

MMORPG: The Almighty Ring

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Chapter 11: Inevitable Promotion

While enduring the whole afternoon class session, Jiang Fei had received plenty of small paper passed to him by the girls in his class. There was even one paper that came from other class!

Jiang Fei had never once experienced such a blissful moment when he was only a gamer geek! That euphoric moment did not stop there. While Jiang Fei was actually listening to the teacher's words, he could feel the stare of other coming from all directions!

That made Jiang Fei felt excited! Not in the wrong way. He was excited to go back into the game as soon as he could! Whatever happened that day was thanks to a level 10 Green grade boots! Just a Level 10! It changed Jiang Fei from being a regular lame gamer geek into a professional NBA class basketball player! In just one morning, he had become the star attraction! In the future, if he could procure stronger equipment, being Superman would not be a dream but a reality!

As his mind drifted along the idea of procuring more and more stronger equipment, he got highly agitated! When school was over, he bolted home and finished up his dinner and homework with lightning speed. Once he was done with his daily chores, he sped to his room and waited for the right time to log into the game!

Once the clock strikes 10pm sharp, Jiang Fei closed his eyes and entered the game.

Since the boots was taken out of the game, it would not be removed from his physical self. Hence, the only equipment he had with him was a Green grade two-handed sword. The rest of his equips were White grade.

Even so! Jiang Fei did not regret his decision. The boots had little impact on him in the game but was a huge bonus in real life!

"Time for me to hit the city! It's time for me to get a class!"

Jiang Fei hit Level 10 one day ago and was prompted by the system to move on. With the guidance of the huge arrow beneath his character, Jiang Fei headed towards the

Village Chief. There, he obtained a Letter of Recommendation which allowed him to advance to a chosen class by handing it to an Instructor.

To ease every player, a Teleportation Circle was placed right beside the Chief. Jiang Fei walked over to the circle and teleported to a huge city with relative ease.

“Now this is much merrier than that village!”

Jiang Fei was bombarded with the sound of the city; busy players rustling around the streets, vendors selling their items, the typical noise that would hear even in the real world.

The city he was in was one of the four main cities of the China server. The one he was in was called Dawnlight City which was located in the Northeast. The other three were called Saintlight City in Southeast, Sunrise City in Southwest, and Twilight City in Northwest.

Despite being only the third day since the server had launched, the city was brimming with life. Some of the players had already gathered together to form their own guild!

“I should be heading to the class advancement hall.” Jiang Fei thought to himself as he pondered on the Class system. The best class that he was used to was Warrior and Assassin. He thought that he should seek out the respected class Instructor and compare the differences before choosing one.

It was not hard for Jiang Fei to look for the Class advancement hall as it was located in the heart of the city.

“Young man, you look like you would be a fine Warrior! We, the Warrior, have the strongest of body and spirit! We are the best fighter and a must in every battle!” said an Instructor as Jiang Fei approached him.

“Adventure? Would you like to learn the art of an Assassin? We thrive in the shadow. Silent and deadly. The last thing your enemies will see before they die is the light of the blade that struck them!” said an Assassin Instructor that fades in and out of the shadow.

Jiang Fei thought about it for a while and since it was inconvenient for him to join Zhao Feng, or anyone else to play, he thought that he should select Assassin instead. A lone adventurer.

“I choose to be an Assassin!” Jiang Fei voiced out his wish to the Instructor in the shadows.

“A regrettable decision but not dire. You may talk to the other Instructor and talk to the ones that interest you,” said the Assassin Instructor solemnly.

“Huh? I thought I said I want to,” Jiang Fei continued to talk.

“Please don’t waste my time. If you do not wish to learn the arts of the shadows, please leave me alone,” said the Instructor as he gestured him to move along.

“What the heck is going on?” Jiang Fei grunted.

I just said I wanted to be an Assassin. Why would he think otherwise?

At the moment Jiang Fei was talking to the Instructor, Jiang Fei had not noticed that something was happening. The ring was glowing in a faint silvery light.

Ignoring what had happened, Jiang Fei moved on to the Warrior Instructor as he gave up with the first option.

“Excuse me. I’d like to be a Warrior.”

“Is that right... That’s too bad then. Run along and talk to a preferred Class Instructor then,” said the Warrior Instructor.

Wait a minute...

“What is going on! Yo! I’d told you I want to be a Warrior!” Jiang Fei roared.

“Please don’t waste my time. If you do not wish to be a powerful Warrior, run along and find someone else to talk to!”

The Warrior Instructor turned his back to Jiang Fei.

