

Dungeon S 831

Chapter 831 JODE Backup

"Grandma Yuan!" Su Zhen waved at the older woman before bowing for a moment out of respect. She even rearranged her clothes a little before walking forth to her instructor.

"Teacher Yuan, I did not know you would be here in the frontlines as well." Rong, who came together with the rest, greeted her as the Demon Exorcists had been gathered in a building affiliated with JODE.

"Just as insurance. Although the Chancellor has already sent me messages telling me to go back to Shenzhen. There are enough people here, he says." Grandma Yuan shook her head as the amount of people gathered before her was barely a handful.

"They are taking the threat a bit too lightly?" Lein questioned as he saw that most of the Demon Exorcists who had gathered were like them. The attendance list somehow confirmed his suspicion as it listed the point in time when they got their badges. Only when he saw it with his eyes, did the reality set in rather harshly how JODE think that they are really just the reserves.

With a sweeping glance, the group could recognise that a few of them only had more than a couple months worth of experience under their belt, the rest were recently promoted exorcists or provisional ones.

"Perhaps JODE assumed that our report has been over-exaggerated because we are new?" Lian tried to reason why there were so little people around. "But if Milk was not around that day, we could have died on the spot!"

"Unfortunately, I had to edit the details of the report." Su Zhen whispered to them. "In order to have some credibility for our secret trip, I told them that Jin followed us instead. By right, we should have turned away when the Border Guards stopped us."

"Aw man, alright. What's done is done. I am just having a bad feeling churning in my stomach, and I cannot shake it off." Lian replied.

"It shouldn't be the case. I did stress the credibility of your report to Chancellor Ma Ge too, but it is ultimately his decision to send the number and quality of exorcists here." Grandma Yuan said after having overheard them. "I, however, believe that the Royal Horse Battalion report might have overwritten the urgency of this particular sortie."

"I happened to have an acquaintance in the Royal Horse Battalion and asked him to keep an eye for me. He privately messaged me about five minutes ago that they are already doing a sortie for the sweep." Lein added, and suddenly they heard a loud explosion from the direction of the border.

All of the Demon Exorcists quickly went to the window to get a better look, and since they were on the top few floors, they managed to catch a glimpse of the aftermath of the explosion.

Instead of smoke and flames, they saw trees, dirt and gravel flying from afar. And then another explosion was heard, this one closer. Some thought that it was some Royal Horse soldier brandishing his techniques against the Monster Horde. However, this time, those Exorcists with keen eyes noticed that the bodies flying up in the air weren't monsters but rather humans.

Not live human cultivators trying to escape from the blast, but corpses with their body parts blown away along with the trees and soil.

"Hmph." Grandma Yuan's face turned serious, and the scene did not bode well for present Demon Exorcists. Most of these newly graduated Demon Exorcists were roughly Grade 5 or so, which paled in comparison to Yuan's ex-students.

This was because the training Yuan gave was extraordinary, and the so-called career progression for Su Zhen and the others would be fast-tracked after four to five years of field experience. Maybe less if they did amicably well in their initial two years.

In the Royal Horse Battalion, most rank and file soldiers didn't go above grade 5 to 6 unless they were ranked 2nd Sergeant and above. That was why when Su Zhen wrote the battle report, she hoped that would lead the defenders to prepare better. If Demon Exorcists with Grade 10 cultivation were having problems with the issue, they should handle the situation with quality instead of quantity.

"Mdm! Instructor Yuan! We have orders to sortie. The bus is waiting for us downstairs as we speak." One of the Demon Exorcists' senior admin shouted through the hall.

"But isn't it way too early for us? Some of the Exorcists on the list have yet to arrive!" Su Zhen argued and to add oil into the flames, Rong pointed out that only half of the list had reported for duty since it was expected for the Demon Exorcists to sortie later in the evening.

"System, any idea what is going on?" Yuan, who had the ring on her, contacted the System. While she was not reinstated as a Sub System User, the System remained content to keep her under surveillance with a way to communicate it.

As the circumstances got more apparent, Yuan clearly knew that this would be suicide for even experienced Demon Exorcists, not to mention those who had just graduated. Even with full attendance, there was still no way they would be able to make a dent.

"Mdm?" The senior admin asked once more and everyone now looked at the renowned veteran with worried eyes. Yet, she stood at her current position and continued to stare at the forest.

To the Demon Exorcists, it was as she was pondering at something before they heard her letting out a heavy sigh.

"Contact the local officials. Let them know we will prepare to evacuate this city and the ones along the borders of Dongguan. Also, contact the surrounding senior Demon Exorcists and tell them to be on standby. This current situation has turned to Danger Level 4, with it dangerously creeping to Level 5. As usual, use my name." Grandma Yuan ordered, and everyone was flabbergasted.

JODE had their own system to judge the threat level of any given situation, and Danger Level 4 already suggested the entire province was in danger. And yet, according to Grandma Yuan, it might turn to 5, which meant the entire country could be in danger.

"Are you serious? I understand you can invoke a Danger Level 4 scenario given your status, Instructor Yuan, but we've only seen an explosion or two. Does that really warrant a Level 4 alarm? Perhaps a Level 3 alarm should suffice? After all, only the Chancellor has the rights to declare Level 5..." Even the admin

had a hard time taking just Grandma Yuan's words to sound such a heavy alarm after the fight had just broken out.

Suddenly, the entire room was filled with a menacing aura. A silhouette of a gleaming Gold Griffin could be seen emanating out of Grandma Yuan. It was so bad that almost everyone in the room except for her own students dropped the floor, dying to get a grasp of breath.

"Do I look like I am joking to you?" Grandma Yuan spoke each word slowly, and that aura alone was enough to show that she was dead serious. The senior admin understood and quickly ran back to tell his team to act under the protocol of setting the Danger Level 4 Alarm.

"Whew, it's been a while since I saw Teacher Yuan portray her cultivation out," Lein remembered the days when their instructor had constantly sent out her aura to suppress and discipline the initially unruly kids to do her bidding.

"That's not something I really want to remember," Lian whispered as she suddenly saw Grandma Yuan's eyes looking at her.

"Lian, Lein, Su Zhen and Rong. Go towards the frontlines and help people evacuate. By the time you reach there, the sirens should have blared. Do not overstretch yourselves and defend the citizens at all cost." Grandma Yuan ordered, and she subsequently looked at the rest.

"You, grab me a map of the city, right now. I will be dispatching all of you to various locations to assist with the evacuation, and all of you will work in teams of two." Grandma Yuan announced. As to prove how bad the situation was, just as she finished speaking, they heard yet another explosion.

This time in triple succession. The threat was approaching them, and all the Demon Exorcists' hearts were already pumping hard. Yet, for some reason, the choking aura had cleared their mind, and while nervous, they were still able to listen intently to Grandma Yuan's instructions.

And this was sadly just the start...

Chapter 832 Uphold the Oath to Protec

There had been a long silence during the decision making. It had seemed like an eternity to Grandma Yuan while it had been only a few seconds off her life, waiting for the System to share its information with her.

The System had not been idle with the Monster Horde situation despite the abrupt problem that the Farming World was currently facing. Que Er, the Magpie Queen, had been sending out her crows and magpies into the forest for surveillance purposes as suggested by Lynn.

However, for once the System deduced that it would be for the best if its User did not interfere with such a dangerous situation. At least not unless they had gathered enough information and it would be deemed optimal for the dungeon supplier to perform the counter offence operation they had been working on.

