

Dungeon S 881

Chapter 881 User To System Talk - Final

"The prospects in this endeavour might be grand, yet System feels the need point out that the amount of work that is required to fulfil User's plan is enormous and the accumulated work so far might be rendered somewhat useless." The System analysed after a moment of silence.

"I thought you might say that. However, if we make the very first VRMMORPG in this world, we can instantly reach hundreds of thousands of people and allow them to play our dungeons. There will be no need to solely confine everything to this store." Jin argued while he shared his thoughts from the reclining chair.

"On top of that, nothing is stopping us from exporting these virtual reality machines to other worlds and increase the customer base that way. They will be able to play and interact with the cultivators from our world or the demons from the Dungeon World. Connecting people's lives and bringing them together? Isn't that part of the purpose of a Dungeon Supplier as well?"

"This also ties to the main reason for slowing down the rate of growth of our cultivators. I intend to work on some proper reward achievements, but it will at least include a voucher allowing customers to attend our 'secret' shop where they can really practice their cultivation."

"So, the VRMMORPG will actually be like a grinding mechanism for them to earn the rights to get to User's real shop with the current dungeon instances intact?" The System questioned.

"Exactly! That way, we can cut contact with most people and allow people through invitations or by the meritocracy of their hard work. At the same time, we can continue to create dungeons and supply them. Our upcoming Island Instances can pretty much be used as a template for the starting locations for the players. As for the dungeon content and such, we can pretty much use the dungeons from the Dungeon World and copy-paste them over, perhaps with some changes. We can also try out experimental builds for the dungeons for the secret shop in reality."

"Honestly, System feels that is a very loose interpretation of being a Dungeon Supplier but still not an invalid one." The System concluded.

"Our dungeon instances have been bordering to a virtual reality simulation, so will it be that much different?" Jin questioned, and now with new answers and explanations, the System created a permutation of scenarios.

"User seems to underestimate the difficulty of his request. It was one thing to allow cultivators to enter the dungeon who all come to a place under the System's jurisdiction. Judging on User's vision of our new business route, we need Virtual Simulators to be portable and compact, and most importantly they need to be able to connect to a space even if they are on the other side of the world, or potentially from a different world entirely. At the very least System is able to search for products in the Black Market with these specifications but there are only a few models available. Just like with the potions or any other products they will rise in cost if the sellers notice System starting to buy batches of them."

"I vaguely remember Ayse had some lost tech on it so I can ask her about it. Also, Rei is from the Mecha World. They are more advanced than us, so they should have some VR technology on his planet, right?"

And that is excluding worlds that have such technology as their main staple for gaming or life. Surely we can travel to such worlds to get it." Jin retorted.

"While the System has no qualms about letting User enter a new world, System would like to remind User about his history of poking his nose into every major conflict situation of the worlds he had visited, with the only exception being the one the Shadow Dagen originated from. Until User has dealt with the problems of those worlds at hand, System will not entertain such a request."

"Just another good reason to close the shop for now." Jin agreed, yet the System begged to differ.

"On the contrary, with such a grand endeavour, System cannot recommend User to close his shop. We will require the customers' aid before everything is set up."

"But we have Claire to help us win stocks that are worth thousands of dungeon dollars, right? We can use that money for investment. Even without factoring in Claire, we still have Demon Metropolis and Pandapolis too."

"That is assuming User wishes to proceed with the opening of Pandapolis and allow the Church of the Afterlife's agents to infiltrate." System reminded Jin.

"Urgh, yet another set of politics..." Jin grumbled and started to see where the System was coming from when he said he handled all the current worlds first before moving ahead.

"Exactly. The money that Intern Claire might have gotten us is only a temporary measure as well. It will not sustain us in the long run, especially when we have another upcoming war." The System warned.

"Unlike governments, the System does not have any bonds to sell to keep the production afloat. System and User have to use our own pocket money to purchase items. And most of our wars and battles are for good causes. Please remember that the cultivators are the ones footing some of the bills to offload our expenses."

"But earlier you claimed they only made up 27% profit or somewhere around that line..."

"For this particular month and perhaps the next since we received major rewards for getting the Demon Metropolis. There are expenses attached to them as well. Therefore, the System asks User to please reconsider his decision to close the shop." The System emphasised, and Jin repeatedly brought up the concern that the cultivators might get too strong in the future.

"Then all the User has to do is to create the Virtual Reality as soon as possible so he can keep his shop as a secret reward for them to enter." The System countered, and Jin felt this would be another overwhelming task he imposed on himself.

"However, while System is a multitude of beings all with the same goal to revive the Panda Clan, System shall give its un-humbled opinion to not forgo the links User made so far. While they may be troublesome, System's analysis proves that they will be worth the trouble in the future."

"Even though it will come as exposing them to the truth? We might get exploited, you know? Unlike those Royal Clans, we do not have the prestige preventing others from doing. Power maybe and perhaps we have some connections to rely on especially our links with other worlds, but without a doubt, if they

come together they can crush us." Jin finally revealed the real reason why he insisted on this VR component.

"Not just my world but others too. None will take kindly to a superpower even if it helps them when they can use the superpower to dominate others. I've finally come to understand your point of view of wanting to stay hidden, but now you are rejecting me? That's honestly something new."

"Make no mistake. System was doubtful about the idea, but that does not mean System does not assess the risk consistently." The System rebutted.

"System does not outright reject User's proposal. In fact, System is supportive and only wishes to point out the flaws of the current plan. If anything, System sees the potential the User has in making use of his current connections and achieving better immunity against his potential enemies. In short, System believed the trouble to glory will be worth it... though it has to follow a proper procedure first."

"Heh for you to think further than me. That's more like the System." Jin thought about it a moment and smiled.

"Naturally. All for the glory of the Panda Clan."

Chapter 882 A Dinner Reques

After that serious discussion, Jin took some consideration of what the System had said and decided to continue on with the shop (not that he could close it without the System's approval in the first place).

When he was training with Ming, he had thought a lot about how his actions would have repercussions and even discussed some of them at length with Ming during his grandfather's break. (Yeah, Jin was not given any breather unless he was near death. Like literally near death. Alas, that was not as seldom as he would have liked)

While Ming did provide some insight, he too did not explicitly have any biased opinions and wished for Jin to forge a path himself. It was mainly because he knew the System had its own agenda, but hearing Jin talk about the System in recent times, gave him hope that the System would at least consider the concerns of the last living Panda Clan member.

Thus, Jin continued to slog throughout the night, refining the new shop instance which he had put off for quite some time so that it could coincide with the Chinese New Year. In the meantime, he promised himself that his priority was to get the Virtual Reality platform up and running so that they could dominate the world's gaming market.

The Dungeon Supplier had already used the System to check on his world's development on Virtual Reality, and unsurprisingly, they were nowhere near a full-body dive experience like it was portrayed in certain novels. He figured it was because of the existence of dungeon suppliers that most people do not think it was worth it to develop a working virtual simulation, let alone a full scale virtual reality network. Now that he have the capital to work things out, as well as possible tools with the advent of Pandapolis

to do so, there is a high chance he could steamroll the process. Unfortunately, he might not have the expertise.

"But I should not worry about that for now." Jin thought to himself as the System presented him a checklist of things to complete. They were sorted in order of priority and on the top of the list was informing Grandma Yuan and Hou Fei about his wellbeing.

True enough, when he opened his System channel and gave them a morning call, both of them hurriedly teleported into the Dungeon Maker to see Jin in the flesh.

