The Guards were oblivious to it as they had already also taken a pill of Evon's antidote so that they would not be affected. This enabled the Guards to stay rational and sane enough to keep the place in order.

As for the nobles and ministers, Angry people do not talk rationally, and that would eventually tip the scales further in Rex' favour. It wasn't that Rex was unable to beat them in an intelligent conversation but rather, if they were shown like this on a national broadcast, the general public would sympathise with the new king over their existing cabinet of ministers.

"Attention! Court is now in session!" General Vual shouted as his guards opened the doors for King Rex to enter the Grand Meeting Hall.

"Court session?" Phaspho looked around, and many of the other ministers and advisors were just as confused. Did someone mess up? Was this not a get together meeting to greet the king and learn more about his agenda for the Demon Metropolis? What kind of court session was he talking about?

Suddenly with a clap of Rex's fingers, everyone who had been sitting around the Grand Meeting table found themselves cuffed. Even some of the bystanders got magically bound, and the Demon Home Guards swarmed in from the various entrances and held them down.

With another clap, the furniture in the Grand Meeting Hall had been deliberately shifted, and the Demon Home Guards were carrying benches and even lock bars to hold the ministers in chains. In the meantime, the Grand Meeting Table had been teleported out by the System, providing the home guards with space to set everything up.

"What is the meaning of this!? Stop this nonsense immediately! It is not funny at all!" Litr shouted out with blazing fury. This was the first time he had been chained down, let alone by the authority of the Home Guards.

Instead of being ridden with guilt for shoving someone of Litr's standing down on the ground, the Home Guards who performed the act were elated.

They knew how much evil he had done with his business and connections, yet he had escaped countless times from the Demon Metropolis Central Police's investigation department. Many times, the leading investigator who had accumulated sufficient criminating evidence against Litr, had been abducted and the case against him must be dropped.

Those investigators weren't killed since resurrection was available. Rather, they got captured, tortured and their life had been made miserable than death itself. Rumours had it that some of the victims were left rotting in an isolated cell after being chained up with a limbless body. Some had it 'lucky' with their bodies cryo-freezing for eternity. (Sounds better? Actually, that meant they were thrown into an ice based dungeon core, and the place became their graveyard.)

Those were initially rumours... But when people started to go missing one after another and subsequently having entire investigative teams to suddenly disappear, it was not a mystery that they were taken care of to ensure the rich and corrupt were able to continue with their business. (Some even joke that being in the Major Crimes department for the Central Police was putting one foot into the grave.)

"Don't you think because you are the new king, I have to listen to you! My connections are far and wide. Enough to bring you down if you do not listen to me!" Litr cried in defiance but was abruptly interrupted by the Demon Guards with their batons.

"After you have seen what I could do? Nevermind, I guess there are some people who are that oblivious. Oh, and you don't have to listen to me talk that much. In fact, I am here today to listen to you. You, as well as everyone else who has been invited, will get the chance to give their testimony." Rex announced to the nobles, ministers and advisors that had been chained up within the meeting room. The Home Guard then rearranged them in an orderly manner and forced them to their knees.

In a matter of minutes, the entire place had been renovated into an impromptu courthouse for the first hearing under King Rex' ruling with the mages' broadcast being shown publicly without the knowledge of the ones accused.

While General Vual believed this method of rooting out corrupt officials was extremely brutal and unconventional, this was the first time in the history of Demon Metropolis that the ruling owner had

used such a course of action. He always considered corruption to be something normal even though Vual tried his best to avoid it.

There were times, it was too sweet of a deal, especially when it would help his department of Home Guards to grow. Yet, when confronted by Rex, Vual admitted to everything without the intervention of the System.

"That is why I was not wrong choosing you. From now on, you shall act as my right hand." Rex had praised the man and instead of punishing him, provided him with the opportunity to change the bleak reality they had been living in.

Still, it wouldn't be so easy. This being a court case, had instantly made the corrupted officials decide to keep their mouth shut. They had been interrogated before. They had been threatened before and yet all those did not matter as long there was money on the table.

Just by buttering a few fingers, those corrupted officials had been able to make all the problem go away. Not to mention, Kiva was previously at the top of their hierarchy, allowing the abuse of power and money to go unchecked as long as he received a cut from it. Alas, with him now gone, it had left a power gap that had made each official hungry to become the next Kiva.

One might say that demons were born this way, and unfortunately, that was how the majority were discriminated as such by the rest of the Dungeon World even though there were plenty of honest, peace loving demons. It was similar to the situations where monsters were stereotyped to treat humans badly and vice versa because of how the Dungeon Cores worked. But there were also many instances of monsters and humans cohabiting together.

Thus, Rex decided to change all of this in a progressive manner despite being in office just for a few days. He had learnt enough of this city's plight from Moloch as well the collective data from the System's ability to tap into everyone's mind after their capture.

In a glance, Rex knew what was wrong with their system and their way of life. But only through the System, it made him realise that those hard-working honest demons had been repeatedly ripped off by their richer counterparts. Seeing that they were being dominated in a fashion like how the Royal Zodiacs flaunted their power and wealth, Rex could not help but decide to use his power against these nobles.

He was now King. There were things a proper King should do to get the people's trust, and this opening act of his was one of them.

"Order! Order!" King Rex, now acting as judge, jury and executioner slammed his hammer demanding silence from the group.

However, the officials were not willing to listen. They defied Rex's command with even more shouting. Yet, the Home Guards were quick to silence them with the officials having no knowledge that the broadcast had already been airing throughout the whole city.

"I will be questioning each and every one of you to prove not only your subsequent loyalty to me but also to root out any officials, advisors or nobles who have wronged this particular city during the rule of King Baal," Rex announced, and that alone stunned every single person in the room. (As well as those watching.)

### Chapter 823 Metropolis Justice - Part 3

"First, let me show you the evidence we have collected, incriminating most of you here," Rex stated as he enlarged photos, documents for the whole court to see. Although the officials continued to be ignorant and kept mum despite their names and faces shown on those documents, the citizens of Demon Metropolis were taken back by the revelation. Many were so appalled that a number stopped work just to watch where this court session was going.

On the other hand, pockets of demons in various parts of the city started to break down and cry. Their muted call for justice seems to finally get answered today.

"Gosh, the corruption in this country is really terrible." Rex sighed and asked Moloch if he had any knowledge about it in the System channel.

"I do not remember it being this bad when I was the Royal Advisor. King Baal was quite a proponent in stemming out such illicit activities from the society. Because of our policies, a number of companies had decided to invest. Whether they did turn to the other side of the law and return back all depends on your performance." Moloch answered as he was actually the one projecting the event to the Broadcast Station for Tsu and Kai to manage the stream.

Where had that little bull toy been hiding in this Grand Meeting Hall?