It should be simple enough. Slip in, make a big bang with the help of his bellators to attract as many Demons as possible and hold them up in a dungeon instance. Then it would be either up to Jin's minions to finish them off, or they could sell the monsters the trapped creatures as a seasonal dungeon for the cultivators. Of course, they could also use those same Demons as training products for the advanced training centre for the Demon Exorcists. No doubt, it was a win win situation for Jin and the people involved in it.

However, the development of this issue had been too quick. Even the magpies which had recorded it with their magic eyes were shocked by the sudden change in pace. The moment the Royal Horse soldiers had entered into the forest, the Bone Spirit Demons began springing out from the depths of the mountainous forests.

While the soldiers had been initially happy about no longer having to search for hours for any signs of the monsters, the Royal Horses quickly changed their opinion. They had not expected the frontline of the horde to display such terrifying power, eliminating nearly 10% of their forces almost immediately upon contact.

The Royal Horse Soldiers never even had the chance to fight back properly, and the first ten minutes had turned into a massacre. It wasn't until their higher-ranked officers like the Royal Horse Captains and Majors stepped in, that the battle started to turn in their favour. Yet, the soldiers weren't the only ones to have reinforcements. Soon stronger monsters joined the fray, making the Majors and Captain's firepower seem like nothing but a joke.

The Royal Horse General Xi Le Ma had never seen such ferocity being displayed by a Monster Horde let alone the sheer number of monsters that could take out his highly reputable military officers half an hour into the sweep. However, highly reputable did not translate to being capable enough, and deep down in the General's heart, he knew that his battalion wasn't one to have the most combat-hardened soldiers among the Zodiac Clans.

Instead, most of their officer ranks received the titles to appease the Royal Horse Clan family members. That was one of the few reasons why Le Ma had wanted to use this Monster Horde as a training session to get their soldiers beaten into shape. Money was not an issue for the Royal Horse Clan, and resurrection could be done as long as the number of casualties was not substantial. Yet, this Monster Horde happened to be beyond his expectations.

"Where are the Demon Exorcists?! Didn't I request them to assist us half an hour ago?!" General Le Ma shouted at his base camp near the border walls as he saw his soldiers' morale visibly dropping after getting reports of how their soldiers were faring, and there was a lot of confusion in the temporary headquarters.

"I have contacted them, yet they refuse to heed our call! Instead, they are evacuating the cities right now!" His aide replied in a panic. Amidst all the chaos, Le Ma had actually forgotten that there was a living breathing city right behind him and further beyond, an entire province.

"General! Border Guard Captain Ding Huo is right outside demanding for orders to retreat!" Another officer came to report in a hurry.

"What are you talking about?! If we retreat now, the monsters will bash through the walls!"

"But a single battalion is unable to hold off this size of a horde!" The officer screamed back with increasing anxiety dwelling in his heart. "We will have our backs against the wall!"

"THEN SO BE IT!" General Le Ma shouted so loudly that everyone was shocked by his temper. "We are the elite soldiers of the China Armed Forces. ACT LIKE ONE, GODDAMNIT!"

"Sir, yes sir!" The officer saluted, despite knowing his entire body was trembling. He then turned and ordered the Border Guard Captain to bunker down. All those inside could hear the other party screaming that it was insane to die just like that right outside the camp. The guards had to pull him away as the captain punched the officer for giving a death order to the rest of his men, and yet the officer stood there motionless.

Yet, deep down his heart, the officer was already crying. He had hoped to see his family once more. Praying that this was all just a bad dream he could wake up from. But the harsh reality was, that the chances of him getting resurrected after this entire ordeal was infinitely small.

"I feel you, Captain, but this is to defend our motherland from this horde! Do you want those citizens to share the same fate as us?! Or do we stop the horde here at all cost?!" The officer replied back with a strong front.

"Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!" Ding Huo knew that they swore an oath to protect the citizens from monsters when he first signed up for the Border Guard Defence, but he never imagined in his ten-year career that such a situation would actually rise. That they would have to face something this ...catastrophic.

"It does not change the fact that you guys fucked up and brought a lightly armed battalion! I heard from the peeps at Huizhou borders that the other two Royal Battalions came with far better armaments and even fucking tanks and helicopters to this shitshow!" He later calmed his nerves a little and returned to the border wall while showing a middle finger at the Royal Horse officer.

At that moment, everyone near the border walls started to hear the sirens going off and somehow that pissed off Le Ma even though he knew that it was best for the city. "General! The local officials are trying to contact you!" One of his aides said that he had the mayor on the line.

"Reject that phone call. We have more important things to do now than to please some bureaucrats." Le Ma said decidedly as he too shut his phone after he noticed 28 missed calls and dozens of messages waiting to be read. Whether it was pride or the feeling of guilt for that inaction to pick up the phone, the Royal Horse General ordered the soldiers to fall back to the wall where they would have better cover against the deadly Monster Horde.

Even though he knew that this would only quicken the inevitable...

Chapter 833 Why Can't I Return to Normal?

"User, System noted that the sweep for the Monster Horde has turned for the worse." The System reported as it popped a side screen in the Dungeon Maker for Jin to view while not distracting him too much from the actual job.

"I understand, but like I said that is not our priority at the moment. As much as the lives of my world matter, without our intervention the people in the farming world don't have a fighting chance against them. At least the civilians in those regions have the Royal Zodiacs to protect them. These Farming People will only get slaughtered if they are left unprotected." Jin argued to the System (or was it for himself?) as he was replicating a few dungeon instances for the cultivators.

He had considered about calling for yet another Emergency Raid Event to deal with the Demon Rats of the Farming World, so he could concentrate on the Monster Horde. But Jin believed he had stretched that a little too thin already after having had two consecutive raids. Even normal Dungeon Suppliers would not recommend cramming so much content in unless they really had a crazy amount of customers.

That was why he was making another 'normal' dungeon instance. As normal as it could be called seeing as it would trap these Demon Rats inside now that the System had a higher processing capability.

"While System agrees with that decision, the bulk of User's business currently stems from your own world. If the crisis were to extend to your province, it would definitely affect User's incoming profit." The System stated blatantly.

"But we have already mitigated that with the Pandapolis and New Adventurer's Town, right? Heck, we can theoretically move to another province or country if the need arises. We do not necessarily have to stay in Shenzhen." Jin reasoned that there was not much to worry about.

Besides, he strongly believed his country was resilient enough that it could recover in a matter of weeks from a bit of destruction. Maybe that would potentially revitalise and boost the economy as well.

While it seemed as if Jin was not taking it so seriously as compared to when he first started out, the System understood that Jin wasn't exactly wrong.

It could have complied to its User and moved on, taking care of the business in the Farming World and subsequently establishing a foothold in their Northern Region. And when the time was right, they could still send in Jin and the bellators to reduce the horde size.

It was theoretically a win-win proposal for the System and Jin. However, that was no longer the case.

"User, the System has found evidence that agents of the Banned Emperor factions are within the Monster Horde operating them. The situation is as Panda Remnant Hou Fei has feared. This is a case of domestic terrorism." The two words Banned Emperor were enough for Jin to break his usual concentration and looked at the screen at the side of his interface.

"Agents of the Banned Emperor...?" Jin asked and the System affirmed by throwing out a picture which one of Que Er's magpie had taken with its magic eye surveillance. The picture was clear despite having tree branches in the way and blocking some of his features. However, his face was definitely uncanny to Jin. "Why does that person look so familiar..."