“FML! What?! A bug in the system?!”

Agitated, Jiang Fei moved on to the nearest Instructor.

“I want to be a Magician.”

“It’s is but alright. Please talk to the other Instructor and find the Class that truly suits you.”

“I want to be a Priest.”

“All is well. Please talk to the other Instructor and find the Class that truly suits you.”

“Oh hell no! It’s you! You did this!” cried Jiang Fei when he finally realizes what was happening. The problem was he had already asked all possible Class Instructor there was when he finally realized the ring was making things hard for him!

Whenever he talks to a Class Instructor, the ring will glow faintly. When it did, the Instructor that Jiang Fei talked to will perceive Jiang Fei rejecting them.

“F*ck you little metal blowhole! What beef you have with me? I can’t be that. I can’t be this. What Class can I be?!”

woosh

The ring glowed slightly brighter and a small ray of light shines towards the other side of the hall. Jiang Fei started to frown furiously. The ring was pointing towards the Profession Instructor! More specifically, the Blacksmith!

“What the hell? A Profession? You want me to take up Blacksmith as my main?! Hell no!” Jiang Fei rejected the idea almost spontaneously.

In Dawn Break, a player can further advance in their own class. In this game, Profession and Class falls into the same category; they can only take up one, unlike other game where Profession was considered as a secondary class or a supporting class, or most commonly known as Profession. Other MMORPG allows a player to take up multiple Professions and sometimes, multiple combat Class such as ***** Fantasy XIV.

That was the reason why Jiang Fei rejected the idea to take up Blacksmithing as his main. After dwelling in his sea of thoughts, Jiang Fei turned to the ring and asked, “Can I at least get a combat Class?”

The ring did not respond.

“Listen, if you think by having me to become a Blacksmith, I can’t continue feeding you equipment! It’s not feasible!” said Jiang Fei yet the ring continued to be silent.

“Fine! I give. You win.” Jiang Fei sighed heavily. So, Blacksmith, it was. Jiang Fei was in a dilemma. His father would not allow him to play the game. The only he was able to play was using the ring’s power. If he wishes to continue to play the game, he would have to listen, no, obey the ring’s command to become a Blacksmith! He had no choice there. He was relying on the ring to gain power! Without the ring, he could not withdraw items out of the game into the real world. In the end, his dream to become as strong as superman was more important to him than playing the game.

“Excuse me. I want to become a Blacksmith.”

Jiang Fei approached the Instructor.

“Haha! Sprite young’ one ain’t cha! Good eyes you’ve there. Trust me! Blacksmithin’ be the best occupation!”

“Ding! The Blacksmith Master, Krug Sarteen, would wish to promote you to become a Blacksmith Apprentice. Do you wish to proceed?”

As it turns out, the ring did not glow and Jiang Fei finally received the prompt window to become a Blacksmith Apprentice.

“Yes!” Jiang Fei nodded.

As if I had a choice, to begin with...

“Ding! Congratulations, Player Verdure Glider for obtaining a Class! Current Class: Beginner Blacksmith!”

“Ding! You have obtained Iron Hammer!”

“Ding! You have learned a skill—Metalsmith!”

“Ding! You have learned a skill—Beginner’s Smith!”

“Ding! You have learned a skill—Flame Hammer!”

Metalsmith (Level 1): You can turn Metal Ore or basic equipment into Metal Ingots. (60% chance raw material wastage)

Beginner’s Smith (Level 1): Allows you to craft Metal Armor and Weapons under Level 20 with a Recipe. (Success rate of 20%)

Flame Hammer (Mastered): Smites foes with your Hammer. 1% chance to create Ascended item, if the skill is used on Smithing. Deals 10% of your current maximum Health Points as damage if the ability is used in combat. 10 second cooldown time.

Iron Hammer (One-Handed Hammer, Normal)

Smithing Success Rate +5%

Smithing Speed +10

Class Requirement: Blacksmith

The White grade hammer in Jiang Fei’s hand felt extremely uncomfortable. It wasn’t all that crude or barely holding itself together... It was just... Jiang Fei was hoping to wield a dagger or a longsword instead. Still, no matter how disgruntled he felt, there was no choice. Blacksmiths were not a combat Class, but they could still deal a certain amount of damage. The skill, Flame Hammer, had its uses. The problem was its nature as a non-trainable skill. It would forever be stuck at Level 1!

“So... What do you want me to do now?” said Jiang Fei as he spoke to the ring.

Woo

The ring released a faint, silvery light and revealed that circular mark on its surface. After a while, it disappeared.