Actually, he was right in the Dungeon Maker alongside Jin! He had previously set up surveillance cameras which had the capability to project whatever that was going on to the Broadcast station. With the variety of angles as well as zooming functions, it made the broadcast less of a deadpan and they were able to jump different scenes.

That was why the public initially mistook it for some new show rather than an actual trial. But it was also thanks to these functions which were not a constant stream of one particular angle that attracted more and more people to watch it. "Urgh, this city entertainment industry has much to learn from Jin's world," Moloch mumbled even though he too had been absorbed by the TV programmes in Jin's world.

"Any objections to this evidence?" Rex asked, and while Litr's instinctive reaction would be to deny everything, his entire body reacted preemptively forcing him to answer truthfully. He did not know what was happening. He felt as if the truth was stuck right in between his throat, and he had to vomit it out no matter what.

"Fuck fuck fuck! No, it's all true! I did those!" Litr shouted with excruciating agony as he felt himself unable to lie or pretend his way out.

"Very well. Now we shall bring in the witness to testify against you." Rex announced and told the System to prepare them.

"What are you talking about?! I already admitted to doing that? Why would you need to bring in witnesses?" Litr did not understand the whole trial procedure.

"Oh, it's just to solidify the case so that we can crush you completely. According to the reports you aren't usually this compliant... although that does not seem to be an issue right now." Rex turned his head to Evon, and he quietly and slightly nodded with pride. Not many of the officials who were at the scene caught that short exchange of nods, and even if they did, they were already too enraged and fearful of their own upcoming trials.

They did not know that the truth serum was being used and so effective that it would permanently change their brain physiology forcing them to speak the truth and nothing but the truth. Of course, that would inadvertently help Rex if the officials were to continue to be his ministers and advisors for the city. (But he didn't have high hopes for the majority of the officials after they were done with them.)

As ordered by King Rex, a few beast children started to walk in with the aid of the Demon Home Guards. They were none other than Teras, Lapp, Sola, Shen and Swee. The kids who had been in the Circle of Fraud which Tsu had rescued.

Litr saw the kids who he recognised in an instant because of their unique traits and started to panic. "No way...how could those kids be here?! I sent them to Paradiso to rot for all eternity?" Litr blurted out his thoughts without even realising it.

When Lapp saw that ugly rich noble, she immediately rushed towards him and kicked him in the face. The rest of the children were also filled with wrath, and it did not stop until the Demon Home Guards intervened to stop them. (They didn't halt them immediately on purpose as it was just too satisfying to watch Litr get what he deserved)

"Oops, maybe the rage drug in the room affected them a bit too much." Evon apologised on the System Channel, but the rest were delighted that the beast children had been able to get some physical revenge against the perpetrator who had placed them in Paradiso.

He was the one who had exploited them and even pulled strings to make up some ridiculous charges against them. Then he also bribed detectives and police officers ensuring they would be sent to Paradiso after finding out that they were responsible for providing information on him to the Central Police Investigation Department.

He never realised those kids were determined enough to challenge the Circle of Fraud. But a twist of fate brought the kids to the very same person who they had supplied information to. The lead investigator had been turned into a statue as punishment from the Litr Corporation, and was the one who taught them to kill and how to survive the Circle of Fraud.

The beast children had initially thought that it was karma for partially being responsible that he got turned into this statue. But over time, he had started to exploit their abilities and act in the same way Litr had done to maintain superiority in the Circle of Fraud. It was not until Tsu came to rescue them from living their life of misery and oppression.

After learning the connection, Rex had decided to take this matter to hand and use it as the precedent case to display what kind of ruler he would be. He might have cared about the discriminated demons in due time anyway, but none of the foxes had expected him to take such a drastic measure against the corruption until those children appeared on the scene.

With each and every testimony from the beast children, they accused Demon Noble Litr of way more than just Minor abuse. Paedophilia, child trafficking, and even renting the children to businessmen and women for their own twisted desires had come to light. The public was once again horrified by the staggering evidence against one of their more well-known philanthropists, and Litr was unable to deny any of those accusations from the beast children testimonies. In fact, thanks to Evon's drug, he added things that the children hadn't even been aware of.

While the trial was going on, General Vual was dispatching more and more of the Demon Home Guard to raid the corporation offices and people that Litr named. Ever since the inception of King Rex, it was a task that Vual and his officers had trained for, prepared to throw down the swift hammer of justice on that scum.

This first part of the trial alone had already solidified the people's trust for the king and placed fear into the hearts of evildoers.

#### **Chapter 824 Metropolis Justice - Final**

"...Noble Litr will be stripped of all of his assets in the coming days. He will assist the Home Guards to dismantle his entire wealth and help unveil any hidden operations that have been going on away from the public's eye." King Rex announced the verdict, yet he could literally hear the crowd outside.

Apparently, the public wasn't satisfied with such scum getting off easy, and demanded more justice.

"Don't you think you're relieved a bit early, Litr? I have yet to bang my hammer." Rex smirked as he drank from a cup of water to quench his thirst.

"Because of all the atrocious crimes you've committed, especially against all these poor children, I hereby also sentence you to life imprisonment in Paradiso as soon as it is rebuilt. For the moment, you will be kept in the maximum cell security prison under the Central Police Station. We've prepared a cell for you which cannot be unlocked unless I personally come over to fetch you." Rex added.

"All of your statuses is hereby erased, and your entire household will be placed under arrest until investigations have cleared their names. Until then, they will be treated guilty until proven innocent. All of their assets would also be freezed. There is no way out for you no matter how you see it. You are not allowed to appeal nor request for bail. The sentence I give would be absolute."

"Lastly, you will be receiving five strokes of the cane on a daily basis and be kept alive for eternity. Don't you worry. I won't let you die that easily. We will butter your ass up with lots of medicinal oil if we need to." Rex said with a gentle smile, but it spoke volumes of terror which Litr could not comprehend at that moment.

Litr stared at the absurdity of the sentence, and tears started to leak out of his eyes pleading for leniency. "Please my liege! I have admitted to all my crimes! I have even voluntarily given you the names of those involved. Don't I deserve a lighter sentence for my cooperation?"

"No, you do not. For decades you have been involved in shady business. You did not care about the well being of others. You have sent children into Paradiso because they 'betrayed' you as you claim, ignoring the circumstances they had to live in. You confessed because you did not want to bear with the pain as you saw the guillotine upon your neck already coming down. Such behaviour does not deserve any sort of lighter punishment. That's all." Rex replied firmly.

Soon enough, those officials would all discover that there was actually a second part to Evon's truth serum. If someone tried to keep the truth by not saying anything, it would come along with more and more excruciating pain.

However, as to not waste any time, all Evon had to do was to activate the truth serum via his own chi and the accused would be forced to speak the truth while at the same time still suffering the pain. The Fox of Drugs did not have to worry about death since they would either die and disappear forever or resurrect at the church and continue with the trial. It was a lose-lose situation for them, considering the resurrection point couldn't be changed.