"There is a 99.87% probability that this is the very same assassin that has nearly succeeded in taking the life of Royal Zodiac Tiger Head Yuan Ba." The System reported as it projected another picture which it had taken in the Stadium during the assassination attempt against the Tiger Lord and put it next to the first one.

"But I thought the police had arrested him? How did he manage to? Huh?" Jin was confused though he could see that the assassin's face was even more distorted now. He had a few new scars on his face and neck, which had yet to heal compared to his old picture.

"System has a few theories, the most likely cause being that he might have broken free with help from the inside and escaped. It is impossible for someone to get out on bail for nearly taking the life of someone of Yuan Ba's position." The System stated, and now Jin understood how this would concern him on a more personal level.

"So, you are showing me this because..." Jin wanted to ensure that he was on the same page as the System.

"Because the System has much reason to believe that the assassin will not leave your life intact after the ordeal he had been through. If the Monster Horde could potentially shred half the Royal Horse Battalion in less than two hours, the System predicts that the Monster Horde could run through Dongguan and Huizhou and head for Shenzhen."

"And that would also fulfil their objective of ruining the cities, eh?" Jin asked as he slammed his head on the table. "Wonderful."

"System has detected sarcasm in the last word spoken."

"Why am I involved in this Banned Emperor nonsense?! You are supposed to be just a System that would help me become the number one dungeon supplier in this world." Jin grumbled a little.

"With great power comes great responsibility." The System retorted.

"Hah! More like signing a contract without getting a chance to read the terms and conditions. Can I call Xiong Da to get you out of my life right now?"

"And lose all this power, prestige, comfort and luxury?" The System questioned.

"Hmmm, why not? Get a normal job with standard working hours and hopefully find a nice, caring wife too." Jin literally did not want to continue. What were the odds of a Monster Horde breaking out and being controlled by a faction which he never wanted to get involved with?!

"Your lineage forbids you from doing that."

"ARGGGHH!!" Jin scratched his head and fumbled his hair up in frustration, somehow hoping that it would help him get out of this nightmare.

"How long do we have?" Jin asked as he felt like he was on a time-sensitive mission once more.

"Dongguan's walls might break soon because of the Royal Horse Battalion incompetence. However, the Demon Exorcists, including Grandma Yuan are on-site, assisting people with evacuation. Unlike Huizhou which the Tigers and Snakes have prepared sufficiently, Dongguan is the weakest link of this whole equation."

"Yun." Jin immediately called the System's assistant into the Dungeon Maker the moment he heard Yuan was there. "Protect Grandma Yuan with your life. Knowing her, she is definitely too stubborn to run away and is going to fight the enemy to the best of her ability. However, since we know that there are

Banned Emperor Assassins out there, their dantian corruption poison could prove fatal to her. I don't want to risk her life. Teleport her away to the Dungeon Maker if need be. We cannot let the Banned Emperor terrorists take away our prized grandmother's life!"

"But the way you say it... Seems like you just activated her death flag." Yun frowned with her arms folded.

"Then plug that flag out of her. It's an absolute order." Jin pleaded. "I will deal with the Farming World as fast as I can and return to assist."

Chapter 834 Extra: Interrogation of the Banned Emperor's Assassin

"Heh, for an assassin, you have quite a durable body." The Royal Tiger Police interrogator said as he whipped the Banned Emperor's lackey with a spiked whip and yet the assassin continued to keep quiet.

Despite the highly advanced surveillance technology which China was proud to possess, there was no ID match on this particular assassin. He didn't have any type of fingerprints they could check, no DNA match could be found, and the house which they raided was perfectly clean.

Aside from the failed attempt on Royal Tiger Head Bai Hu, there was no other evidence that pointed towards the Banned Emperor terror group or faction.

Even Criminal Forensics with Mage assistance had been unable to find any traces of magic in the house they had raided. The Investigation department had dug deep into his past movements. Surveillance cameras were scoured throughout the past week thoroughly, and the Tigers used their exclusive rights to obtain footage from restricted or limited access cameras for any criminal evidence. And yet, he had merely been acting as a sales representative to bid for the Gearbox that Yang Ling was introducing.

Thus, with no physical evidence at hand, the Royal Tiger Interrogators only had one way to get information out of him.

The hard way.

It's rare for the Royal Tigers to even consider such an anarchic method as torture since they usually were able to gather enough incriminating evidence to indict a prosecution. As for this case, the attempted assassination was not just on anyone but their own Royal Zodiac Tiger Head. It was enough to put the nameless Banned Emperor assassin behind bars for some time before compiling a case for execution.

The police's upper hierarchy had been dealing with this particular elusive group for far too long without achieving any results. Since there was one in their custody, they might as well resort to underhanded tactics to finally retrieve as much information out of him as possible before the assassin was taken away by the Special State agents. (The police did request for some 'personal' time with the perpetrator from the State Agents since they nearly killed their head.)

Alas, all the Banned Emperor assassin offered them was a muffled laugh at the interrogator, as if there was nothing that could be done to get any information out of him. "You fuck, you think we won't be able

to extract information out of your head?" The interrogator cursed as he decided to change his tactics a little.

He called upon his colleagues, who wore masks to prevent identification by the assassin, to uncuff him from the prone position where he had been whipping the half-naked assassin. Now they grappled him and ensured that his fists were locked in titanium cuffs mixed with granite to ensure he was unable to manipulate his techniques. After which, they placed him on a chair with a seat that had a large gaping hole at the bottom.

They didn't even hesitate a moment when they removed his pants, and his genitals were hanging right below the chair as they fully secured him on the seat. The assassin knew what was going to happen the moment he sat stark naked while the interrogator tied the ends of his whip into a heavy knot with spikes on it.

"Spare me the brave front and tell me about the workings of your organisation. Give me the leader of the organisation and don't you fucking dare to tell me it's the Banned Emperor!" The interrogator demanded as he tightened the knot and already started swinging his whip gently.

"Banned Emperor." The assassin continued to smile, and his answer already prompted the interrogator to gently swing the knot to the assassin's genitals.

The pain. The sensation. That odd ecstasy.

"Sometimes, the simplest of torture is the best way to get information from people." The interrogator mumbled as he started shaking his knotted whip once more and the assassin was breathing heavily, anticipating the swing to his genitals once more. Despite the slight bleeding from his thighs and intense pain imaginable from the initial one, the assassin continued to keep his mouth shut.

"Don't worry, I have all day." The interrogator said with pleasure, but there was a knock on the door, which prompted him to stop.

"Sir, the State Agents are here." The masked officer who sent the message had left the door slightly ajar, and the interrogator panicked.

"Already? I thought that they would only be here later in the night."

"Nothing we can do to stop them. You might want to talk to them and request for additional time." The officer replied which made the interrogator drop his weapon at the torture table and open the door to find that all his colleagues murdered in cold blood.

Before that horrid scene was able to etch itself into the interrogator's mind, that brain of his exploded into smithereens by the masked officer who stood there with his literal hand 'gun' pointing at the body.

"Bang." The officer said as he unveiled his mask and blew imaginary smoke off his finger.

"Took you long enough." The assassin said with bated breath.

"Well, I always thought that you deserved a nice hit to your balls for being an arse." The imposter officer shrugged as he grinned from ear to ear.