“Are you saying... That I should help you level up?” Jiang Fei asked.

“*Woosh*!” The ring replied with a faint glow.

“Alright. Have it your way.”

As mentioned before, Jiang Fei’s goal was to become Superman. Henceforth, the game itself had turned into a secondary priority.

“Ding! Congratulations! You have learned the Recipe: Green Copper Wrist Guard!”

Jiang Fei went to the same Blacksmith Instructor and bought himself a cheap Recipe. Jiang Fei could only afford one White grade copy. It was sad. His impoverished self had to pick the cheapest one out of the set.

Recipe: Green Copper Wrist Guard

Required Skill: Beginner’s Smithing Level 1

Required Material: Copper Ingot x5

Complete Product: Green Copper Wrist Guard (Physical Defense +7)

Crafting this equipment would require five Copper Ingots, and success was not even guaranteed! Jiang Fei’s current Blacksmith Level only provided him with a low chance of 20%. Even with the trusty Iron Hammer in his hands, the success rate was a mere 25%!

Just like Blacksmiths, most Profession-based Classes required Recipes to create something. Success or failure was one thing. The next hurdle was the chance of creating a superior, premium sample. The lottery, so to speak. The default rate was only 1%, which could be increased by using a better Hammer or by increasing one’s Luck attribute. If crafting produced said equipment, the equipment grade would be one tier higher. For example, if Jiang Fei crafted the Green Copper Wrist Guard, a standard White tier equipment, and successfully proc the Ascended, the equipment would be upgraded to a Green grade Fine quality equipment!

However...

By those numbers, Jiang Fei would need at least 2,000 Copper Ingots to produce a single Green grade, Fine quality Green Copper Wrist Guard.

At such low odds, players who solely got by with crafting or production would find it ridiculously challenging to survive on their own. They needed the support of a guild or organization!

“My god... How am I going to collect so many Copper Ingots? I need a mine-full of Copper for this!” Jiang Fei complained, pinching his brows. At this stage of the game, many guilds and their members were more than likely trying their best to pump their skills to the max! It would be no surprise if the cost for ores would be sky-high. Jiang Fei would not be able to purchase them in large quantities.

“Hey there, are you a fresh Blacksmith?”

In the midst of his new headache, a cute, female voice rang called out.

“Hmm?”

Jiang Fei turned around and saw a beautiful, petite little Elf. Based on her complexion, she looked to be roughly around his own age. Hovering over her head was her IGN tag, Rosette Miaomiao.

“Erhm. Hehe...Cutie, are you a Blacksmith?” repeated the girl. This time, she was blushing madly.

Jiang Fei cocked his head. Intrigued, he nodded and said, “Yes. I am a Blacksmith.”

“Oh! That’s good! Are you in any guilds at the moment?”

“No.” Jiang Fei shook his head, perhaps a little too hard.

“Yay! That’s awesome!” The girl cheered and did a jig of joy. She looked over her shoulder and yelled, “Sister Xue! Sister Xue! I’ve found one! I’ve found one!”

“Are you alright?” Jiang Fei asked. He was genuinely perplexed over the whole thing.

“Nishishishi.” The same girl who had been blushing so madly not two seconds ago was behaving nothing the young girl that Jiang Fei had in mind!

“Miaomiao? Did you find one? Where is he?”

“Where is he? Where is he?”

Not long after the little girl cried out, a multitude of girls swarmed in from all directions. The fact that they were all young girls had set Jiang Fei on edge.

“What’s with the lot of you?”

Jiang Fei was petrified. First, a cute girl was asking for your profession, the next thing was a herd of curious-looking young girls swarming up to you. How could anyone remain calm?

“Hello there. My name is Rosette Rose, the Guildmaster of the Rosette Knighthood guild.”

A slightly taller Human girl stepped out of the swarm and approached Jiang Fei with a stoic face, offering her hand.

“Ah yes. Nice to meet you. Do you have any business with me?” Jiang Fei asked, taking her hand.

“Yes. It’s just that... We are a bunch of sisters, and we’ve played many games together. In other games, we would take up our individual professions and be on our way. Since Dawn Break is quite different, players can only take up one class, Professions included. To be fair, none of us wanted to take up non-combat class. We have been searching for such players! I hope that we could work together. What say you?” Rosette explained.

“Ah. Understandable.” Jiang Fei nodded. He now knew why the girls were looking at him with puppy eyes.

It was a good chance. Profession players would not last out in the wild. They usually banded together in specialized guilds. However, he also realized that the girls needed their resident craftsman!