"Seriously, if you go off earlier than Grandma Yuan, Ming will undoubtedly haunt me in this and the afterlife." Hou Fei rebuked Jin, unaware that Grandma Yuan had teleported in right after him.

"I hear you. Hou Fei." Grandma Yuan replied with a mild angry tone.

"Oops." Hou Fei made an 'Oh shit' face in front of Jin before turning behind and humbly greeting 'Big Sister' Yuan with a hasty bow. Even Jin could feel the guilt of Hou Fei being caught talking about her. However, the anger accumulated within her right now was not aimed at the Panda Remnant but instead to Jin.

Her Gleaming Griffin Cultivation flared up, and Jin quickly knelt down on both knees and pulled his ears as if he was willing to accept his punishment since he understood where he went wrong.

"As if I will believe you!" Grandma Yuan spoke, and her metaphysical Griffin silhouette flew towards Jin and pulled him upwards. With this metaphysical chi form, her Golden Griffin was still able to materialise without using too much chi.

"Did Ming never teach you about something called restraint?!" Grandma Yuan's temper was off the roof, and Hou Fei tried to calm her down.

"Big Sis Yuan, it's best to calm down especially so early in the morning..."

"Tomorrow is the New Year, if I do not vent my anger out now, I might carry it forward to the next year. That is ominous and bad for luck, so don't stop me!" Grandma Yuan replied, and Jin just kept quiet and continued to apologise.

Were it not for his knowledge that he might really die because that was seemingly part of the deal upon inheriting the System, Jin would have shrugged Grandma Yuan's shouting off as an angry rant. Grandma Yuan should be aware of that serious drawback, making her genuinely concerned about him, so he quietly accepted the scolding that Grandma Yuan had for him.

"I am really, really sorry. I will take more care for my actions next time and will do my best to not make you worry like before." Jin apologised profusely, and somehow Grandma Yuan felt that he was indeed truly apologetic for his actions. She sighed heavily and turned away from him.

However, the Golden Griffin was not as compassionate as its master.

Even with just a metaphysical form, it pecked its beak onto Jin's head after releasing him. As if signalling him not to do anything too rash in the future. Before it dissipated into nothingness, the Golden Griffin also stared at Hou Fei since he was the one responsible for calling Jin into action in this particular incident.

And despite the heavy atmosphere, Jin broke the awkward silence with a request. "I was wondering if you two are willing to come to join us for reunion dinner? I know Hou Fei might be busy since he has a family, but Grandma Yuan, if you have the time..."

"Hahaha. I can come for a while since my wife recently went for her business trip again, making me stuck with an empty house. But my soldiers would want me to join them for a feast too, so I might have to leave a bit earlier." Hou Fei agreed as he knew that he had obligations to show his face since he was after all a Panda Remnant.

"...I will come. Tell Claire the details." Grandma Yuan said with her back facing away from them, but she secretly had a small grin in her face. The System teleported her away upon her request, leaving Hou Fei with Jin.

"Master! I seriously thought you were a goner for a minute!" Hou Fei sighed as he grabbed Jin by his shoulders and rubbed his head quite a bit. Hou Fei was relieved that the period of intensity was finally over.

"Hahah. I also thought that I was gonna get chewed inside out by that Golden Griffin." Jin could literally feel his legs shaking.

"Honestly, there are so many things I want to ask, but most importantly, how are you?" Hou Fei asked.

"Actually, I never felt better. My body feels renewed, and I am touched that my friends and comrades selflessly sacrificed their time and blood trying to save me." Jin responded as he let Hou Fei sit at the side of the table in the Dungeon Maker.

"I see... So, have you seen the news for the aftermath?" Hou Fei queried and Jin shook his head.

"There were a few things I needed to prepare since I woke up way too late. If it isn't too much of a problem, mind giving me a quick breakdown of events?"

"Well...where should I even start?" Hou Fei stifled a chuckle and later asked the System if it could provide images or videos to help explain the current situation to Jin.

Chapter 883 No Thank You.

"First off, thank you. What you did for the community is greatly appreciated. On behalf of the Royal Tiger and Snake Battalion, we wish to reward your bravery with -"

"Stop right there. I don't need anything other than what was contracted. Sorry, if it sounds heartless, but I do not want to have any more 'rewards' that might entail further strings attached." Jin stated bluntly, and Hou Fei laughed.

"I guess you are right. For an outsider, we had been too reliant on your powers but understand that you alone have brought a wave of massive relief to our community. Even if those higher-ups don't acknowledge that, I do. That is why I really want you to accept the reward because I know what it feels like to be unappreciated." Hou Fei explained.

"No, I think you misunderstand my intentions. You are right that I should help people because I have the power to do so. Still, I am also a human and have to look out for my own interest. If I intervene as I did during that Monster Horde, people are bound to find out about the System. That is my main concern." Jin emphasised. "I can bluff only so much, and I know if someone is interested in something, they can go extraordinary lengths to achieve it."

"Well... you are definitely not wrong. The System is an omnipotent device." Hou Fei nodded and was immediately interrupted by the System.

"The System is not a device and has the power to reject people from using it."

"But it does not have the power to prevent me from dying if they kill me." Jin thought to himself, yet he kept quiet about it. Even though Hou Fei is a Panda Remnant, the less people knew about that truth, the safer it would be for Jin.

"Then you do not have to worry that much, right? You already have my backing even though it doesn't account for much when compared with Grandma Yuan's. And let's assume that we are not there for you, you still have unparalleled bellators watching over your back. The previous incident has proven sufficiently that you have enough firepower to win against most people." Hou Fei reassured him.

"Admit it, you've been quietly holding your powers back a hell lot despite that show of strength. And when push comes to shove, you technically have an army of minions at your command. Honestly, if I were to put you in the middle of a Triad Gang War right now, you would dominate each and every one of them. Heck, you probably can win against a Royal Zodiac Clan Turf War if you play your cards right."

"Perhaps... but not without putting the System in the limelight." Jin said even though he knew what Hou Fei implying was the worst-case scenario.

"Actually, you might be wrong about it. I have put in some time to research how to make a cover for you in case shit hits the fan and apparently, you already have everything to play the role." Hou Fei held his phone and showed Jin a picture of an ancient manuscript.

"In ancient China, there was this Grandmaster Summoner of the Old Guard who travelled alongside the infamous Lu Guan Yu, the one who changed the laws of nature and made the world into what it is right now. According to these old scripts, he had the power to create monsters out of nothing and protected Guan Yu from his enemies."

"Hmm? I don't remember Guan Yu having such a comrade alongside him." Jin said as he asked the System if it was true especially since the super-entity should have lived through that particular era.

"System does not have the full story. During that period of time System's Users had gone into hiding. However, there should be some truth to Hou Fei's story. In fact, some might call this Grandmaster as the one who invented the job of Dungeon Supplier." The System stated.

"Then why is this the first time I am hearing about him?" Jin asked, and Hou Fei can only deduce the reason.

"Because he literally aided Guan Yu to reach Grade 20. By letting him fight monsters that he could never imagine before, hence allowing him to reach the pinnacle and unfathomable Grade 20." Hou Fei theorised. "At least that should be the case according to that diary of one of Guan Yu's companions."