"Fucker. They really did a number on me. You could have left him half dead, so I could give him a taste of his own medicine." The assassin heaved a sigh of relief as the officer pointed his finger on the titanium and granite cuff. He pushed his thumb down like he was priming his finger gun and the action of receiving a gun recoil caused his chi to ignite and explode the cuffs off the assassin. But oddly enough, the assassin's hands were undamaged after the mini-explosion.

"You could have used the keys on the interrogator, you asshole." The assassin complained as he checked the movement of his wrist before catching the bag of new clothes which the imposter officer threw his way.

"Shut up. I don't wish to touch him with all that blood on him." The imposter officer argued as he hurried the assassin to change.

"So now that I failed to kill the Royal Tiger Head, has anything changed?" The assassin asked as he put on the clothes.

"Yung, the plan was never going to change. The assassination was optional, and we knew there were risks involved. If you could have killed him, it would be one less problem in the future. Still, you could have at least fled so I wouldn't have to save your sorry ass. Anyway, right now, we have to focus on our objective to rescue the Elder." The imposter officer said.

"Yeah, my bad, Huan. Nevertheless, this will definitely be a big blow to the Royal Tigers. Wonder, how the headlines will read." Yung spat at the dead interrogator.

"What do you think? Probably something completely normal. They will keep it quiet from the public, and the State Agents will be looking for us desperately." Huan answered while he waved goodbye to the dead bodies as the two 'officers' pretended to walk out of the interrogation room as if everything was as per normal.

Chapter 835 Uprooting The Problem

"So, do you both understand all of this? Especially you, Derpy?!" Jin asked through the System Channel, and the Shadow Dagen was already getting restless after all that information.

"In short, just smash myself into the fortress, right?" Derpy reiterated, and Jin felt like placing his palm on his face.

"Yes... ultimately it boils down to that so you can put it that way." Jin said with gritted teeth. Just as he was about to tap on the interface for the System to begin teleporting his monsters into action, Peppers interrupted the conversation.

"Jin, it's just as you expected. The fortress is opening up its bottom. There are signs of increasing levels of magical energy and heat accumulation underneath it."

"Can your shield hold?" Jin asked, and Peppers replied with a resounding yes.

"Ayse came by to fix the improved vest on me. I should be able to fix the shield to withstand the damage. She even gave me a prototype amplifier unit to allow me to cast two spells at once." Peppers boasted with glee on her face.

"DON'T TWIST MY WORDS! This unit merely allows you to continue channelling your shield spell without breaking concentration and thus gives you the leeway to start prepping your mana for an explosion spell. That way you won't go crazy by the influx of mana going into you like a black hole." Ayse corrected her in the System Channel.

"Basically, two spells at once." Jin and Peppers said simultaneously, and it baffled Ayse that her master was of the same mindset as Peppers.

"Whatever, Master. Just don't let Peppers shoot until the amplifier unit gives her the green light. Otherwise, both shield and explosion spell are likely to backfire on her instead. Worst case scenario, the entire town you are protecting will disappear."

"...at least that means the threat we are fighting will be gone, and those humans will be in the System's command." Peppers mumbled after a bit.

"Sure, if you don't mind turning into a LITERAL black hole which will suck all mana and life into it, and possibly cause this world to crack and disappear from existence. It would be scientifically interesting to see if the System could still revive you then." Ayse threatened with the theoretical possibility, but she knew that the chance of such a thing happening was barely above zero.

"Urgh. Then why did you even let Peppers have that amplifier unit." Jin asked with much more worry about the situation. However, before he could get an answer, Peppers suddenly shouted when she saw that a beam of high intensity energy had dropped onto the apex of her shield.

"ALRIGHT, LESS TALK ,MORE ACTION!" Peppers screamed, and Jin pressed a button on the interface that allowed his initial plan to be put into action.

While Jin believed that the masterminds of the fortress were rooting for a successful beam attack, he sent Derpy about one kilometre away from the fortress to allow them to witness the impending doom they were about to experience. (Actually, it's more like enabling Derpy to fly at top speed and adjusting his angle in case the portal coordinates were off since the System had to teleport such a large figure.)

Upon exit, Derpy was already swimming in the air at full speed, and the fortress did not have any means to defend against such an enormous target. Most of its turrets were beneath the hovering fortress, and they were occupied with hitting the shield which protected the humans, hoping for it to crack under pressure.

By the time, the masterminds of the flying fortress decided to send out flying units, Derpy had already come too close to the fortress. There and then, one of the newest members of Jin's army of misfits stood proudly on the nose of the Shadow Dagen.

"Duke Vepar, at your service!" The One-Winged Armoured Angel introduced himself with a wide smile as he pointed his gauntlet in front of the fortress and enlarged it. (After capture, the System had allowed him to return to the bridge where he lost his giant gauntlet though it was mainly to help the monster maintenance team to properly repair the bridge.)

Vepar had not actually been able to precisely control the size he could enlarge other than the standard colossal gauntlet he showed during the Demon Invasion. However, the System had measured the size of the flying fortress and helped extend the size of his gauntlet accordingly, enabling him to grab the entire fortress within.

Along with the speed that Derpy was moving, the gauntlet was not only able to grab hold of the entire fortress but also uproot the pillars it had entrenched itself around the town. Of course, not all the pillars remained intact upon experiencing such force. Many were broken, but the collision still forced the fortress to move away from the town of Wecha.

Normally, physics would not have allowed the one-winged angel to survive the uprooting, but thanks to the innate powers of his 'flying mount', Vepar had temporarily merged with the Shadow Dagen.

So, the impact of his gauntlet was absorbed by the entire giant whale of a monster as it continued to dash and break the fortress away from the attack. (Nevertheless, the strain felt by Vepar was absolutely wrenching. He felt like death would be a better option.)

Along with the fortress, the continuous beam of energy which went haywire ended up killing a massive number of Demon Rats. Unfortunately, it also resulted in some Orc and Goblin casualties. The System had been smart enough to quickly teleport a majority of them outside beam trajectory in time, all in the name of saving cost, resulting in an overall higher death toll to the rats.

The flying fortress was unable to maintain its aptitude and balance after being grabbed by the giant gauntlet, and the whale monster suddenly disappeared from the collision. However, that was not the end as Derpy did not return via the portal and instead had already flown upwards once again to achieve enough speed for a terminal velocity drop.

"Boy, this is fun!" Vepar laughed as he readied his gauntlet once more. This time, he switched hands since the left one he had just used to grab it became powerless and broken.

"I like your attitude! Are all Demons like you and Wolte?!" Derpy exclaimed along with a loud wail.

"Nah! I doubt so!" Vepar answered as he clenched his fist, ready to enlarge it and bash the fortress to the ground.

"They don't make us like they used to!"

Chapter 836 Gauntlet Smash

Despite the tremendous backlash he endured from the previous attack which resulted in a broken left arm, Vepar managed to keep his enlarged gauntlet steady enough on his right hand for the punch to hit the unstable floating fortress.

By dropping the fortress to the ground, Jin hoped that it would disable most of the features in it. Weslie mentioned that the steam technology systems she recalled creating were not as sturdy as she had liked them to be. This was mainly because she had been forced on a very strict timeline for some reason. At that time, she was only given enough resources to make the floating mechanism.

Weslie initially thought that it would be used as a foundation for some major floating platform or a gigantic airship, yet she never expected that the North and South Scholars would decide to put her system to power up an entire castle. Despite the improvements to the floating system they had added, she assumed that the core floating steam system should still be the same.