"Now, you've wasted enough of my time. Guards, bring him away and get the next official or noble to the podium." King Rex ordered, and the Home Guards were delighted to comply with their new King's commands.

As the next official came, it was ironically Minister Phaspho who had assured Litr that this was just a show of power. "Ah... Minister Phaspho, I heard much about you too. You've witnessed how I shall conduct these trials, so let's proceed quickly, shall we? We have wasted too much time exposing Noble - oops I meant Litr." Rex's grin at that moment wasn't any less evil than Kraft's, and the foxes could never imagine how happy Kraft was when Rex enforced such cruel justice.

Phaspho was under the impression that touching the book of 'truth' would cause him to spill out his secrets, and with defiance, he tried to avoid it as much as possible.

But refusing the 'book of truth' did not change anything as long as Evon was there. All Evon had to do was to increase the dosage or activate his chi for it to spill his entire life's story.

Thus his resistance to swear an oath was futile for Minister Phaspho, and Rex began his line of questioning without further ado. (After all, there was a line of 'criminal' ministers waiting to be judged.)

Similar to Litr, multiple crimes got exposed to the public, and by now almost the entire population of Demon Metropolis was earnestly watching the entire broadcast. Many were angry that the people who were supposed to act for the common good were so corrupt when they promised things to get done.

After each accusation against the culprits, King Rex's sentences ended up based on the offences they admitted to having committed and soon after, it was the next official.

Only after 74 hours of non-stop interrogation, the longest trial ever to be held did Rex let the hammer fall for the last of the officials. The Home Guards had already scheduled rotations so that they would not get overworked but for the accused officials and nobles... They were not allowed any rest except for toilet breaks which were also supervised in case they tried to make a run for it.

No food or beddings were provided, and they had to kneel until the end of the trial session. Naturally, most of them ended up sleeping in that position, but what surprised even the Home Guards was King

Rex being around for the entire time without breaks. (Although there were slight stretching during intervals.)

For that period of 74 hours, Rex had not eaten a single piece of food nor taken a wink of rest. His focus actually got sharper as the hours went by, and even Evon had shown his ability to stand all day, by his side.

The entire Demon Metropolis was in a way moved by the dedication of their new King, but at the same time couldn't help but question his purpose.

For the past 74 hours, the Home Guard had been busy raiding the accused houses for jewels, treasures and money. Yet, all that ill-gotten money was technically still taxpayers' income. What was Rex intending to do with it?

Was this trial just a way to amass all the wealth or would he be distributing it back to the people, or at least use it for the people's wellbeing? The critics were still sceptical about it even though Rex had conducted a brilliant job clearing the current administration. The second problem the critics in the news industry pointed out would be getting new officials to take over for their jailed predecessors.

Those ex-officials might have been corrupt, but at least they had been somewhat competent in their work. By arresting them all, it left a big gap, which might actually prove to be disadvantageous to the new King.

Yet, the King who after slamming the hammer to conclude the trial session had no qualms with that especially when he had the System and the foxes by his side.

In no time, Pei got assigned to be partially in control over the health ministry department. Although Kraft teasingly told Pei that she did not need to be with them any longer, she refused adamantly yet demanded Rex to allow her to work remotely.

Tsu and Kai had been assigned to deal with internal affairs, and mainly the coordination of departments. Ixa was assigned to the transportation department while Itori the education department. As for their brother, Ixel decided to head the police department while General Vual became the sole defensive force after the Demon Metropolis' defeat against Pandapolis.

Even though Kiyu was currently working for her mission, her position in the Metropolis would be foreign affairs as Rex knew how that girl could sweet talk anyone.

Evon had been appointed to head the science and research department while Kraft... was given nothing.

"Big Brother. I am so hurt. I've been nothing but good to you, and this is how you repay me?" Kraft asked overly dramatic via the System Channel.

"Knowing you, I believe it's best not to give you any position," Rex admitted, and the group could hear a relatively quiet snort from Pei. "But because of that, you will not have to report to anyone, not even me. Feel free to probe at everyone's stuff."

"That's equivalent to the King's position..." Kai pointed out, and Kraft literally jumped with joy.

"BIG BROTHER KNOWS ME BEST!" Kraft shouted as he instantly disappeared from the chat.

"You sure it's a good idea, King Rex?" Pei asked, mentioning his title with some lofty sarcasm.

"It's not like you do not know him. If I were to give him something official, he would just get bored after a while. After all, he hates having someone tell him what he can and cannot do. Besides, despite his devilish ways, he always gets the job done and often he is going the extra mile." Rex tried to defend his proposition.

"More like childish ways..." Pei resigned to that fact and looked up the Demon Metropolis health policies and related items. Even though all these jobs were temporary until a suitable official could be found, it was still a good time killer for Pei while protecting Jin.

The reform of Demon Metropolis might have started, but the toughest part has yet to come.

## **Chapter 825 Stalking Tiger, Hissing Snake**

"Finally, some rest!" Hou Fei sighed as he sat down in a corner stacked with supply boxes and took out a cigarette for a smoke. He had been coordinating all morning with the Border Guards for the first wave of forest sweep.

The Border Guards were initially confused as to why the Royal Snake General were to bring such heavy machinery and even lending them some of it. But even without any exchange of words, they knew it was better to over prepare than not having anything. Thus, the Captains of the various Border Wall Sections and a select group of guards went through a quick induction course with some of the heavier weaponry like rocket propelled grenades and even heavy machine guns.

"You sure make it hard for people to find you. Were it not for your rank, I would have reprimanded you already." A man in combat fatigues noted as he casually waved at Hou Fei which he had caught smoking.

"Tsk, are you sure you're a tiger and not one of the dogs? How hard did you sniff to find me?" Hou Fei replied, but despite his harsh tone, he offered the man his box of cigarettes.

"To chase a slippery snake like you? I had no other choice." He answered with a laugh and accepted the box of cigarettes. Hou Fei even lent him a light.

"Still, it's a surprise to see the almighty Royal Tiger Battalion General in the field. I was sure you would be fiddling with your computer from your triad basement or remain on the sidelines." Hou Fei teased as he pointed his cigarette at the laptop that the general was holding on to.

"Someone else is temporarily coordinating the Triad members for me. Else, how could the police ensure its 90% catch rate of bad people without the direct influence from the Royal Tiger Family?" The Royal Tiger Battalion's general was none other than San Ya Bai, who was simultaneously the Three Eyed Tiger Triad Leader.

"Don't pretend you know everything about the bad guys. You did not foresee the Ruby Rat Triad Boss going for Jin, did you?" Hou Fei asked, and Ya Bai chuckled with a puff.

"That, I cannot deny. I was aware of the tensions, and at most, I predicted some Rat Triad resistance or skirmishes around Tiangong district. But for the boss himself to go out and deal with that Jin? I have to admit that decision of his continues to baffle me even now. At least, now I know where the loyalty of the police chief in Tiangong district lies. He will go far as long as Jin grows in prosperity." Ya Bai admitted as he sat on a box and enjoyed the puff of smoke.