“So? How about it, cutie pie? Let us take care of you!” said Miaomiao, licking her lips.

“Hey! Stop spouting nonsense!” Rosette Rose rolled her eyes. There was a faint hue of red on her cheeks. She turned to Jiang Fei and apologized.

“Please, don’t get us wrong. We hope that you’ll join us! I’m hereby seeking your services as Rosette Knighthood’s official Blacksmith!”

“I see.” Jiang Fei nodded. It was a good offer, especially when ores and materials were the most pertinent issues at the moment. If any guild that was willing to take him in, his problem could be solved, right there and then!

Rosette Rose came closer to Jiang Fei and asked again, “Do you accept our invitation?”

Although she tried her best to mask her excitement, the glitter in her eyes gave her away. In her defense, you don’t find solo Profession players wandering about often!

Chapter 13: A Super-Rich, Fancy Lady Coming Your Way!

There was a good reason why Profession players were highly sought after. Why else would someone play a game? To have fun, of course. Profession players would have not much of a choice, but to spend most of their time in city maps, working with fabric, leather, metal, you name it. How was that supposed to be fun? Hence, the second priority. Money. Players who chose such a path was doing it for the money. That's why you don't see many of these players around!

"Cutie pie! Come on! Say yes! Say yes? Pretty please?" said Miaomiao as she clung on to Jiang Fei's arm.

"Fine! Fine! That's too much skin contact! I accept your invitation!" said Jiang Fei. This girl was highly aggressive.

"Yay! Big brother is such a good man!" cried Miaomiao as she jumped to Jiang Fei's side and whispered into his ears, "We have plenty of boobalicious babes in the guild! If you work hard enough, you might end up going home with one of them!"

"Hoho," Jiang Fei coughed. "In that case, I'd like to bring you home."

Jiang Fei turned to the little brat and gave her some of her medicine.

"Kyaa!" cried Miaomiao in a high-pitched cry. She may be aggressive, but no one would have expected a virgin to get that crafty little minx all jumpy like that.

"Enough Miaomiao, cut the crap!"

Rosette Rose rubbed her temples before turning to Jiang Fei, "Welcome Verdure Glider, to the Rosette Knighthood."

"Ding! Rosette Rose has invited you to join "Rosette Knighthood." Do you accept the invitation?"

"Yes." Jiang Fei nodded.

Rosette Knighthood was a guild. Guilds were one of the many kinds of group system in the game. Since the guild was only just established, it had a low maximum member limit. At that time, they only had 40 members in the guild and a maximum member limit of only 100. One thing to note was that Jiang Fei was currently the only guy in the all-female guild!

"Haha! Verdure Gilder! What a cute name!"

When Jiang Fei entered the guild and opened up the guild chat, members of the guild started to welcome him with utmost passion.

“Urgh...”

Although the girl meant well, Jiang Fei now regretted his choice of IGN. It was very lame. Even if it was a dream, Jiang Fei could have created a better name for himself!

“Verdure Glider... I think I’ll just call you Glider!” said Rosette Rose, as she too noticed the oddity in his IGN. (TL note: The Chinese Name for Verdure Glider is 草上飞. Brother Glider alone is referring to a single character: 飞.)

“That’s nice.” Jiang Fei nodded his head. Even the Guildmaster felt that Verdure Glider was... Not cool.

“Brother Glider, I need you and Tinkerbell to sign a contract with me later on.

Do you have any qualms with this?” said Rosette Rose.

“No. No problems.”

Jiang Fei could see that Tinkerbell was another Profession player in the guild. Her IGN was Jade Tinkerbell. She was a Tailor, and had been recruited to join the guild as she was like Jiang Fei, a solo player.

As for the contract, it was common practice for most guilds. It was to prevent players from exploiting the guild. After all, the guild did provide all the necessary materials for Profession player to increase their Levels. Without the contract, the players could just leave once they have milked their share.

“We are just a small guild. There’s no way for us to compete with other bigger ones. However, we can give you a larger cut. We created the guild not to earn money, but to enjoy the game. The only reason we would recruit players like you is to give the other members a better time,” Rosette Rose explained.

“I understand,” Jiang Fei replied. As mentioned before, players that chose Profession had a motive, and that was to earn as much money as they could. Even though Rosette Rose said that the guild was not aiming to earn money, Jiang Fei had his suspicions. However, when he read the contents of the contract given to him, he was genuinely shocked.