"Panda Remnant Hou Fei might not be wrong. It would make sense for that Grandmaster Summoner of the Old Guard to not want other cultivators hounding him day and night if they managed to learn of Guan Yu's method of reaching Grade 20. System recalls hearing hearsays about a Grandmaster who remained unbeatable at that period of time. Without such convenient external help, it would also explain why there was never another reported Grade 20 Cultivator." The System explained.

"Oh really? Here it says that Guan Yu eventually had to hunt his friend for 'betraying' him. Those monsters that were used to safeguard mankind turned against them. Some at first thought it was a temporary loss of control, but the writer of that diary indicated that the Grandmaster Summoner of the Old Guard might have been gone senile with mental disease. Thus, the loss of control of the Guardian Monsters." Hou Fei shared what he had learned.

"And by summoning despicable monsters known to mankind, it ultimately boiled down to Guan Yu having a fight against his old friend. However, instead of gathering an army to defeat him, Guan Yu went to fight against him alone as repayment for his friend's help. The diary doesn't go in-depth, but after a week he had returned and asked his companions to forget about the Grand Summoner." Hou Fei added that the diary still wished to honour the memory of that person.

"System does find some plausibility in that ancient manuscript's content. Rumours and gossip from that era coincide with Guan Yu 'losing' a friend. Maybe that was the way Guan Yu had chosen to keep his friend's powers anonymous." The System remarked.

"Heh, and can you guess the name of that Grand Summoner?" Hou Fei smiled when he asked Jin.

"How would I know? As I said, this was literally the first time I heard about him." Jin did not exactly understand why Hou Fei was smiling.

"Mo Lo Jin."

Chapter 884 Lots of Catching Up

"No shit!" Jin shook his head in disbelief.

"It must be just an oddly wrapped coincidence that you have the same name as the Grandmaster Summoner that walked alongside Guan Yu. Unless Ming had found that manuscript as well and convinced your parents to name you as such. And erm that sounds like quite the stretch seeing as Jin is too common a name." Hou Fei shrugged his shoulders.

"Although it's quite ironic how we not only share being 'Grandmaster Summoners' but both of us wish to keep our monster summoning skills a secret to the point of wishing to escape reality." Jin pointed out the obvious and Hou Fei realised he shot himself in the foot.

For wanting to prove to Jin that he should not be afraid of his powers, he eventually solidified his point. "However, unlike my namesake, I have different plans on how I want to deal with matters at hand." Jin changed the topic a little and presented Hou Fei with the Virtual Reality concept that he told the System about.

"You want...to create a Virtual Reality Console so that people can pay and enjoy your dungeons?" Hou Fei asked as confirmation. "It might work for the younger generation, but I doubt many who are working will be interested. As for retirees... can you imagine someone like Ming playing video games? At least with your dungeons, people had more of an incentive to come and play since they could increase their cultivation."

"Hehe, I have already thought about it. True on its own, it would be just a 'game', but what if one of the benefits of playing such a Virtual Reality MMORPG would be that by earning enough points one could have the chance to play my actual dungeons in the real world. That way, I will have customers from all over the world too. After all, I want to be the Number One Dungeon Supplier fast and not like in 20+ years. According to the pathetic ranking that the System had given me, I am still in the six digits ranking." Jin said and explained his rationale to Hou Fei.

"I see... if you put it that way, even I might be tempted to try it out. You are right, if people perceive the opportunity to improve their cultivation at a very fast pace as something of a hidden bonus, they might mistake it as something like a gimmick to get them hooked into playing the game. I see your point that if things continue not just the Royal Clans but the entire world would seek after you."

Hou Fei also started to consider things from a military perspective. Not only would Jin be highly sought after, but the State Agents would also have a handful keeping him in check in order to make sure that other national intelligence agencies could not get to him and win him over... or simply abduct him.

"So, you have started worrying about the big picture after all this time. And here I thought you meant you are just afraid to mingle with the Royal Zodiac Clans."

"I believe I told you that I do not necessarily treat the Royal Zodiac Clan with disdain. As long as they don't try to control me that is. I can't deny that they prove to be a convenient tool to rise in society. Even the System started to see it that way and has kept its grudge of destroying them aside for the moment. Not entirely, but it's a start. Also, that whole Monster Horde incident stemmed from Banned Emperor lackeys. I doubt we have seen the last of them, so befriending the Royal Zodiac Clans should be better in the long run. Besides, our ancestors banded together to fight against him, right?"

"And have the others been notified of this grand plan of yours?" Hou Fei asked and Jin shook his head.

"I was planning to tell them tonight at the reunion dinner. Thought I'd run the whole idea through you and check if you have any inputs. Especially since you have a wider view of the world and military experience. But based on our conversation, you merely reinforced my stance of needing to create a 'buffer'. Not just against this country but towards the entire world before they gain a taste of real levelling." Jin chuckled, and Hou Fei smiled with a nod.

"Speaking of this country, it looks like I got sidetracked a little on the matters I wished to inform you about." Hou Fei remarked. "Even if you do not wish to take the rewards that I had prepared, people are still looking for you."

"The State Agents?" Jin asked as he recalled that Mr Know-It-All had promised to bring Ryuli to his shop who wished to learn the truth about their encounter, even though she suspected that the one she had met wasn't Jin but someone she perceived as his master.

"Well, I did have a bit of talk with Agent K. He managed to find out that the two of us share some connection, so he asked me whether I knew when you would be back. Looks like he really wants to talk to you."

"That particular State Agent has been staying inside the shop for long periods of time ever since User's disappearance. It appears he has made your shop into his 'hangout' area. Other State Agents of similar calibre have been moving in and out of the shop to meet him for reports in the Restaurant Train Instance. System does not mind such a customer per se, but whether he is aware of us watching him is another issue entirely." The System spoke out.

"Has Kraft tried to probe him?" Jin asked, knowing that his Director of Extreme Spying had a penchant of taking matters into his own hands.

"Not that System is aware of. Original Bellator Kraft might have gathered enough information just like how he did in regards to the Banned Emperor Assassin and deemed it unnecessary to act." The System replied.

"As for the female individual State Agent called Ryuli, so far she had only entered the shop premise once and hasn't come back since. Enhanced audio playback revealed that the female agent was disappointed in Agent K for failing to uphold his promise. Her information in the national database had been locked, but Original Bellator Kraft somehow managed to pull her data out. While System had not received any updates on the information, User can ask him, since he had also shown a vast interest in investigating Ryuli's past."

"Nevermind, I will ask him about it during the reunion dinner when I have the chance."

"State Agents aside, the Tiger General wished to thank you personally for sending help. He had previously extended an invitation to dinner at his home to me and requested you to join us at your earliest convenience. I had also spoken to Ke Loong since the military had to return the portals. He was very happy with your product... but not very happy once he realised the portal devices had been deactivated after the entire incident. Your people reportedly told them that it was your prerogative to do so."

"Ah yea, I do remember giving them the instructions to turn it off unless I said otherwise. And since I was out cold for a long time, they just followed protocol." Jin replied and hoped that Ke Loong had kept the dungeon supplier's condition in mind to not create any more portal devices until they had sufficient data on the portal devices.

Realistically, Jin already anticipated Ke Loong to have ignored him. Still, knowing that businessman, he would have taken the initiative to do up a plan to sweeten the deal for Jin so he could sell those portals en mass.

"I will speak to the Sea Mesh CEO when I have the chance. For now, it won't hurt him to believe I am absent a while longer. I will consider that dinner invitation, but I make no promises." Jin said, and Hou Fei later showed Jin the aftermath of the city.