"Looks like Tiger Head Yuan Ba has good foresight to make Jin into an honorary Royal Tiger Clan Member then." Hou Fei said with a bit of spite.

"There is nothing stopping the Royal Snake Clan to bestow him with the same honorary status too, you know? Although it would be the first time for a person to receive honorary status from two different Royal Zodiac clans." Ya Bai mentioned.

"Is it really necessary to use Jin as a political tool?" Hou Fei questioned, and Ya Bai was a bit surprised.

"I did not know you cared for that kid that much. Is it because he's Ming's grandson?"

"Yes. Ming specifically asked me to take care of him. Shelter him from all this nonsense if possible."

"Sad to say, but in the current era, no business can grow rich and famous without any meddling from the political scene. Even if one managed to steer away from politics, he or she would still get affected by the indirect influences of it."

"That is why it's best to get Jin now, eh?" Hou Fei could not deny Ya Bai's reasoning.

"That's one of the reasons. Although, perhaps more importantly is that our Tiger Princess seems to have taken a liking to Jin. Let's not forget that the kid also saved our Clan Head. All the more for us to interfere with Jin's life." Ya Bai vaguely reminded Hou Fei that the Snakes did not have anything like that could keep Jin at their side except for Hou Fei's relation with Ming.

"You might be surprised to learn how close Jin and I have become." Hou Fei raised his eyebrows for a moment as if he got another secret to keep and a warning that the Snakes can be as protective.

"Besides, last I remember was that your clan kinda forced your status on him to use the Portal devices."

"Heh, he had to prove his usefulness. That's all I can say." Ya Bai replied before a short awkward silence filled the air. "...Is he coming to fight in this Monster Horde incident?" Ya Bai changed the topic a little as if they would be expecting him.

"We both know that I've contracted him to be our backup plan for the evacuation. As for whether he does anything more than that... well, that's up to him." Hou Fei answered even though he knew a bit of the counter offense plan that Lynn had prepared if things went wrong via the System.

It was insurance by the System in case any unexpected clash were to happen between him and other troops.

"Heh, that alone is enough information." Ya Bai sneered as he handed a Royal Tiger Battalion Badge Pass to Hou Fei. "Give this to him once you see him. It should prove useful if he comes into contact with any of the private contractors."

"You make it sound as if it's a sure thing I will meet him."

"Doesn't seem impossible since we all have the portal devices now." Ya Bai grinned as he put out his cigarette and he waved goodbye to Hou Fei without looking at him.

"Nice private chat. Once this is all over, feel free to come and pay us a visit. I'll let my wife prepare your favourite meal again."

"Does the System need to subdue that particular General?" The System asked, and Hou Fei smirked.

"Nah, he is just as resourceful as the Snake's Head. No wonder they sometimes say that competent Tigers are good stalkers." Hou Fei answered the System, and the badge immediately disappeared from his hand.

"Ah, Sir!" A Royal Snake Soldier finally found his General.

"Damn it, so much for taking a nap." Hou Fei complained, and the Royal Snake Soldier saluted and apologised.

"Apologies, General. Colonel Chen Lai needs you at the frontline as soon as possible. They've are going to commence the sweep at 1100hrs." The Royal Snake Soldier reported.

"I thought Colonel Kan Jian was getting a few APCs (Armoured Personnel Carrier) and an Apache helicopter from Shanghai before we start?" Hou Fei threw his cigarette butt on the floor and squashed it.

"General, there are new and sudden activities being caught on the radar. They are approaching fast. Approximately moving at 50km/hr. That is why Colonel Chen Lai decided to proceed with the sweep." The Royal Snake Soldier reported.

"That is weird. Way too weird. God damn it. Is it really true that this is an intentional act?!" Hou Fei gripped his hands as those thoughts went through his head. The Royal Snake Soldier merely stood there waiting for his General.

"Did Major Boon Tiong contact the Horse Clan in Dongguan about it already?"

"Sorry General, I'm not aware. I will pass the message after I complete my current orders."

"It's fine, belay that order. Lead the way." Hou Fei ordered as he took his phone and called the General of the Royal Horse Battalion.

## **Chapter 826 Evacuation Plan Ready!**

"The Military Sweep has started on Huizhou and Dongguan." The System informed Jin just when he was replacing Yun for her lunchtime break. In comparison to the supposed tension, the customers in the shop were utterly oblivious to the soldiers that were risking their lives to protect them. Jin never felt that way until today, and he once again learnt that ignorance was indeed a disguised blessing.

"I see..." Jin said as he took his phone out and requested the System to check if there were any news about it. He was expecting news blackout on the situation, but with the System's advance search, it might be able to search for some gossips.

"Negative. After checking all news outlets in this country, the information closest to the truth was a short article about an exercise being conducted around the borders of Dongguan and Huizhou. Private forums required more time, but a quick search resulted in zero hits on User's query." The System reported back.

"So, just another training exercise, huh." Jin began to wonder how many times when he had seen the words "training exercise" in the papers it was merely an excuse to actually cover something up, just like what Hou Fei and the others were currently doing.

"User, your heart rate has elevated. There is not much you can do at the moment. System would like to advise you to focus on the business for the time being. Even if there is a war right outside your doorstep, User has to remain calm and carry on with his work." The System stated that protecting his shop was the most important thing for a businessman.

"As if the past wars we got ourselves into were not enough to realise that." Jin chuckled a little as he stared at the audience from the bar table that the shop had ever since its inception. Nevertheless, he felt a difference now that it was his own world that was at stake. Was this how the Goblin Trio, peggies, Minotaurs and even the Jacks had felt?

"Sigh, it's only been a few months, but it already feels like forever."

"If the System were to put the time compression and dilation into perspective of User's current lifespan working on Dungeon Instances, it would approximately be close to two years."

"In this case, I am definitely gonna die sooner than Gramps." Jin bitterly laughed at the impromptu analysis of the System. "Anyways, I was thinking of changing-" Suddenly they heard Qiu Yue screaming on the System Channel.

"FINALLY DONE!!!" She happily reported to Jin that the prefabricated buildings had completed.

"Thank you Qiu Yue, go enjoy a nice bath (without any Jin massage) or eat some good food to relax. The sweep has just started, so we do not have much time to rest in case we proceed with the counter offence." Jin thanked the Red Panda Cultivator for her job.

"Seriously, you are already assuming the worst?" Qiu Yue questioned as she took a picture of the buildings she had built. Yes, with the Empire Building Sub System, she had spearheaded the building process by utilising its powers without the aid of the monsters.