Hence, giving the castle a good hefty impact should definitely render the fortress's hovering mechanism useless. Worst case scenario, they would be displacing it further away from the town of Wecha, so the dungeon supplier could employ the heavy hitters without any need to hold back. Peppers alone would be enough to wreak havoc at the fortress. (Although the monsters would surely disapprove letting her have all the fun.)

Nevertheless, like every prepared villain, they did not just lay there and wait for Vepar and Derpy's combination attack. Even though the enemy mainly consisted of Demon Rats, the masterminds of this attack revealed the ability to cast a crude but functionally similar multi-layer shield to block the attack. At the same time, they had managed to sortie their own versions of air force against the unlikely duo.

Steampunk helicopters and even steampunk planes that were still functioning had been sent out from the unstable hangar in a hurry to counter the giant threat. However, the gauntlet smashed straight into the shield, causing an impact great enough to knock the steampunk helicopters away. Thankfully, Vepar did not lose out as he inserted more magic into the gauntlet (courtesy of Derpy) to maintain the punch's strength.

The Shadow Dagen himself was not being idle too. Unlike the time when he acted as a battery and was confined underneath Wolte, Derpy worked properly this time around and assisted Vepar to the best of his abilities. He used his mighty teeth and began biting the magical shield. If one didn't know any better, they might mistake him having an impromptu snack time in the middle of a fight.

"Is there anything he does not eat?" Jin chuckled at the brilliance of Derpy slowly biting away on the shield, resupplying that magical energy back for Vepar to use. He looked at another screen where the Wyvern Goblin Knights had heeded his command to fight against the steampunk attack helicopters and planes. The dogfight quickly turned in the favour of the Goblins, who appeared to have a much easier time fighting these Demon Rats than the Demons' air forces.

The attack helicopters were less agile and did not have the speed to catch up with the Wyvern Goblin Knights, making them nothing but easy pickings. Though they could not say that it wasn't a novel experience since the helicopters were able to shoot steel pellets and even a cannonball in the midst of battle.

But it was not until the fortress sent out steam planes that looked like the ones used in World War 1 that provided the Wyvern Goblin Knights with a bit more of a challenge. Yet, with a bit of acclimatisation, the knights had no problem stopping them in their tracks.

"Still holding on there, buddy?!" Derpy asked as he made one bigger munch closing in on the last layer of shield away.

"Couldn't feel any bet- What the hell is that?!" Vepar saw an abnormality within the fortress itself. It looked as if a hole was artificially opened in the town area, and a cannon was already aiming at them.

"Looks like the very same laser cannon that had been used against Wecha! Derpy, quick move out of the way!" Jin cautioned, but Vepar refused.

"After all this struggle, you expect us to move away?! Fat chance! Master, you might mean well, but you clearly do not know me well enough!" Vepar disagreed as he slowly pulled himself out of Derpy's fusion and spread his wing.

"It's all yours!" Derpy shouted while he pulled the last remaining shred of the layered shield and swiped his body, enabling him to use his tail to hit Vepar's back.

"Thanks for the assist!" Vepar yelled as he could feel that the backtail slap was not as damaging as he thought it would be. Instead Derpy had used it to send a big burst of magical energy into him, slinging him to propel forward.

Instead of aiming at the palace within the fortress, Vepar decided to destroy that laser cannon before it could cause further harm to either Jin's minions or the town.

BOOM!

All that was left in the scene was Vepar's Giant Gauntlet stuck in between the floating fortress' laser cannon. It resulted in multiple secondary explosions within the fortress and guaranteed that it would not fly anywhere anymore.

Still, for some reason, it did not stop the influx of Demon Rats pouring out of the place.

"Heh! Finally, I can get a bit creative!" Peppers squealed with satisfaction until Jin reminded her something important.

"If you shoot now, you might not have the strength to fight against the Demons in my world. Are you willing to do that?" And that question alone was sufficient to hold her firepower back for once.

"But it's a castle! FILLED WITH RATS! FILTHY, DISGUSTING-"

"Some are quite cute actually if you take a look at them properly." Weslie interrupted. "Despite their hideous looks (from a rational standpoint) they had not all been the same, and some of the Demon Rats had gratitude in them."

"Well, true for your case. But still RATS!" Peppers shouted once more in the System channel even though she had already lowered her staff. "Sigh, and here I thought I could end things with a big bang..."

"Argh, fine. Let's do it. We do not have a better chance than now. Peppers go-"

"Master! Please wait! I found that there are still a large number of human slaves inside the floating fortress. I have managed to locate and free a number of them, but there should be more!" Sebastia informed them as she continued to run towards the next block of cells and attempted to free more of them. "There are kids and elderlies as well."

"Damn it! Why did they bring those slaves in the fortress?" Jin banged the table and gritted his teeth to control his anger. Peppers might have no problems burning the entire castle down, but the perception itself would bring hate and disgust to Gold's allies.

So what if Jin could resurrect them? Capturing kids and elderlies would not profit the System, and it would only recommend to kick them out as to not waste resources. There might be the consideration of a long term investment for the kids, but sadly not so much for the elders. In short, the System was not a charitable organisation, and even if it performed good deeds for Jin, it could only tolerate so much if it saw only detriments coming its way.

"Peppers, lower the strength of your explosive burst and aim it at the tower instead. That should hinder the mages in there, particularly the scholars. We should give Sebastia more time before rat reinforcements interfere with the rescue." Jin ordered as he switched to another channel. "Penguins, sorry to trouble you guys once more. You all have more experience rescuing people than others."

"Heh, no problem, Master. Queen Lynn should not oppose us doing this too." Kido, the latest penguin ninja leader agreed.

"You won't see my complaining. Jin, I am tagging along with them and learning a trick or two from my peggies." Lynn reported as she had volunteered to be part of the rescue team. Kido nodded with pride that his Queen had decided to accompany them despite the danger she might encounter.

"Thank you, and godspeed to all of you," Jin said as he temporarily diverted his attention from both attacking and defending against the Demon Rats.

Chapter 837 Luring Them In

While Qiu Yue was supposedly the tactician for Jin's skirmishes, she had argued that she would need to gain some fighting experience before turning into a full-fledged strategist.

Inspired by her rival's enthusiasm, Lynn had also decided to join the battle and allowed Jin to direct the battle since he had sufficient power-ups under his belt. (Or on his belt.)

"Tough fight, huh." Moloch came in at just the right moment when Jin had to coordinate between two separate different groups. "Let me handle the one at the crashed fortress. You should settle your dungeon instances and the defence of Wecha so we can earn money too."

"Thanks, Moloch. You know me the best." Jin giggled and raised his hand for a high five before both of them started their work.

"Weslie, how's that luring device? Is it operational yet?" Jin asked as that was the most important equipment needed before he could start his dungeon instances.

"Yeap, I did a quick trial run after making some impromptu improvements. The device can now attract a fair number of them, but it is not exactly very effective after a certain range." Weslie said as the System had already teleported the device away from her hands and placed it in the Lost Tech Counterfeiter for quick product purposes.

"User, the System has already produced five of those luring devices. Feel free to start with your plan." The System prompted its User as it magically sent those five devices on to Jin's table.

"Nice. Now to attract those rats into the portals. We have to make it slightly subtle so that they will unconsciously jump towards it without realising what we are doing." Jin said as he looked at Peppers. "Ready to let go of the shield spell. Be quick about it, our monster force is losing rather badly already."