The damage in the cities along the Dongguan-Huizhou Border Walls had already been taken care of. Most of the Border Walls had also been repaired and strengthened. Veteran Border Guards had also

been deployed from all over the country to fill in the ranks until their local platoons had their numbers increased again.

But more importantly, the forest was in a mess, especially in Dongguan where entire acres of forests had been burnt to the ground. And that was also the time when the System interrupted and told Jin about the deal it made with the Spirits of the Land.

Chapter 885 First Step Into The New Direction

"Your deal with the Spirits of the Land?" Jin asked, and Hou Fei thought he should better leave. After all, he had already accomplished what he came here for and didn't want to intrude on any of the System's secrets.

"Panda Remnant Hou Fei, please stay. User will need your cooperation to fulfil the obligation from the deal that had been struck." The System pointed out.

"Geh! Should have run away faster... Fine, what is it?" Hou Fei reluctantly but quietly accepted and listened to the System telling its User about the iteration of the conditions which the Spirits of the Land had placed.

"We have to repopulate the forest? Well, that should be easy enough but getting back the wildlife might pose a problem..." Jin put his hand to his chin and thought about how to tackle this issue.

"The System is in possession of many specimens of wildlife after the Bone Spirit Demons had left their bodies. System believes they could be released in a timely manner to the wild to repopulate the area. After some more analysis that is."

"Ah, I think I see what the System is getting at. Since you have Sandy, the Sand Witch and Shu, that grumpy treant, we should be easily able to revive the forests along the borders of Dongguan and Huizhou. Still, if you do it overnight, it will cause yet another newsworthy phenomenon like your giant tree... unless my battalion is involved. Am I right?" Hou Fei concluded.

"Affirmative, Panda Remnant Hou Fei catches on the topic at hand fast." The System sent an applauding emoji through the Dungeon Maker interface.

"Doing it overnight is way too insane. One single tree is one thing, but an entire forest will lead to all the mages around the world coming to investigate what kind of magic we are hiding especially since our country has a cultivator centric society." Hou Fei considered.

"I suggest we do it in stages, that way we can have guards protecting your Sand Witch who I will hire as an external contractor alongside her 'pet' treant while they do their magic."

"Animals wise, I will see if Grandma Yuan can play a part and 'acquire' the wildlife we captured. I think we can use the same trick and as long as she claims to have acquired it via her sources, nobody should look into the matter too much. Especially since she is part of the Cultivation Zoo stakeholders, it should not prove to be much of a problem." Jin suggested.

"That is assuming you get her to agree after making her worry that much." Hou Fei chuckled.

"Well, you can help me play the pity card since the destruction of the forest is also partially her fault." Jin shrugged while giving his opinion and Hou Fei shook his finger.

"Dangerous card to play but hmmm... since you are my master, and you did aid me when I needed you the most, I shall be the sacrificial lamb for this matter." Hou Fei sighed before looking at the time. "Sorry I got to go. System, please keep me updated when you want me to get Sandy and Shu to come out." Hou Fei requested for a teleport back to his house.

"Now that he is gone, I would like to ask you something. When you said to release the animals to the forest, I am assuming that you plan to merely let them walk around or something, right? Or are you really releasing them out of our control?"

"Till now, the System has not released any captured monsters or minions. If the System deems that it is nearing capacity, it will selectively reject or accept monsters into System's control."

"In short, you are basically a massive hoarder until you really have no space?" Jin tried to rephrase its explanation to get a confirmation.

"... System reserves any comments on User's statement."

"Then what about the Demons we captured in Demon Metropolis? Have you also released them back to their 'living habitat' or are they still under captivity?" Jin queried while continuously used air quotes on words that he deemed too sensitive.

"System shall overlook User's way of speaking and answer his question. Panda Remnant Rex had forged a fake deal with Moloch. As part of the agreement, those who lost will have to work for Pandapolis. This was just a tiny clause in the huge cooperation deal between the two major cities. They have been allowed to go back to their families, but when duty calls, they will be activated to serve the needs for both Demon Metropolis and Pandapolis." The System stated.

"That is quite a nifty deal. Didn't expect Rex to think of such things. Wait, how come you call him Panda Remnant and not Bellator?"

"Panda Remnant Rex proves more useful in an administrative role. He used to be a successful diplomat back when he was in service of Panda Lord Zhou Lin. System had expected nothing less from him and felt the need to reward his contribution."

"Well, at least this morning has been productive enough." Jin leaned back on his chair and thought about a few matters moving forward before starting the day.

"The new shop instance is done. I can put it out soon enough for the upcoming New Year celebration as well as the new dungeon instance. The Spiralling Sewers Instance is a sleeper hit but we should keep an eye on the data to see if we need to tweak the difficulty a little more. Resources wise, we are still in the green... So that's manageable... And the Adventurer Town in Goblin World is self-sufficient enough to close an eye. Please tell Zhi Nu that she is managing it well and maybe give her a bonus in the near future. Hmm, Pandapolis maintenance repairs are still ongoing, but it should be done within a week or so. Ah, - nearly forgot I need to start increasing the Adventurers' Town Dungeon Cave's difficulty." Jin

mumbled to himself continuously that the System had to interject its opinion at times in case he forgot something vital.

"Do remember that increasing difficulty will result in their deaths and subsequently the service to the System." The System reminded promptly.

"Hahah, I know that. And right now, I think we need some manpower too. If we are to create that Virtual Reality MMORPG, we need to get our Open World Instance well developed. We can perhaps use those adventurers as our Alpha Testers. How about we start selling special charms which will allow them to not die when going into the lower levels? Those who pay for it will get transported into the Virtual Reality network and get kicked out if they die. Those who don't... oh well, more diverse minions I guess." Jin suggested.

"While King Baal's Crown has increased the System's processing capability substantially, it will not be enough for the User's plans on its own. Therefore, it would be best for User to get the Mecha World Titan's Brain too. It will improve the System's operation in maintaining the Open World Instance." The System gave its very biased recommendations.

"Figures you would use that opportunity to strengthen yourself. Well, I am asking something major from you, so I can't deny that request. According to your data, we might handle a few thousand people, but if we go live with the VR network, we will need more than that by a hundred times at the very least." Jin sighed as he sat straight up from his chair and started to note down the things he should do in terms of urgency.

"If System recovers to at least 40% processing power, the output would be exponential enough to handle a China based server." The System said, and Jin got curious instantly.

"You can handle at least hundreds of thousands of people with 40% processing power? Then what's another few hundred thousand from overseas?" Jin asked.

"The System's 'roots' are in China. In order to spread to other countries it would require the System to create nodes similar to the Dungeon Cores. Only with Sub System Server Nodes can the System move to countries further than our current borders without excessively stretching its processing powers. What's more, the System can place its existing processing capabilities into those server nodes, and technically that will allow the System to have more than 100% processing power."

"Probably that means your cap limit can be raised further. Interesting..." Jin commented.

"Exactly. System shall look forward to the day that User helps it overcome the initial limit System had."

That was a long term goal to keep in mind but and of all the pending matters, the first agenda on his list was the Chinese New Year's Eve reunion dinner. He was not just preparing to enjoy it with his family of bellators and Sub System Users but also wished to include his minions.

After the stark epiphany he had during his party time in the Adventurer's town pub, he had decided to make this reunion dinner a little different from the Christmas Bash they previously held.