Although it was more efficient to set up herself, the constant use of the Empire Sub System is rather draining and the extra money needed to be spent to make those construction materials was way more than when she used the Orc Workforce to build it from scratch. Besides, even if Qiu Yue could have asked the Orcs to do it along with her, they were busy performing maintenance of Pandapolis after the offensive raid.

The defence plans she had in store for Pandapolis were meant to reduce the amount of maintenance needed while keeping the cost low. However, King Baal's mass teleportation spell had single-handedly

overtaken any plans they had designed, and while Pandapolis did not end up in ruins (their worst case scenario), major repair works were still needed to ensure that it could be operating smoothly for the real opening of the city.

With her Empire Building Sub System, she was able to control simple blocks of prefabricated concrete levels as if she was in a video game. Her phone turned into a pair of Control Gloves as if she possessed high-level telekinetic powers to move the blocks into place.

Her Red Panda mask, which was connected to the Sub System, also reminded her of the pieces that needed to be placed to ensure that the building was ready for use.

Metal pipes and electrical wiring were done with a swipe of her control gloves while the levels of concrete snapped into position like lego building blocks with locking mechanisms. This was to ensure that those prefabricated buildings could be removed in a jiffy as well.

"Hahah, as a businessman, I have to assume the worst, right? Besides, we cannot disappoint the customer who rented our instance space for this much money." Jin said, and Qiu Yue giggled.

"You sure are exploiting them for charging such a high price. No matter how I see it, the dungeon instance space and materials do not cost that much." Qiu Yue, who knew exactly how much the material cost was for all this preparation, retorted.

"Got to factor in my workers' wages, right?" Jin asked with a smirk, and Qiu Yue's eyes brightened up.

"Does that mean what I think it does? A FAAAAATTTTTT bonus for the incoming red packet?" Qiu Yue asked with excitement.

"Who knows?" Jin tried to be mysterious, but his voice betrayed his words, and Qiu Yue was once again screaming at the top of her lungs. Some of the monsters who were doing some minor works near her had been shocked by it but laughed it off.

"By the way, what happens to all these buildings if they don't end up being used? Or after they were to be removed after this evacuation is over?" Qiu Yue finally calmed down as she teleported back to her room.

"I was gonna hand them over to Rex. He is reforming their city. Did you recently watch how he basically accumulated a massive amount of funds from bagging a number of corrupted officials and is forcing those corrupt officials to reveal other scum bags." Jin answered.

He had followed the Litr Corporation Trial and was wow-ed by the performance. Now Jin roughly understood why Kraft looked up to Rex as an older brother.

"Yup, I saw that trial too, though I only watched the first part. He is really one amazing person. You should work towards becoming like him." Qiu Yue teased him, but was also half-serious.

"Hahaha. Perhaps if I had a thousand years or more on my belt? Anyways, he did say that he wanted to bring down the slums and create proper housing for them. So, these prefabricated buildings could be the perfect answer for that situation. If we have the time, maybe you can construct more of it for him." Jin suggested, and Qiu Yue realised that the Dungeon Supplier was shrewd too.

"Nice. These prefabricated buildings are sturdy enough to last for at least 50 years. With some maintenance and a bit of improvement work on them, they can definitely become decent housing for the poor. Also, if they get targeted by other Dungeon Core invasions, the buildings are cheap enough to replace. Definitely a good means to replace those slum settlements." Qiu Yue wholeheartedly agreed to that proposal.

"If they can raise the poor out of their poverty or at least improve their quality of life, we should be able to benefit from it as well," Jin said as he could see that his source of money would finally be enlarged by a huge jump.

"User will then finally be able to return the money you owe the System." The System suddenly interrupted, and the two System Users burst into laughter.

### **Chapter 827 Worst Possible Momen**

Just as Jin and Qiu Yue were laughing away at the System's impromptu comment, the situation took a sudden change.

"Emergency. EMERGENCY!" The System was blaring out through the channel. Nearly every monster who was working suddenly stopped in their tracks.

"What is happening?!" Jin quickly took a look at his phone and realised the screen display had already been switched to a view of the Farming World.

"System has detected a significantly large magical presence right above the town Wecha." The System stated as it had already taken the initiative to teleport Peppers into the field.

Although Pandapolis had been a clear priority for Jin and his monsters because of the imminent attack from King Baal, they had not left the last remaining major trade centre of the Northern region completely defenceless. Silver and the rest of the Jacks had been reinforcing the town as well as they could, taking care of the refugee population in the area.

Gold and his cousin took turns to train the refugees from various towns and taught them basic fighting skills. They might not account for much in the grand scheme of things, but at the very least they would be able to do their part in defending the (second to) last remaining sanctuary for humans.

"Is it some mass wide offensive magic?" Jin also asked if the town had already been equipped with Ayse's shield generator.

"Affirmative. The shield generator has already been booted up by Silver. However, the System is unable to recognise the pattern as it has been shrouded with some form of unknown magic. Bellator Peppers has been teleported to the scene to investigate while enhancing its magic defence systems."

"Shit, of all times this had to happen now! Just what kind of twisted fate do I have with rats?" Jin cursed as he called back Yun to take over the counter as soon as she was done with her break. Meanwhile, his astral form allowed Jin Two to temporarily hold the fort in the shop instance as he checked out the situation in the Dungeon Maker.

"Right now is not the worst possible moment. If the Demon Rats from the Farming World had launched an offensive during our defensive battle against the Demon Metropolis, it would have been far more devastating for the town of Wecha." The System reasoned, but Jin was looking for someone else.

His one and only spy who had been monitoring the Rats ever since she had managed to get into the Northern's Region Capital.

Sure enough, the magic signals by the System were not a lie as Sebastia's constant scouting immediately noticed something was off with the current capital occupied by the rats.

"Master, it seems that-"

"Holy mother of - JIN, THERE IS A FREAKING FLYING FORTRESS...above me!" Peppers excitedly reported. She had wanted to blow it into pieces the moment she laid her eyes on the piece of land that had a variety of engines and machines installed at the bottom of the island to keep it afloat.

The only thing stopping Peppers from attempting exactly that were the consequences of blasting it right over the Town of Wecha. The resulting debris meteor shower would rain down, unquestionably killing many citizens and refugees residing in Wecha.

While she could conjure a wide energy barrier after an explosion massive enough to take it out, she knew all too well that her strongest 'spear' would defeat the strongest 'shield' in her arsenal. Thus, Peppers unwillingly followed the System's orders to create a large enough energy barrier, surrounding the town of Wecha.

"Cough! As I was trying to say. Master, it seems that a portion of the Northern capital where I've been hiding has somehow emerged over Wecha. I can see the view from where I am spying has turned into an endless ocean of blue skies. No wonder the rats have sent all the human slaves into the castle. They might be used to boot up the steam engine." Sebastia finished her report by stating that she would continue to go deeper into the floating fortress to gain a better grasp of the situation.