"Also, think you can open just several portions of your shield instead of bringing down the entire magic spell?" Jin asked to see if he can refine the use of the luring device too.

"You kidding me? That's like basic stuff I learned during my first month of mage training!" Peppers boasted as she asked where Jin wished to have the shield partially opened. The dungeon supplier responded by pointing at certain locations of the barrier on the Dungeon Maker interface, and the System made it simple for Peppers.

In an instant, a few portions of the shield disappeared which shocked some of the rats thinking it was a trap. Portals suddenly appear right between the crevices and a pair of defenders appear right in front of the portal.

They were none other than the Savants.

Semi-autonomous humanoids which contained top adventurer souls that Jin and his minions had collected in the Dungeon World. Their menacing presence alone had proven to be a few notches above the 'average' Orc and Goblins within Jin's army, and the Demon Rats were looking at them with spite.

With the Shaolin Football instance as a hotbed of trials for the cultivators to test their strength, the Savants too had become one of the most formidable monsters. Their difficulty ramped up to a level that the cultivators had yet to defeat them in Jin's shop.

Yet to the rats, the defenders weren't as interesting as that open partition in the energy shield which hadn't closed with the Savant's arrival. After all, their objective was to slaughter down every single civilian within the Town of Wecha, and they would be handsomely rewarded if they accomplished it.

"Go go go!" The Rat Officers shouted as rats in bulky steampunk suits attempted to brute force their way through, underestimating the defenders. Without making a sound, the Lord Knight Savant raised his sword and crystal lights pierced through time and space in order to imprison themselves on the hands and limbs of the Demon Rats.

With their movement restricted, the Archer Savant released a volley of homing arrows that went straight for their eyes, barely missing the heavily reinforced helmet they had difficulty wearing. As for the other pairs of Savants, they also started their fight. The Savant Warlock summoned tentacles to strangle and entrap the rats while the Savant Lancer proceeded to eliminate all those constrained by penetrating their armour with his spear, aiming precisely for their hearts.

Having similar abilities as Ke Mi, the Bard Savant plucked a few strings on his guitar, and it was sufficient to immobilise a bulk of the Demon Rats for his partner, the Assassin Savant to finish the job. This opening act was enough to enrage the Demon Rats and rush to overwhelm the defenders all around them.

Yet, they did not know that it was actually the luring device which was placed at the top of the portal that had already been activated and started to attract the rats. Naturally, the Savants did their best

stopping as many Demon Rats as possible, but somehow that made their primal instincts even more rabid, causing them to fight even harder.

Jin did not mind the Savants actions as long as there were still rats left at the end of the day for the latest installation to his repertoire of dungeons.

The Spiralling Sewers Instance.

Since there was no chance for him to resurrect the Demon Rats, he had decided to make this yet another limited dungeon run. Only this time, it would be a little different from the usual dungeon instances or raid instances.

As most of his dungeons were team-based, he realised that there was little emphasis on individual dungeon instances. The only real thing he offered individuals was the option to fight in the battle arenas.

This was because he had always kept to the notion where dungeons were meant to be team-based so they can have the most fun out of it. That was why they developed the Squad AI teammates for future dungeon instances.

Yet, he had neglected that there were cultivators that wished to improve themselves without the need to play with other people. And since Jin did not know when exactly he would implement the Squad AI feature, he believed this particular dungeon instance should be the ideal stopgap measure to allow individual cultivators to play by themselves.

"Keep getting more of them! We need as many as possible!" Jin said as the System started to chunk out more of those luring devices so they could be used to catch the rats at the crashed fortress site, the actual sewers of Wecha and the impending horde that headed for the North Bulwark's last bastion.

Chapter 838 The Spiralling Sewers Instance

The Spiralling Sewers Instance.

Inspired by roguelike games, a subgenre of role-playing games which emphasised on procedurally generated levels and permanent death of the player character, Jin had used a few ideas from them to create this particularly new dungeon instance.

While the Demon Rats would eventually disappear after enough cultivators had culled their numbers playing this particular new instance, it would give Jin a good amount of data to see if he should continue to expand this instance in the future as well.

As for now, this instance would work by allowing only one cultivator per dungeon instance. They would start from the top where they would find a porthole to descend down into the next, they would encounter those Demon Rats which would be roaming around the sewers.

Each time the individual cultivator defeats a Demon Rat, Jin expected the rat to drop some loot corresponding to whatever crop they were born from. That loot would then be collected by the cultivator and could be exchanged for Panda Medals at certain checkpoints where they would find a shady looking trash raccoon selling potions, accessories and even weapons. (Some cultivators who later played it felt that it looked like Thomas "Trash" Hook from a certain famous leisure game.)

That being said, the cultivator going in would be limited by the dungeon server aka the System to hold onto two items to help them with their dungeon run. Aside from those two items, the server would lock all items from being used. Therefore, this particular Spiralling Sewers Instance would be a progressive run which was a variant of the Dungeon Cave that the adventurers in the Goblin World experienced.

Compared to the Dungeon Cave, which focused on exploiting the adventurers as much as possible to prepare them for any possible threat within the lower levels, the Spiralling Sewers was the direct opposite.

The cultivator had to earn their medicinal potions, weapons and ammunition to continue travelling down the sewers.

However, there was an additional catch to the latest dungeon instance. Jin predicted that there might be a few cultivators who would try to explore each and every corner of the sewer before proceeding to a checkpoint in the sewers.

Sure, there would definitely be a few goodies hiding in every alternate corner of the complex sewer system, but he needed to stop them from taking too much stuff since this was still a business model.

Thus, he added a gem light mechanism in the instance.

The gem light mechanism would not only light up the sewers but also act as the checkpoints for a safe resting point, allowing them to quit the dungeon instance and return again whenever they felt like it. As time passed, the gem light would dim and if not replenished, the System would actually increase the strength of the Rats by blessing them with temporary magic buffs.

Only with a bright gem light, there would be no penalty. As for the resting point, it could only be used as long as there was light in the gems. That, however, would incur an additional 10% charge of the ticket fee or they could forfeit 50% of their collective resources to return back to that level.

This would invoke the benefit and loss mechanisms in their brain making them choose whether it was worthy to pay that extra 10% or lose half of the panda medals collected within the sewer instance.

Else, the cultivators would only 'respawn' back at the nearest stairway or ladder that descended to the sewer level if they died or escaped without a gem light. Naturally, the savepoints in the sewers would be littered with 'fuel' to increase the brightness of their gem light, but whether the System would intentionally impede the cultivator's progress was another issue by itself...

As for the ticket price, it was the same as every other dungeon instance in Jin's dungeon as he promised to his customers previously that his dungeons were affordable and fun. If someone were to tell that to Jin from a few months ago, he would only see that as making a big loss.

But with the Dungeon World cities as his new source of funds, Jin did not have to worry too much about money for the moment. Not to mention, his current customer base was growing too so quantity would no doubt triumph the low price. Claire had also been making some good and sound investments which allowed the dungeon supplier to go a little wild in his dungeon making process.

However, aside from the price point, he put up a basic guide to help the customers. For example, it not only contained the types of rats they could encounter in the first 10 floors (more would be added upon encounter) but also made recommendations for Grade 1 Cultivators to not proceed any further than the

5th level of the sewers instance, telling them that they should exit upon reaching the sixth level checkpoint.