Chapter 886 Changing of Personal Priorities

"Is this enough?" Lynn asked Qiu Yue as they were getting ready for the reunion dinner. They were aware that they would just go down to their usual dinner place inside the house, but it was a rare chance to wear traditional dresses for the occasion.

"Hmm, it's still a bit too bland. Hold on, let me try something." Qiu Yue answered as she helped the Lady Chef, who was ignorant in such matters apply some more makeup. She grabbed the foundation brush and gently took some mild pink rose makeup and started to puff Lynn's cheeks up a bit.

"Lipstick wise, I think these natural colours will bring out your natural charm." Qiu Yue advised as she opened her cabinet stash and took a couple of sticks out for Lynn to choose from.

"But those won't give me a bombastic and loud look like yours..." Lynn pouted, as she was a bit jealous that she could not pull off such a bright and bold tone.

"Don't worry, I will make you as pretty as me in your own way. Treat it as my thank you for helping me pick this lovely cheongsam dress. " Qiu Yue snickered as she pointed to the black long cheongsam dress with red panda tinted designs on the cloth.

Lynn was similarly wearing a floral sakura kimono in respect to her nationality, and with small, cute penguins hiding behind the sakura flowers. But compared to the traditional ones, she had it easy because of the quick wear mechanism which her Sub System developed as a side perk for its user.

Once Lynn had applied the lipstick, the Penguin Queen took the initiative to help the Red Panda Tactician do up her hair into a cute, neat bun while Qiu Yue continued with her makeup process.

"It might sound weird to say it now but... honestly, the more I work with Jin, the more I feel at peace rather than in love..." Qiu Yue suddenly blurted out after Lynn had barely started to work on her hair.

"Mhmm." Lynn did not know how to reply. To make things worse, the table mirror in front of them betrayed Lynn's not so subtle expression to Qiu Yue.

"Here I thought you would be more relieved after hearing this." Qiu Yue laughed at Lynn's stunned expression. "I am telling you that I am retiring from that meaningless competition for Jin's affection."

"This must be another trick of yours, isn't it?" Lynn said the first thing that came to her mind. She had never expected that just aiding each other with their clothes would turn so serious.

"I just figured a new year, a new me. Haha. Maybe it was Pei's little trick on Jin that opened my eyes, but I do not want to be a burden to him. You know that we used to be a couple, right? I've known him long enough to see that he really does not seem to be in the mood of getting into a relationship... at least not back with me. Perhaps a tiny part of him still blames me for dumping him back then... Anyway, I just decided that I would rather concentrate on getting some achievement for myself." Qiu Yue explained as she closed her lips and checked the brightness of her own lipstick.

"Unlike you, Ms. Prodigy Cook, who has already trained to be a professional cook, I have yet to find a niche."

"Please, you've worked for the government before you joined Jin. You took control over the economy of the Goblin and Orc Kingdom and single-handedly oversaw the construction plans of Pandapolis. Don't

those count as amazing achievements under your belt? Not to mention, you aided in the defence of Pandapolis by leading hundreds of minions under your command. What more could you want?" After Lynn tied Qiu Yue's hair into a bun, she inserted a red panda hairpin at the side.

"Heh, I feel like I should have done more. In the end, wasn't it Jin and Kraft's troupe who handled the Big Bad Boss? I've even asked my Sub System how my odds would have been in his shoes. It told me it was 0%. It might be able to boost my but not to such a level. Not unless my base strength improves by a lot. Don't tell Jin, but in recent weeks, I've been training with Tsu and Kai." Qiu Yue shared as she placed her index finger on her mouth while facing the mirror.

"Oh... no wonder there were some days I could not contact you. I erm...thought you did not want to talk to me when I visited Jin in his ward." Lynn decided to also be open with her, saying some things she had dared to say before.

"True I was worried about him. Especially the first few days, but I saw the bellators were taking great care of him, so I decided that I would trust them and instead of moping around I would take this time off from Jin's constant blabbering of requests to improve myself." Qiu Yue replied as she had felt inadequate after the fight against the Demon Rats.

While she did amicably well, there had been many times that she got rescued by the Orcs and Goblins around her, some of them paying for it with their lives. Though one could say that she had developed good teamwork to overcome the mounting odds, she felt that she could have done better.

Acknowledging her own lack of power, the Red Panda Cultivator had personally decided to look for mentors to help improve on her combat skills. Naturally, Tsu and Kai were quite surprised when the Sub System User approached them for training, but they were nevertheless happy to help.

She had chosen a perfect time, as the twin brothers were also giving martial art classes to the beast kids of the Paradiso Prison. However, the only condition that Tsu and Kai gave to Qiu Yue was that she had to unlearn all the knowledge she accumulated and follow the same training pattern that the Wolf brothers had given the beast kids.

"Then what about the cultivation manual that the System has given you?" Lynn asked, and Qiu Yue smiled.

"They told me not to worry about it. While I would learn their basics first, Tsu would subsequently follow up with the cultivation manual given to me. I don't know about Zeru, but those two are seriously demanding teachers." Qiu Yue sighed when thinking about it.

Seeing as she was done, she swapped places with Lynn. "Now it's my turn to do your hair a little." Similar to Qiu Yue's red panda accessory hairpin, Lynn also had a penguin hairpin. Still, instead of a bun, Qiu Yue tied a simple ponytail for her fellow Sub System User.

"So, don't worry about me and go for Jin. Just don't blame me if my inactivity still attracts him to me. Perhaps he really is becoming like a Panda and had just suppressed his desire for me, hehe!" Qiu Yue teased Lynn a bit. "Also, you should get him before that mysterious female State Agent officially enters his life. I have a feeling like she could spell trouble for you."

The Penguin Queen decided at that moment that in the new year, it's time to up her game a little. (Or at least she tries.)

Chapter 887 Minions' Reunion

Just as Jin had promised, he announced his sponsorship of everyone's meal for Chinese New Year's Eve through the System Channel. He had even prepared a temporary service instance where the minions would be served hotpot.

There was no limit to each hotpot room within the service instance, so it could accommodate any number of them. But to avoid straining the System's resources, the minions were required to define how many people were entering it in the first place.

Therefore, every minion had to register their names into a group so they would be given their own room in the Hotpot Service Instance.

Furthermore, this was the first time the penguins were able to sit back and relax as the System had already collected enough data on how the little aquatic birds worked.

Jin had used that data to simulate something similar to the Panda Nurses' artificial intelligence and had created Panda Waiter equivalents.

At first, the penguins were apprehensive about Jin's decision until they learned that the Panda Waiters' only job was to prepare the food items to serve to the minions. Just a bit of cutting and washing of the food supplies before those premium raw items would be delivered to each and every room's hungry customers.

While it was supposed to be hotpot, Jin had actually included metal grills beside the hotpot too, allowing them to barbeque their meat if they didn't wish to have it steamed. And unsurprisingly, all minions were happy to go with the latter option since barbequed meat was an expensive System point purchase and not something for everyday consumption to the average minion.

Naturally, most minions did not hold back on their appetite after they learned it was free for all. Only the more recent additions were a little apprehensive of their master's offer. It seemed too good to be true if it was indeed without a catch, but the older minions encouraged them to take it as it was a rare opportunity.

"It's not every day that the Boss treats us, but when he does, he does not hold back. So eat up, my dear student! Trust me, after taking one bite, you will look forward to these events, as you won't have to worry about any cost." Moloch said to Prince Stolas, who had voluntarily joined the System's command after he had witnessed what an amazing job Moloch and his human- Nay, his master had done to defeat his father.