"Looks like the fortress hovering is mainly due to the steampunk technology Weslie had invented..." Jin took a look at the steampunk floating fortress as it seemed to be descending towards the town itself.

Suddenly, giant pillar supports emerged out of the fortress and sank into the ground around Wecha's enhanced shield barrier.

"Damn, I had hoped they'd be stupid enough to force itself through my barrier." Peppers pouted as she saw the pillars avoiding the shield. She thought they would be stupid to do just that.

"I have a very bad feeling about this." Silver said in the System channel, and the others shared his bleak outlook.

"What are you guys staring into space for?!" Qiu Yue shouted in the System Channel. "Aren't we supposed to protect the remaining Northerners and get rid of those pesky rats? If the rats are gonna rain down now, are we going to allow the rats to dominate?!"

"Well said. Orcs, stop the maintenance work, go to your battle stations and get ready to be teleported into battle! Orc Artillery Company Alpha, Bravo and Charlie, prep as many High Explosives rounds you

can into the storage trucks for teleportation! Remember we can only carry that much for the fight!" General Nubwort sent the command, and every Orc dropped their tools to sortie quickly.

"Gobs! You heard General Nubwort! Will we allow ourselves to be outdone by them?! Activate any usable Fortress Golems and standby for teleportation! Wyvern Goblin Knights, sortie in five!" Wyrstriker shouted through his command's sub channel as well.

"We might be a smaller group compared to the Orcs and Goblins but let's not forget this is our home, Jacks! Make sure every able citizen militia has retrieved their weapon from the armoury and remember to give out the basic protection for them! Silver, Brown, Yellow bring the elderly to the Militia headquarters basement!" Gold ordered, and Jin found it weird.

"What about the women and children?"

"What are you talking about? They are fighting along with us." Gold answered as he shut the main communication channel out and tuned into the Jack's sub channels. Jin might not be fighting in his real-world, but he had made a commitment to save the Northern Region in the Farming World.

This was one fight he wouldn't back away from... even if it meant skipping out on the counter offence.

## **Chapter 828 Militia Defence**

The cylindrical metal pillars descending around Wecha were like open floodgates for the rats to swarm out from. And unlike the Demons from Metropolis, these Demon Rats were armed to the teeth (literally).

Hundreds of these monstrous steampunk infused machinery rats were dangerously strong just from the looks of it. From heavy armoured steampunk suits to large cannons on their backs, a majority of the Demon rats were upgraded at least once more for this particular assault to remove the last few bastions of humanity.

Even Silver believed that standard swords and shields would be indefinitely useless against them. However, the rats hadn't yet realised that their enemy was also quite the unconventional bunch of soldiers.

Similar to the Orcs' arsenal, the militia had infused inscription charm weaponry that allowed them to change their swords into rifles. Unfortunately, there was a drawback to the militia's weaponry.

In order to prevent the rat from taking away the weapons after defeating their owner, the System and Jin had decided that those weapons needed to be imprinted on their users.

In essence, this meant that they had to sacrifice a portion of their lifeline to activate the inscription charms for the weapons to change into modern rifles capable of fighting evenly with the steampunk rats. In short, sacrificing their blood and body to activate the charms for a shot at fighting against the rats.

It was harsh and cruel but because barely any humans in the Farming World were trained in the ways of magic, resorting to this type of blood magic had been deemed the easiest implementation. Initially there was resistance in getting them to use those until Gold had convinced them with a demonstration of their firepower. Able to easily pierce into the cast iron used by Demon Rats' steampunk armour, the townsfolk realised they finally had a fighting chance against them.

The inscription charms were also numbered and indexed by the system, enabling it to track the citizens on a grand scale and deactivating those weapons upon their death. In addition, there was a surprise waiting for the rats who thought it would be a good idea to pick up the militia's weapon for their own use.

Upon illegal usage of the weapons, the System was able to self detonate the weapons, causing damage to the rats who held onto them. Meanwhile, Ayse had devised an even more sinister way of exploiting this looting issue. She had proposed to place an additional inscription which would possess such a rat and brainwash it to fight for Jin momentarily. Unfortunately, the project could not be completed in time because of this unexpected invasion.

There was, however, a sort of saving grace from the blood magic. By sacrificing a portion of their life, the System had added their identities into its database in case some of them were not able to sign a contract with the System in time. This meant that the militia would not die in vain as the System had acquired their DNAs and souls through the weapons.

This was actually in lieu with Jin and his monsters plans for a full-on offence against the rats once they discovered all of their many hiding areas with the help of Peppers' legendary Scan magic. Regrettably, he had never expected that the rats would have the first blood by attacking Wechat so quickly despite what they had deemed sufficient surveillance through the help of his monsters.

The citizens who had collected their weaponry and basic armour from the various provisional armoury camps quickly mounted the nearest defensive walls. Usually, chaos would ensue with this kind of sortie, but all the officers in command were the Jacks who had been the ones to train them.

With the aid of the System, it was easier to coordinate the sortie, and the militias were able to get deployed in time.

Meanwhile, the Demon Rats began banging themselves against the energy shield until they realised that each touch of the shield would result in a minute explosion, blasting them away from the shield. Demon Rats who being mechanised to have battering rams tried their luck too but to their surprise, those battering rams broke down from the knock back explosion. Ranged projectiles also proved to be rather futile as well but some officers knowing that no shield is perfect, commanded its warriors to keep the pressure up.

Just as anyone might expect from Peppers, even her shield had an explosive blowback feature, and all those previous bursts of high intensity magic in the various wars allowed her to better control the mana output to the shield. She had dubbed it the Living Barrier of Explosions as she could instantly detect the coordinates where the contact read and release an explosion accordingly.

Nevertheless, her body was still itching to blast that big fat juicy target dangling above her despite knowing it would be detrimental for the entire town. "Arghhh why do I have to be stuck with guard duty!" Peppers grumbled since offence was always the best defence in her books.

It seemed as if Wecha was not the only target the Rats had in mind as guards from Wecha's watchtowers reported that a sizeable force of rats was assembling towards the direction of the remaining seaport where the bulk of the Northern Bulwark Army was stationed at.

"We will definitely incur some losses, but at least we should have time to shore up the defences at the seaport. Admiral Focalor, I hope we can count on your expertise in handling a harbour defence." Jin said through the System Channel and the Tiefling noble immediately obliged.

"Less than a month and we have our debut fight? Master, I am already liking you!" Focalor replied with excitement ringing in his heart.

"Unfortunately, I do not have any ships to spare at the moment. Wolte, can you lend a hand for this?" Jin questioned, but to his surprise, the slug had already taken the initiative to be on his way to the Northern Seas.

"On it, although I might not be as powerful as I was in Pandapolis since I am currently not connected to Shadow Dagen," Wolte answered after he transformed into Stalingrad while sounding his horn as an arriving signal to the seaport.