Otherwise, they ran the risk of losing every single reward they got up until that point.

This dungeon would feature a 'permanent' death for the players if the cultivators got killed during their descent into the sewers. The only consolation was that during their next playthrough they would have the chance to recover all of those rewards.

First, they would have to reach the point where they got defeated, and they only got their items back if they were to win against the doppelganger that was hoarding their items.

It was an initiative by the System to replicate the data it had gathered so far about the cultivator to use it against them. If they managed to win against their doppelganger, that meant they were ready to proceed further into the Sewer Instance and be deserving of their rewards.

Otherwise, the doppelganger would gather whatever the cultivator had earned on its way until they managed to proceed forward. (And of course, deducting some minor rewards in the due process.)

This allowed Jin to earn a little more from the players who persisted as compared to getting money upfront for more sewers while keeping to his objective of improving the cultivators.

And if they managed to reach specific checkpoints and exit, the remaining panda medals they had would be transferred into their Pandamonium Wallet.

The only catch was that the items the cultivators had bought within the instance would not be transferable into their actual account except for the personal things they had brought in less the consumables used. (Of course, if their weapon they brought into the dungeon run had zero durability, it would remain broken after the fight too.)

The surprise announcement of a new permanent dungeon instance - despite it being limited in nature because of the number of Demon Rats Jin could catch - was a welcomed surprise for the cultivators.

Instead of making it a limited-time dungeon instance, he wrote in his advertisement that the monsters appearing would be seasonal. For this particular season, he would reward anyone who tried it out with the loot of those monsters worth double the Panda Medals and this would explain the disappearance of this perk once the Demon Rats had been annihilated.

After all, this dungeon supplier had sufficient monsters in his repertoire to replace the Demon Rats and would think of other perks when it was time to change it.

While ecstatic for this permanent dungeon instance into Jin's Shop, cultivators in the forum queried if Jin also planned to bring out an exclusive Chinese New Year dungeon instance.

The Boss only replied to that concerning line of questions with the following.

"Trade Secret."

Chapter 839 Situational Report of the Farming World

"Alright, I'm back. Any drastic changes?" Jin questioned Moloch, who was already yawning.

"Compared to the defence of Pandapolis, this is absolute child's play. I have already cornered most of the possible entrances with the newly acquired Demons. Even send Princess Gapp and her Battalion of Wights into the fray. They are instrumental against the steampunk suits, especially the Soldiers of Sapphire. Ever since Qiu Yue demonstrated how effective ice magic is against the steam equipment, we have been utilising that to our advantage." Moloch explained as he gave Jin the overall battlefield report.

"Eh, but isn't it completely useless against rats that are partially infused with those steam tech, as they can detach their equipment and charge against us with melee weapons? According to the System, there is an overwhelming number of those." Jin stated the obvious.

"Duh. That just means our ice wielders have become their top priority while we take chances to disable their big guys if possible...and that is if they appear."

"So, they are already starting to adapt to our strategy... Welp, at least if we can keep up the pressure against the rats. They will eventually have to send a large platoon of those armoured fellows out then we can use our heavy hitters to finish them all at once." Jin suggested, and Moloch told him that he was counting on Frost Echo and his Shaitan.

"That is assuming Shiva is not throwing her usual tantrums and will be willing to come out and play," Moloch recalled how much of a close call it was last time. "Also, the System had informed me that the significant magic signals at the top of the castle have disappeared. Welihelm and Olgret, the North and South Scholars respectively, have disappeared. According to Weslie and Gold assumption, they most likely have returned to the capital."

"It probably looked like they felt the raid was a failure and fell back. Quite a tactical move." Jin believed that those scholars might not be the same as the big bad bosses he had encountered before.

Unlike the Goblin King, King Baal or even Maeve they were more cautious to failures and didn't hesitate to retreat when the situation turned sour. With the revelation of Jin's troops as well as a major weakness in their steam technology, the scholars were probably pulling back to perform a few adjustments to their plans before coming back once they felt ready.

"Meh, I think they are just wussies who knew how to run away in the nick of time. Speaking of time, aren't you going to assist the crisis in your world? I heard things are getting worse." Moloch questioned.

"Since the System has yet to inform me of something drastic happening or pressure me into joining the frontlines, I assume it is still all good?" Jin said and was waiting for the System's response.

"The situation in Huizhou is still stable. Both the Snakes and Tigers have managed to suppress the Monster Horde with their combined forces. However, they are not taking any chances. Huizhou Police and its civil defence forces have already been called in to help evacuate the people living near the borders should the worst-case scenario arise." The System reported.

"Then what about Dongguan?" Jin felt that the System was actually keeping the bad news as the last.

"A portion of their border wall broke down about 4 minutes and 34 seconds ago...the Royal Horse Battalion has managed to scramble and fill the gap as soon as possible, but a few of the Demons slipped through. Ironically, the Demon Exorcists under User's care are contending against them as we speak.

Past Sub System User Yuan has also called for the evacuation early enough, so most of the destroyed buildings were empty, enabling the Demon Exorcists to go all out against those Demons." The System gave a simplified report.

"Most huh? So there are some who were unwilling to evacuate." Jin pondered on the report for a moment.

"It happens. Not everyone has the guts to put everything down and run away when all they have is just that roof under your head." Moloch chimed in as if he knew what those people were thinking of.

"Will the government at least repay them or something? Surely we have some Monster Damage Act or something like that?" Jin asked the System.

"There is the Disaster Repatriation Act. Not everyone is eligible to that act, and even if the poorer class of citizens were to take full advantage of its benefits, it would not be sufficient to buy back an apartment or room." The System answered, and Jin sighed heavily as he could not do much for them.

He was not a politician who had the power to rewrite those laws, nor was he a philanthropist rich enough to save them from poverty. But there was something he could do which might indirectly affect them and get them through safely.

The counter offensive plan aimed to lure those monsters away and reduce the horde's size. That should not only lower the battle strain in favour of the Royal Horse Battalion and Border Guards but also fill up his Spiraling Sewers Instance helping him earn a living.

However, the System had recommended not to proceed with the counter offence plan because of the new variable that appeared within the equation.

The Banned Emperor Assassins.

The System had managed to photograph a second person controlling the Demons before the passing magpie was discovered and strangled to death by his summons.

The surrounding magpies had noticed that the revelation of the second person caused the Demons to act even more impulsive and their attacks were noticeably potent against the defending Royal Horse Battalion.

By now, the Royal Horse General Xi Le Ma had long since abandoned his prideful attitude and requested help from the Royal Tigers and Royal Snakes battalion. He even urgently asked for more reinforcements from the main headquarters of the China Armed Forces, begging them to send in air support. Be it bombs or additional personnel, he did not care as long as he could suppress the Monster Horde before it crossed through the border once more.

Of course, the Border Guards were not very optimistic about any sort of reinforcements reaching in time ever since the first crack appeared on their walls. The very same wall which had stood firm for centuries imbued with inscriptions that could not be authentically recreated in the modern world. Those walls were said to be sacred shields to protect the people, and they had done their job with valour for all those years.

A few of those Bone Infused Spirit Demons were able to blast a crater in the forest landscape and yet their attacks were deflected multiple times by the border wall before it started to show weakness, showcasing that the inscriptions were doing their jobs.