Only a select few forces should have stood a chance against the Demon Metropolis. Still, even amongst them, the young prince doubted any could have achieved such an overwhelming victory against the Demon Metropolis. Perhaps the Church of the Afterlife, but they usually kept to themselves.

"Yea, little prince, eat! Eat until you burst, for tomorrow he might swarm you to death with work!" Wolte added in as he placed a large piece of medium-rare cow steak into his slug body. "MMMMMMMM! The taste is heavenly." Wolte shook his body with joy.

"True, Jin does expect a lot from us minions, but you do get rewarded in kind," Moloch admitted as he placed a plate full of meat on Baal's side of the table. "I would advise you to start grilling a ste- HEY WOLTE! Get your fingers off my meat, you stupid metal slug!" Moloch defended his food by throwing a magical card towards the slug which stunned him momentarily. Long enough for the plush minotaur to recover his plate.

"Bah, no need for your little tricks. You could have just taken some from me later. It's free flow until the morning after all! The Master was even nice enough to set a time dilation instance for us to eat until we could not move! Waiter! More beer please!" Wolte shouted, and the rest on the table laughed, but Baal was a little more serious as he lowered his head to his old friend.

"Thank you, Moloch. I thought you would still be mad at me." Baal said in an apologetic tone to the surprise of his children. Princess Gaap and Prince Stolas had never seen such a side of their father before.

"Nah, it's over already. We've beat you fair and square... well mostly fair. So why make a big fuss about it now? Besides, I won you over. To me, that means my job is done. Also, I get to enjoy watching Kiva being used as a guinea pig for lots of research work. I hope Ayse will at least give him some time off for this." Moloch chuckled.

Not only did Jin enable smaller groups to have their own reunion with each other, but he had also granted his monsters some time off to check on their real families as part of the reunion dinner agreement. The Goblins, Orcs and even Demons from the Demon Metropolis were all able to return their individual worlds. And because time passed differently in each and every world, the System only dictates a four hour grace period to visit their loved ones.

But this kindness had a price, and Jin knew about it. There could be potential backlash upon doing this act, and thus the Dungeon supplier warned each and every one of them that this was only a temporary visit and the System would not just let them go that easily. He also relayed them the consequences of contacting their loved ones again for certain monsters, and if their work progress deteriorates because of this, the System might have to intervene.

However, he did promise them one thing. If his next large scale project succeeded, the implementation of the Virtual Reality network, and with enough resources on his side, he might be able to allow their families to stay with them (in a virtual way at least). Else, he could come up with a system that would allow them to return on a regular basis based on their work performance.

Knowing that their master had no obligation to do any of this because he owned them, they were already thankful that they received a chance to reunite with their family members. Of course, explaining why they were gone would be hard for many of them, especially the Orcs who would have to see their family, friends or loved ones from a distance. Some even learnt a few tricks from the Orc Traders in the Adventurer Town and or do so under a different appearance and name.

The Demons did not have any such limitation since their world revolved around the concept of resurrection and the deal brokered between King Rex and Moloch of Pandapolis City allowed the Demons to return almost anytime.

As for the Goblins, many of them were elated to return to their loved ones but they also noticed how long they had been away. With the time differences between worlds, a small number, unfortunately, had to visit graveyards because of the time they were away. But the majority were excited to be back. (And with lots of money to boot.)

The Farming Humans, on the other hand, had already formed a community between themselves as they knew most, if not all of their family members had already been killed by the Demon Rats. Some even took this chance to ask Jin if it was possible for them to take part in the fight against the Demon Rats.

Jin did not hesitate to grant their request, but on the condition that they had to be trained under someone more senior. Thus, most of the Farming Humans if not all went to the Mousefolks for apprenticeships. As for the rest, they went to the Jacks, but that is a story for later.

Because right now, it's all about reunion and enjoying their 'employment benefits'.

Chapter 888 Prosperity to the Panda Clan

Just like the minions, Jin and his dungeon family were enjoying the same bountiful dinner. It had been hard on them as the dungeon supplier had to convince Lynn not to get involved in the food process at all.

For the first time, Lynn had felt ever so restless as she was being forced to relax. (The Queen and Penguins were just too hardworking when it comes to food.) However, upon learning that it would just be hotpot and barbecued meat, she had decided to leave it to Jin. (Even though she could not help herself and prepare some Porkcupine meat 'just in case' they would need it.)

Grandma Yuan and Hou Fei had both turned up. The old woman was accompanied by Claire, who had quickly become a favourite guest in the System's eyes (or sensors). The Panda Waiter had prepared a mini hotpot special for Grandma Yuan so it would be nutritional and tasty but more importantly, premium looking.

"Heh, guess you brats know how to please the elderly." Grandma Yuan said but little did she know it was Yun who had suggested that specific assortment of food for Jin to procure. She had made him promise that he would not say a word about her involvement, as she would deny everything, but the Dungeon Supplier knew that credit should go where it was due.

Thus, he slipped a video file to Claire and hinted that it might be interesting for Grandma Yuan to see. However, he never knew that it was because they were related in some way and thought it was just a method to close the gap between them. (In hindsight, this small gesture by Jin helped propel the mending of their relationship, but that is for a later story.)

Even before digging in, the bellators' mouths were already drooling from looking at Grandma Yuan's hotpot. When their personal hotpot was served, they feasted on it as if they had been starving for weeks. Side dishes were gone, and the Panda Waiters had to come in multiple times to fill the plates.

Even Zeru decided to eat more than usual and laughed with a relaxed posture. As a good disciple, Jin had also prepared a special something for his Sword Saint teacher. He beckoned him to a corner, where he gave Zeru a bottle during the midst of the reunion hotpot dinner.

A bottle of fermented lavender flower wine.

Zeru was curious as to why he would give something like that to him away from the others until he saw Jin pull out an antique Chinese tea set as well as a bottle of sludge.

"This day is meant to be celebrated with the people closest to us. I thank you for all that you have done, but there is still someone else you should spend time with. I think your wife will be thrilled to learn that you can be with her during this day. This bottle is filled with my latest dark sludge, so it is choke full of my Maqi, allowing you to manifest her spirit for some time." Jin explained and Zeru could not help but stifle his reaction.

"Boss Jin. I... Thank you for your generosity." Zeru said as he nearly wanted to kneel, but Jin stopped him almost instantly.

"Stop it. I might be your boss, but I am also your disciple. Now please stop or the others will think up something suspicious!" Jin panicked as he tried to stabilise the Sword Saint.

"Agreed, but as your teacher, allow me to honour my precious disciple with a toast from this wine he got for me." Zeru insisted. He effortlessly opened the bottle and used his chi to grab his glass from the table, making everyone's attention shift to the duo.

They watched Zeru pour a cup full of wine and drank wholeheartedly not before shouting "Prosperity to the Panda Clan!" which caused chuckles from the table afar. After which he nodded his head with gratitude and left the room early.

"Was that the wine you asked me to get?" Lynn asked in a hushed tone, and Jin smiled widely.

"Yes, and his mouth was wide open when he saw that I took out that bottle." Jin whispered back.

Not too long ago, Zeru had been asked by Lynn for his opinion for a wine which might accompany a particular dish. At the time, she had presented him with many choices. He had expertly analysed each one of them, but that one in particular had made him halt for a moment. Jin only came to learn of this by sheer coincidence as he had asked his Sub System Users what had happened while he was unconscious.