"I could possibly get a ship or two from Northern Bulwark General Matt, but they are definitely not as well equipped as Leviathan or her counterparts." Due to the advance warning, Gold had also teleported to the harbour town to inform General Matt Umiterus about the incoming attack. With the information on hand, General Matt immediately began evacuating the elderly into a ship so that they could be shipped out.

"No problem, we are pirates at heart. Any ship in our possession will become a beast." Captain Kenway boasted with pride as he rallied his demon sailors with him.

"Can we hurry it up? My men are dying to try out your weapons after experiencing their fearsome firepower first hand." Captain Edwards asked with equally pounding enthusiasm.

"Boss, am I going to be left out again?" Mr Derpy asked despite getting involved in the previous raid yet he never truly got a chance to shine.

"You kidding me? Right now, I think you are the best candidate for an assault against the floating fortress! Pepper's shield won't last forever, and since they are desperate to clear us off the Northern Region, we shall entertain them as much." Jin replied as he was worried that the rats might try to crash into it as a desperate attempt to finish the rebels.

"You mean you want me to assault the fortress?" Mr Derpy was finally elated that he had an important job to do.

"Not only that, but I might also want you to carry an important individual or two for them to invade their flying capital," Jin added and Derpy was all pumped out.

"Boss, now might be a good time to inform you that my team and I have refitted a couple of the C130s as part of a research project for our own homegrown spaceships. They should be good enough to get used as attack crafts for artillery support, but I'll need to have One Orc Artillery Company to fill the numbers and man the equipment." Rei suddenly spoke out, and Jin was delighted to hear that.

The dungeon supplier could have used the Clay Dragon again, but apparently, the rune stone powers had dried up from the constant use, and Jespa had yet to refill the runestone since she was ensuring Pandjilla, the first clay statue to become sentient, continued to work perfectly fine.

"That's great to hear, Rei. I will get back to you if I need to use them. Qiu Yue, how's the preparation of the ground troops?" Jin asked as he opened several interfaces and noted the possible choke points that could be created to block the rats once the energy shield was down.

"Waiting for your command." Qiu Yue reported as she too was anticipating to be teleported.

## **Chapter 829 The Tactician's Rampage**

"All right, go!" Jin ordered as he enabled the mass portal via his Dungeon Maker interface. With the newly increased processing capabilities from assimilating the Dungeon Core crown, the System was able to teleport a massive number of minions in for a fight.

That's to say, it was one of the most unconventional teleportation moves that Jin had made up to now.

After the enemies realised that bashing through the shield was not an option, they were reassembling their troops and had requested siege weapons from the floating fortress. With no retaliation from the defensive side, most of the rats were taking it easy.

That gave Jin's minions the upper edge when the portal appeared a few metres right above the rats, and all of them got surprised to see Veteran Orcs and Goblins diving out of their portals to hit them where it hurts.

"This is what I call an ambush! We still have the element of surprise! Keep at it!" Qiu Yue shouted as she drove her katana into the crevices of a rat with a large steampunk suit. Blood mixed with other fluid was spilt throughout the floor while the Red Panda Cultivator started her rampage.

When her katana was not in some poor rat's body, her uzi was blazing bullets out of the barrel, distracting and wounding the rats. The short bursts from her sub machine gun in a crowded area made her equipment amazing for close combat.

It didn't take long for the rats to notice that Qiu Yue was unlike those normal soldiers that had been dispatched. Instead, she was akin to an officer in command despite her 'status' as a human. Amidst her slaughtering, she still found the time to order the fighting Orcs around and telling the goblins to move to corner certain groups of rats deemed dangerous.

Unlike the normal Orcs who needed more time to get through the rats' powered up steampunk suits, Qiu Yue was slicing the large mechanical rats with ease. The only strange thing was, that whenever she faced the standard rank and file rats, it took her a bit of time to dispatch them. Whereas whenever a

Giant Rat entered her range, they would die almost instantly as if she had some mysterious technique that will kill those large Demon Rats.

The Rats had already reported back to the higher-ups, dubbing her the 'Giant' Killer, and the numbers of her casualties started to pile up. They did not know that her Sub System allowed her to use money to strengthen her blade temporarily. Naturally, she wouldn't choose to use it for the regular ones, so she only resorted to abusing it to slice down her larger size opponents quickly.

"Mdm, looks like the rats are very attracted to you!" An Orc praised her as he covered Qiu Yue's back with a large swing, cutting a Demon Rat's body into two before transforming his weapon into a rifle to help cover Goblin who was about to be attacked.

Even with the ambush tactic, the Orcs and Goblins were still outnumbered 1 to 300. And yet, none of them succumbed at these odds. Each and every monster on the field was fiercely fighting to bring down as many rats as they could. They knew that every kill would award them with precious System points which would ensure them a better quality of life.

Since they knew that they had nothing to lose thanks to the System, most stopped being afraid of death. They simply tried to postpone the inevitable for the chance of getting more points. Not to mention, the constant fights along cultivators had ignited something within them.

Jin also noticed a phenomenon which was something similar to the Goblin Trio. Even without formal training, the Orcs and Goblins were slowly gaining some form of chi as if a partial dantian nucleus had formed upon constant exposure to his cultivator customer base.

He was unsure if they had noticed it themselves since the System had been the one to point it out to him, but the majority of the monsters were able to unleash a faint amount of chi while fighting, making them tougher than the rats had expected. Some even had applied chi unknowingly when transforming their weapons, strengthening them to provide it with some extra boom.

"Heh! They do not know their place! Sorry but I think I need you to cover me a little more! Got a good surprise for all of them in store." Qiu Yue said as she tapped on the Orc's shoulder. He acknowledged it by turning his back, and with the chi he accidentally inserted, the rifle was shooting continuously, stopping the rats in their tracks momentarily.

"Red Panda Arts, Icy Wind of the Umbral Winter." Qiu Yue shouted, and her katana immediately glittered with a transparent look, as if she was holding on to a beautifully lit icy stalactite. A swing of her blade caused the air in the area to drop below zero degrees Celsius, and the steampunk rats were unable to move their suits at all as their primary source of power, steam, had been frozen into ice.

Unfortunately, as this was a dense battlefield, the icy winds could not differentiate between friend and foe. Qiu Yue did not seem to care and continued to slaughter those rats entrapped in their deactivated steam suits.

The Orcs and Goblins, especially the ones who prayed to Shiva, they just sneered at this level of ice. All of them had undergone specialised training from King Frost Echo as a guest invited by General Nubwort to suffer and survive in terrible cold conditions during their camp sessions.

Naturally, as a tactician Qiu Yue had been, was aware of that special training course, so she did not waste a moment to apologise, nor did she take any particular precautions to limit her skill. Each and every one of those battle-hardened monsters shook the cold off and mercilessly preyed on the helpless rats stuck in their suits.

"That was a brilliant strategy, Qiu Yue!" Jin exclaimed as he watched the events unfold and released the second wave of his minions down to fight against them.