Unfortunately, the firepower on the Border Walls had drastically been reduced since the local budget had prioritised economic aspects which had been deemed more important than a few monsters pouncing onto the walls every so often. The guards still had sufficient strength to subdue minor incidents, but throughout the years, it has become a dead-end job or for people who did not worry much about career progression.

That was why the Border Guards were having as much trouble as the Royal Horse Battalion. Some of them even had to resort to picking up rifles from the dead Royal Horse soldiers to continue their fight against the Monster Horde.

But despite the fears for the loss of life and the wounds they suffered, the soldiers were unwavering in their determination to protect the city, which was right behind them.

They knew it was a losing battle. They knew that their tears were running down their face and yet both battalions were buying as much time as possible for people to run away.

For it is the duty of a soldier to serve and protect.

Chapter 840 Tables Turned

"In addition to the assassination threat User might face, the System has picked up chatter that the military will be sending bombs to burn the area. They are currently not being subtle about it since the cities along the borders have already made the evacuation a compulsory thing. Thus, System still recommends for the User to focus on the Farming World until the System deems it opportunistic to strike." The System stated.

As if the world itself found it taboo for Jin to stay calm and take a step back, the System had detected the emergence of numerous groups of Bone Spirit Infused Demons. They suddenly appeared further away from the current battlefield that the Border Guards and Royal Horse Battalion were concentrating on. For the past few hours or so, the horde had mainly focused on one particular section of the wall, and this allowed the Royal Horse to stand a fighting chance against them.

But this development had literally turned the tables. Once the Border Guards in other sections of the wall detected movement on their radars, scouts reported a series of intrusions on multiple parts of the wall. As stretched as they could have been, the remaining few Border Guards knew that death was inevitable.

Coincidentally, the same was happening at Huizhou where new Bone Spirit Infused Demons popped up on their radar and started to head towards the border walls, ignoring the portion where the Royal Tigers and Royal Snakes were situated. Fortunately, because of the detailed preparations by those two battalions, the Border Guards in Huizhou were equipped with better weapons, and there were even light armour tanks being stationed on the walls that contributed with their great firepower against the Monster Horde.

Because of the sudden slew of monsters, one might even liken the border wall as the latest 'great' wall of China to slow down the invasion. Attack Helicopters were also deployed to provide quick air support within the dense forests as Hou Fei, and Ya Bai called for the retreat. The two generals had thought they were making progress, but that sudden arrival of overwhelming creatures was too much for even their elite soldiers.

However, with three Royal Battalions signalling for help to the main headquarters, it definitely rang the alarm for the upper echelons. The Joint Chiefs in the China Armed Forces immediately convened and took the current matter seriously. While they received observation reports consistently from their own intelligence office with regards to the issue at hand, they had not taken it too seriously mainly because the government had prioritised their economic benefits before the Chinese New Year Holidays.

For this reason, the headquarters had sent out a couple of the Royal Battalions to quell the horde before it got too messy. But this current turn of developments shocked the entire headquarters and even the political offices in Beijing began to respond to this unprecedented Monster Horde.

JODE Chancellor Ma Ge had also been notified of the recent developments and did not hesitate to recommend to take actions in accordance to a Level 5 Danger Alert to the Joint Chiefs ever since he received news of Instructor Yuan, a District Guardian categorising it as a Level 4 Danger Alert bordering on Level 5.

This also prompted him to arrange a quick meeting with the heads of various Demon Exorcist offices to put up an emergency defence plan. But unlike the Joint Chief Office, they had no such plans in the first place. After all, each office enjoyed some anonymity and had their own ways of dealing with the problems. They however unanimously agreed to send out a number of their elites to Huizhou and Dongguan immediately.

Without a doubt, the various ministerial offices also began drawing emergency plans to deal with the worst case scenarios. At the same time, the Armed Forces Headquarters sent out deployment orders to increase the guards in the other territories in case similar Monster Hordes appeared out of nowhere in other provinces. From procurement of food and supplies and to the placement of troops, the backend finally made a move.

Still, the urgent deployment of troops and equipment required time and there was literally none to spare for the soldiers that were currently fighting on scene. There was nothing stopping those monsters from pouring into the cities despite the declaration of a nation wide emergency.

Jin, who saw the development first hand, felt equally powerless until he received an urgent call from Hou Fei. "Boss! Master! We need your help desperately! Fuck secrecy! Do whatever is necessary! I will convince my Clan Head to cover your presence as much as needed no matter what you do!" Hou Fei pleaded, and Jin knew how risky this call of help would be.

As much as he wanted to arrive with grandiose like a superhero, there were untold consequences upon doing that. The System might get revealed to the higher authorities and to the Royal Zodiac Clans further. It would be more than a hassle, especially after Jin already had 'enjoyed' some first hand experience on how they used their authority to put pressure on him after learning about his portals.

Yet if he did not appear, many of the soldiers might die, and many cities would potentially be ruined. His deployment might not fully stop the Monster Horde, but he and his monsters could definitely influence the degree of the aftermath.

"I..." Jin bit on his tongue. He could not make up his mind with so much at risk.

"User, if you are too worried about involving yourself, System will support reallocating to another world if needed as per your recommendations. The Tree Mall can still operate without your presence here. Upon repeated revision of resources, we are currently self sufficient enough to not worry about this." The System interjected its opinion while also hoping that Jin could do the right thing.

"Damn it, JIN! This is no time to be concerned about politics, secrecy or whatever shit! If we have the power to help someone, we do it!" Hou Fei shouted, and that sentence woke him up violently. That was because his grandfather used to say the exact same thing to him when he was still alive and kicking.

"Screw it! You are right, let's do this! Hou Fei, get ready to cover EVERYTHING up. I will be ready in five minutes!" Jin said as he started to change the program on his interface.

"Like hell if I have fucking five minutes to spare!" Hou Fei cursed before he sighed once more and changed his tune. "Fine, five minutes! But that's all we can give you. Every minute equals the lives of soldiers, so if you can, please hurry." Hou Fei turned off the System Channel and gave the good news to his officers.

"User, what are you doing?" The System asked as Jin was coding something quick.

"Moloch, you can handle the stuff here, right?" Jin asked as he typed furiously on the interface.

"No problem. You can trust me on that. I'll get all the Demon Rats for your dungeon than you will ever need. Besides, if anything goes weirdly wrong, Kraft still owes me a favour for pulling that Demon Metropolis nonsense on me so you can rampage however you like. I will get his help when needed."

"I heard that." Kraft's voice appeared behind them before the man himself exited from the shadows. "Funny thing, here I thought attacking Paradiso WAS a favour to you. Then again, who am I to say no to have a bit more fun."

"Shouldn't you be still stalking nuns and priests?" Moloch raised his eyebrow.

"Well, Kiyu can manage without me for a while, besides the current situation is way more fun. Do you really have to put me with Cotton Butt here? I could help you tremendously. You could use the terrifying firepower of my foxes." Kraft commented towards the duo in the Dungeon Maker.

"You are my last resort, till then please assist Moloch." Jin did not say much but that however changed Kraft's smile.

"Oh Master, how I like that you thrust me into such a precarious situation so readily! Fine. Cottony bosoms, I will assist you for now." Kraft said as he disappeared into thin air once again and made his appearance known at the Crashed Fortress.

"Thank you." Jin typed finished the command prompt on the System interface, and the System realised what its User was doing all this while.

"Understood. User will receive the desired effect upon teleportation." The System replied. If anything, it believed that was an ingenious move for a cover up.