"Speaking of Prosperity... isn't it time for our boss to give us some *cough* pieces of paper?" Qiu Yue mischievously asked as she pointed at the clock.

It was about three minutes to midnight, and Jin shook his head with dreaded anticipation. "Damn, time really flies, eh? Shouldn't we wait until morning?" Jin chuckled with a bitter smile.

"No wonder Grandma Yuan left a little early, citing the need for rest. She must have suspected you guys would be shameless enough to ask for some Hong Bao (red packets)." Claire stated as she laid back on

After which, the Panda Waiter came in time with a large giant plate of Yu Sheng, a premium platter of raw fish and vegetables. Everyone knew that the dish was served to usher in good luck and wealth for the new year.

There were eighteen phrases when one added the ingredients into their Yu Sheng, and the Panda Waiter looked eerily familiar. (It turned out to be a replica of Captain Hei.)

He came in with a waiter costume and started to open the extra ingredients that needed to be added into the platter to signify good luck.

"Nian Nian You Yu! May every year be filled with prosperity!" Hei said as he opened the first pack filled with raw slices of fish.

"Da Ji Da Li! For more good luck and prosperity!" Hei proceeded to add dried orange peels into the Yu Sheng platter.

"Zhao Cai Jin Bao! Welcoming wealth into our household!" Hei added the peppers and a variety of seasoning powders.

"Yi Ben Wan Li! May Boss make a thousandfold profit from investment!" Hei shouted out loudly when he poured a packet of oil.

"Cai Yuan Guang Jin! May the money pour in all directions!" Hei said as he sprinkled the last bits of oil in the packet.

"Hong Yun Dang Tou! May fortune greet you at your door!" Hei announced as he threw thin strips of carrots into the platter.

"Bu Bu Gao Sheng! May Boss rise higher with every step!" Hei threw in the shredded white raddish.

"Feng Sheng Shui Qi! May everyone have success and promotion at work!" Hei later placed the shredded cabbage in, and there was a slight cheer from Qiu Yue.

"Qing Chun Chang Zhu! May everyone retain their youthful looks!" Now more cheers came in when Hei threw in the shredded green raddish.

"Jing Ying Man Wu! May our house be full of gold and silver!" Hei sprinkled chopped peanuts into the Yu Sheng mixed platter.

"Sheng Yi Xing Long! May Boss's business prosper forevermore!" Hei used a little more strength to sprinkle the sesame seeds, and Jin personally added some cheering in.

"Man Di Huang Jing! May your floor be covered in gold!" Hei said as he opened not one but three packets of golden looking crackers and scattered them throughout the whole platter.

"Jin Yu Man Tang! May your hall be filled with gold and jade!" Hei added when he scattered the last packet of golden crackers.

"Tian Tian Mi Mi! May your life be blessed with sweetness." Hei now opened a small container filled with plum sauce and poured it over the platter. That was when Hei stepped back, and everyone took a

pair of chopsticks. They knew that there were a few phrases left, but they were only to be said when everyone started tossing the Yu Sheng platter.

To mix everything up was a symbolic gesture of putting all the wishes together. They allowed Jin to be the first to start by tossing the vegetables and fish platter in the large red plate. Only when he initiated, the others began to follow, and that was when Hei shouted the last few phrases.

"Wan Shi Ru Yi! May everything be good and smooth sailing!"

"Shen Ti Jian Kang! May everyone's body stay strong and healthy!"

"Gong Xi Fa Cai! Wishing everyone great wealth!"

And lastly, everyone was competing to be the one to toss the vegetables as high as possible as that was the point where everyone had to shout the most auspicious phrase.

"HUAT AH!"

Huat, Huat, Huat Ah! To Prosperity, to Victory and most importantly, to his Family.

Chapter 889 Red Packets

Even after the tossing of Yu Sheng, the dinner did not stop there. All of them near the table took a portion of it to partake in the well wishes that had been said by NPC Panda Hei. Jin thought it was a nice touch for the System to participate in this reunion dinner in some way or another.

And for it to control Hei's personality and NPC settings was a small little secret that only Jin and the System were aware of. After all, just as Ming had said, the System took its rules seriously and would not break them unless there was either a consensus between the two parties involved or they were in danger.

But in order to not create any further suspicion, 'Hei' had already retreated back into his quarters after serving Yu Sheng and taking a portion of it to eat. As for the rest, Qiu Yue had already shamelessly extended her hand out with her mouth full of food, but Lynn sternly told her not to be rude.

"What's wrong? I thought we should be rewarded for our efforts?" Peppers asked as she too followed Qiu Yue and smiled widely while awaiting the red packet.

"You guys... At least treat me as a proper boss! Otherwise, no red packets for you lot!" Jin stated in a fit of playful anger while he folded his arms.

"Hahaha! Fine, fine!" Qiu Yue wiped her mouth and hands with a few pieces of tissue and adjusted her black cheongsam dress. After which, she clasped her hands together and wished her Chinese New Year greetings to her boss.

"Boss Jin, Gong Xi Fa Cai! Hope you get rich and famous in the coming year!" Qiu Yue said that part with respect, and now it was Jin's turn to control his giggles as he did not expect them to really comply with his request.

"I am willing to accept rich, but famous? Maybe not too soon." Jin replied as he too adjusted his clothes and accepted Qiu Yue's well wishes for the new year.

And as promised, he took out a red packet from his storage watch and used two hands to pass the Hong Bao to Qiu Yue. "Thank you for your service, Qiu Yue. Let's make Dungeons and Pandas the best it can ever be." Jin said as he prepared the next red packet for the little one queuing behind Qiu Yue.

Meanwhile, the Red Panda Cultivator realised that even the red packet was specifically designed to suit their cultivation styles. Instead of showing the current zodiac animal, they were celebrating for this year as the norm, Jin had purposely printed a Panda alongside a Red Panda playing in a Bamboo forest with both animals wearing traditional chinese costumes on it.

However, the red packet design was just a teaser to what's inside it (still, she planned to treasure it, instead of throwing it away). As shameless as the Red Panda Tactician may be, Qiu Yue knew it was way too rude to open the red packet in front of her boss. So, she purposely went to the backyard where she slowly and carefully opened the package without destroying it.

However, she did try to guess how much was inside by shaking it, pressing it and bending the red packet while trying to determine its weight.

Unfortunately, no matter how she tried, it was a little too thin for comfort and Qiu Yue worried if Jin went back on his promise about giving her a 'hefty good bonus' for the work she had done. All those worries disappeared once she opened the red packet.

Inside was a single piece of paper.

Slowly, she pulled it out and got giddily excited. It was a bank cheque written with quite a number of zeroes on it. "Woohooo! THANKS BOSS!" Qiu Yue shouted from the backyard and into the dining room.

Meanwhile, Peppers shamelessly opened the red packet in front of Jin. Peppers then pulled out a card. Only upon closer inspection, did it turn out to be a gift card with the words 'System Points'.

"Oh. My. GOD." Peppers squealed as she flipped the gift card to show that Jin had given Peppers 30,000 System points. That was equal to roughly six months of work. Milk also received the same amount, and they were jumping with joy since it was very difficult to earn this much unless they worked extremely hard for the System or by miracle, they did something deserving of that much points.

"Wow, then I guess I better get my rewards too. Hehe!" Kraft chuckled as he joined the small queue upon seeing the many happy faces around him.