"Heh, Weslie did tell me about the weakness of her steam technology. They might be strong against weak and powerless humans, but they are awfully fragile against mages and cultivators like us." Qiu Yue was happy about the praise.

"Too bad, they make up that shortcoming by being cunning... Shit." Jin cursed as he noticed something albeit a little too late. A large fountain at the centre of Wecha suddenly cracked and later exploded, causing pieces of stone and wood to fly all over the place. What came after that was shocking for the militia defending at the walls.

They were already fighting a sheer endless number of rats, but their reinforcement didn't look any less numerous. They were coming out of the aftermath and began filling the streets with their verminous bodies.

"AMBUSH!!!" Silver shouted as he witnessed the whole thing from one of the watchtowers. One of the trademark skills of their vermin type enemies was that they could create tunnels. Most, if not all of the militia had been stationed at the walls, leaving the inner cities nearly defenceless.

"Good thing we have the knowledge to manage such cunning foes," Jin smirked as he quickly opened a folder on the Dungeon Maker interface marked with a crossed out rat symbol.

### **Chapter 830 Covering The Sewers**

While it did not include one fool-proof plan, it still had notes inside about how each and every able person in Wecha had a role to play. They had been prepared for the rats to play dirty. While not as numerous as Moloch fabulous playbook against the Demon Horde, Gold still had formulated dozens of what if scenarios which he submitted to the System based on the current information they had on them.

Naturally, one of them had always been an underground invasion. After all, they know those rats were capable diggers long before they got access to Weslie's steam technology.

Thus the sewers had been rigged with explosives, all meticulously covered and camouflaged with mud, dirt and smelly garbage. The foul-smelling job had not prevented the citizens from earning extra coin which the System had an abundance of in the weeks before this ambush.

Technically it was not intended to be used as a defensive measure, but instead, they had planned to use the very same trick that had lured the rats into the various empty towns to blow them up into pieces

with the help of Peppers. However, that would have been a last resort only after the people of Wecha had evacuated the area and moved to the seaport.

After all, exploding each and every explosive could possibly obliterate not just the sewer systems but cause existing buildings on the surface to crumble from the loss of their underground foundation. Yet, the System had determined that detonating a few could increase the number of chokepoints and buy more time for the humans fighting against the threat while preventing the entire town from becoming a quicksand pit of death.

And the most obvious choke points were undoubtedly the ones closest to the fountain as the townsfolk could feel the intense rumbling coming from the centre of Wecha. The centre collapsed inwards, and it halted the incoming onslaught of the Demon Rats through the makeshift tunnel entrance.

At the same time, women all armed with rifles or bows were shooting as best they could from the rooftops at those Demon Rats who were scurrying into the complex slums of Wecha. While many missed because of the Demon Rats' agility and the townsfolk' inexperience at hitting moving targets, the rest were actually killed by either the shots or the surrounding traps made by the children in town.

From hidden spikes to simple grease tricks, the traps enabled the women on the rooftops and upper floors to have a better chance to finish them off. It was a combination tactic which was unprecedented in their history books.

Upon the Demon Rats' death, the children reset the traps while the women made sure that the rat was deader than dead before looting their corpse for any valuables or weapons. As for the elderlies, they were not useless at all in their contribution to the war effort.

They had started to inject odourless rat poison courtesy of System into the food and water in case the place got taken over. This was in case the rats decided to cripple the town by stealing the food supplies for their own war efforts.

That was what had happened during the initial phase of the invasion, causing the humans to starve. These made the subsequent fights easier and made the humans more subvertable to their demands. At the same time, they had also prepared rations and got the children to transport them to the men and women of the militia.

Gold had also repeatedly ensured that they all had sufficient supplies and did not have to worry about getting food if they survived. But the elderlies knew that that was something akin to a wonderful dream to survive the onslaught of the Demon Rat horde.

So the only way to persist dreaming was to have a chance in fighting for it. Most if not all of the elders were also equipped with a hunting shotgun for the worst case possible. Unlike the weapons that the militia were holding, they were not imbued with any conversion inscription charms. Instead, Octofussy had inserted basic lesser recoil and easier reloading inscriptions, so the elders could contribute if necessary.

Armed with only two shotgun shells, and a couple more of them in a side bag. The elders were also given reloading kits, enabling them to have an easier time to dish out a hell of pain.

Escaping from the enslaved towns had already been a miracle but now entrapped at all fronts, most of the elderlies were already glad they could do something to contribute to the death of those Demon Rats before their inevitable demise.

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"... Actually, won't it be worse after we explode that area?" Jin realised after he had already pressed the button to detonate the explosives. "Those rats will eventually find the other exits too."

"System assures User that it was only a matter of time for those rats to pop up everywhere. System merely recommended exploding those points as a way to frustrate the rats underground while delaying the inevitable so that User finds a way to execute his plan." The System stated.

"Send us. We are small enough and a decent deterrent against the rats in the sewer systems." A meek voice spoke out in the System Channel, and it was none other than Poppy, one of the vice leaders of the mousefolks.

"Ya, and at the same time, detonate all the exits or entrances to the sewage system." A yawn from Meomi interrupted the conversation. "We will take it from there and clear the sewers out to their entrance."

"As seen from the dead Demon Rats on the streets, most of the rats should not be as geared up as the ones outside the gates. They are likely to be armed with just the essentials to fight us with overwhelming numbers instead." Pippy, his brother in arms, examined the current situation.

"Are you guys sure about this? It is bound to be a suicide mission. Even though you can be reborn again, dying isn't the most pleasant of all experiences." Jin warned as he checked the Dungeon Maker interfaces to see where the locations of all the explosives were.

"Heh, that's the same thing Qiu Yue told us before we manned the machine guns on the flying dragon statue. Gosh, that was insane but awfully fun." Poppy recalled how much Pippy was nearly shitting his pants from the sudden dives and rise with the dragon's constant evasive movement.

"I'd rather die a few more times than ride that dragon statue again..." Pippy swore that was the first and last time he was flying on that statue. (Don't be so sure, Pippy...)

"Then that settles it. Chop chop. Nyanmi, remember to bring short weapons like daggers, our whipswords can't do shit in the sewers." Meomi ordered as she clapped to hurry the execution of the plan from Jin.

"We can always rely on our claws and jaws." Nyanmi replied, and Meomi was already salivating to tear the life out of those rats.

"I wish you guys all the best." Jin sent them off. Then he took a page out of the rat's book and used their own means against them. He made sure he exploded part of the sewers which would not break the foundations and teleported the mouse folks and the werecats into battle, making it appear as if they had broken through.

With a smaller stature than the Demon Rats, the mousefolks used the smoke and dust from the explosion to perform their opening volley before switching back to the mini blades and rushed off to cut the vermin's throats.

Needless to say, their performance was stellar enough to not tarnish the name of their teacher bellator.