"Are you serious, Boss?" Lynn suddenly screeched out in joy when she saw exactly the same number of zeros after opening it in the backyard. Qiu Yue and her were all excited when they thought of the things they could buy. Qiu Yue thought of getting a car with that money while Lynn was still thinking about how to improve her kitchen apparatus with that amount of money.

"Do I kid with money??" Jin smiled as he turned his focus on Pei, the only 'fox' he was close enough to invite to this gathering apart from Kraft and thanked her for saving him time and time again.

"Please note that the money that User gives is from his own pocket. So, the money you spend is not part of the current budget. Spend Wisely." The Sub Systems stated simultaneously as if to prove a point not to waste their new year bonus.

"Shhh! System I thought I told you not to say it out!" Jin asked the System as it finally came to Kraft.

"Sub Systems did not make any such promise." The System stated as it noticed how even Pei could crack a genuine smile once in a while upon receiving the very same gift card as Milk and Peppers.

"You know that I don't need any of these gift cards, right?" Kraft raised his hands and clasped his hands together to wish his boss prosperity for the new year.

"Yeah, I know you well enough. But I think you will be happy with the red packet. Happy New Year to you as well, Kraft." Jin passed a packet with Foxes and Pandas imprinted on it.

"Heh! Thank you, Boss. Do you mind if I open it right here and now?" Kraft asked as Jin gave him the go-ahead.

When he opened it, he found out it was also a piece of paper, but he realised it was more than that. It was an inscription charm. One that looked quite similar to the ones the Demon Exorcist Trainees had received for Christmas.

"I do not know how much power it can give you, but I hope it's still a minor upgrade," Jin said, and that made Kraft sniggered.

"Even if it's not, I am sure I can convince Octofussy to help me tinker with it further. Now I am more interested in what kind of outfit you are giving me. Hahahah!" Kraft replied as he noticed it was not a dual inscription charm but rather, a triple inscription charm.

It was a literal upgrade to the dual inscription charm which Jin could not have fiddled even with the help of the System because of his current Cultivation Grade of Eighth Peak.

Unless...

He was beyond that.

Chapter 890 More Red Packets?!

Everyone was messy and noisy but equally excited by the amount of goodwill Jin had shown them. They decided to prolong dinner for a bit more. Being a cultivator allowed one to control their food consumption.

While it was generally used to slow it down, it was also possible to quicken it. That way, the stored energy could later be used for long periods of cultivation if needed. Thus, every one of them enhanced their speed of digestion to make room for a 'second' round of servings. (Jin had lost count on how many times they had repeated this process and although the System had that exact number, he would rather not know.)

With this latest round of dinner, Jin chose to share his vision for the future of Dungeons and Pandas. Most of them were astounded by Jin's new approach, but Pei did appreciate that her master understood the concerns of how the dungeons could lead to unforeseen consequences in their current society.

This was especially true since cultivation was not easily obtained especially in peace times, making it an indicator for position and power within the country. An extraordinary catalyst like Jin's dungeons meant he would be targeted by every powerful organisation, whether they are good or evil.

While it's true that the dungeon supplier cannot take sides and is supposed to be treated as a neutral ground, it's not necessarily true if he goes out of the store. His encounter with the Ruby Rat had shown as much. It wasn't surprising why most dungeon supplier stores were part of a larger group. (Though most parts of the reason were due to the cost of maintaining the dungeon instance servers.)

That was why Jin owning the entire Tiangong shopping district allowed him some flexibility when it came to store management and future expansion. For example, he could use the land of his old store to create the new upcoming Panda Inc to support the Virtual Reality Network on a long term basis.

"This sounds like a big endeavour to take on...but if you do it right, we will no doubt prosper and eventually even enter into Forbes Top 3." Qiu Yue shared her thoughts on the matter, and Jin laughed.

"You are clearly joking, right? I do not think that is entirely possible." Jin had never considered the consequences to that degree.

"You see, if we play our cards right, this VR network could be used as more than a game. You already plan to create a virtual reality, but it could also be used to conduct business meetings, encrypted ones for sure and even used for education. Not just in terms of cultivation but literally anything from learning how to cook fried rice to learning how to kill someone."

"That, I got to agree. And with the power to create within their own VR space, which I assume that's one of the eventualities, this will allow humanity to have an online living community. With exclusive rights to your own technology... Trust me, that equals shit loads of potential markets that could come out of this. Those VR goggles? Man, those are crap stuff. I believe Boss Jin will create something akin to an alternate reality." Claire also voiced her approving opinion.

"And unlike an authentic 'virtual' reality, ours seems more to be intended as augmented virtual reality, right? Just transferring the souls in and they are digitally physical enough to do stuff and experience with their given senses, correct?" Lynn asked for clarification.

"Hopefully. Because that should guarantee that no spiritual powers will influence them. What they fight will still be real because of the digital to physical conversion by our dungeon instance technology. That is why I said their participation in our dungeon instances is already akin to that. What we are selling will be merely the permission key to enter our doors while maintaining their physical body in place. That way, they cannot take in the spiritual power because of the loophole in dungeon instance technology but still have a wonderful experience."

"And we can maintain the illusion that we are doing a virtual reality stunt. That's awfully deceptive while making sure to keep the System hidden. Didn't think you could come up with such a clever scheme. I am looking forward to you having more of those in the future." Kraft gave a thumbs up for the entirely new direction Jin was taking.

"Still, there is much to do." Jin sighed and consciously stopped himself. He was afraid that the casual announcement would become a business discussion meeting. "...Let's get back to it, after this." Jin pulled out more red packets.

"More red packets for us?" Peppers' eyes widened up, and Milk told her to continue dreaming.

"Hahaha! The ones I hold are technically for Zeru...and since I am the Master of the Panda Clan, I have obligations to give Hou Fei. As for those Demon Exorcist kids, they did a great job so as the boss, I need to give them too...assuming they completed their assignments in designing the advanced training centre for me. But in any case, I will have to give it to them later in the day. As for now, I was actually going to visit each and every room in the Hotpot Service Instance to personally convey my thanks to all the hard-working minions." Jin remarked, and everyone pretended to be bewildered by Jin's deeds to the point the Dungeon Supplier was getting annoyed that they were so sarcastic in their response.

"I think that's an excellent idea. Everyone will be happy if the Boss comes to meet them personally to give them their red packet bonuses like you did for us, only... do you plan to do that every time from now on?" Pei cautioned whether he would be able to continue to do that in the future.

"I agree, have you taken a look at how large their numbers have grown? Don't you think it's more efficient to ask your minions to come to you instead? I mean, of course, there's sincerity for you to personally give your red packets, but that will take a heck lot of time." Qiu Yue added.

"Although it might seem a little insincere, at the very least you will set a precedence on how you give out your red packets in the future. Imagine if you have another ten of thousands of 'employees' under you or let's think big, a hundred thousand employees. Are you still going to have time to give each and every one of them?" Claire concurred with Qiu Yue.

"Actually, User did consider such circumstances and had already created something to aid in the distribution. However, User eventually felt embarrassed and decided against using it. System once more recommends to use it rather than waste its resources and time teleporting around to give his employees their profits." The System stated, and everyone could feel that Jin was dying for a hole in the ground to disappear in.

"Alright, fine! I shall use that. But...don't you dare laugh at me! Or... or next year there will be NO BONUS!" Jin threatened as he kept the red packets and told the System to make the announcement to everyone while requesting for a teleport to yet another temporary service.

The Instant Lottery Instance.