The contract stated that after cutting the cost of materials, all profits shall be divided between the Profession player and the guild at a ratio of 8:2! That’s 20% to the guild while the Profession player would earn 80%! It was an unbelievable number! To put in

comparison, other guilds would only give a basic salary and a 10% profit sharing! The guild itself would take 90% of what the Profession player made!

“Hm mm,” Rosette Rose saw Jiang Fei’s reaction and chuckled. “Like I said, the guild was created for the sole purpose of having fun. We recruit players like yourself to ease the gameplay of the guild members. There’s no shortage of money! We only ask that you prioritize the production of any equipment to the fellow sisters. Anything else can be discussed.”

“Mother f—” Jiang Fei screamed in his mind. “Just how rich are these chicks...”

Still, there it was. Even Jiang Fei had no intention of earning money from the game. However, who could say no to money? Jiang Fei needed an exceptionally large sum of it, since he needed to “feed” the ring!

“Alright. I’ll leave you to it. I’m going to train now with the other sisters. I’ve already given both you and Tinkerbell access to the guild’s public storage. Each of you are allowed to withdraw a daily limit of 50 gold coins. Good luck, and work hard. We will be expecting you to deliver!” said Rosette Rose as she left Jiang Fei alone and dragged the other giggling girls to grind their Levels.

“F*ck me. What have I gotten myself into! This is too much, even for me!”

Since the beginning of the game, Jiang Fei had yet to amass even a single gold coin! They actually allowed anyone to withdraw 50 gold coins a day?!

It was hard for anyone to farm gold coins at that early stage of the game! Selling junk items to NPCs would only yield peanuts! It would never be enough to even buy potions, much less equipment!

How was a guild filled with more than 40 female players able to collect that much money? It was a certainty that the source of that money was not Rosette Rose alone. If it had not been procured from the black market or MMORPG currency sellers... There had to be an explanation for this!

“Argh! Why the hell am I thinking so hard about this! I’d better start buying materials!”

Shoving his curiosity aside, Jiang Fei quickly withdrew 50 gold coins from the guild’s public storage and headed to the entrance of the city gates to set up shop.

“Buying all Copper Ores! One gold coin per stack!”

Even though Jiang Fei could melt down and salvage materials from White tier equipment, he had a far better option. Players right then were all from the Beginner’s Village. Equipment would be highly scarce and costly. It would be better for Jiang Fei to buy Ores, instead.

Even though Jiang Fei's buying price was the market's standard, he had still managed to buy many items from players returning to the city. They were all too lazy to make their way to the NPCs, and since there was someone who was willing to buy their Ore, why not sell it to him?

Jiang Fei's Profession was considered to be of the Crafting variety. Some other Profession players focused on Gathering. That said, there were very few crafters around, but several more Gatherers about! Crafters required capital to start their business. On the contrary, Gatherers did not need any starting money to earn money! Even if their combat ability was lesser than that of specialized combat type Classes, they could "hitch" a ride with a large group of players. As they slew monsters for experience points, the Gatherers could take the opportunity to gather the necessary materials. That was why players who purely wanted to earn money through the game had chosen Gathering as their Profession.

In less than an hour, Jiang Fei had spent all 50 gold coins to buy more than 50 stacks of Copper Ores. He had even run back to the guild storage to offload most of the Ores that he could not hold on to.

"Alrighty then! It's time to Smith for a living."

Satisfied with the number of Copper Ingots, Jiang Fei headed for the Blacksmith Workshop with 20 Copper Ingots in hand.

Unlike Tailoring, Blacksmiths required an actual workspace, whereas Tailors could start crafting anywhere, anytime they wanted — as long as they had the necessary materials. Blacksmiths needed an anvil and furnace!

"Dang! Dang! Ting! Ting!"

With each strike, Jiang Fei sent sparks flying. It was beautiful. Jiang Fei was able to begin appreciating his Profession as a Blacksmith.

Soon, he would be able to survey his first work. Soon, in this case, was literally 5 seconds. The Green Copper Wrist Guard was a cheap, White tier equipment. 5 seconds was all it took!

Chapter 14: The Lucky Blacksmith

"Gru...mm...Gru...mm... Smelting Complete. You have obtained 8 stacks of Copper Ingots! Smelting Experience +20!"

A total of 20 Copper Ingots were produced. Almost half of them had gone up in smoke as Jiang Fei's Smithing skill was only at Level 1; A 60% loss.

“Ding! You have crafted an equipment—Green Copper Wrist Guard! Smithing Experience +1”

“Ding! You have failed the Smithing process!”

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“Ding! You have crafted an equipment—Green Copper Wrist Guard! Smithing Experience +1”

“Ding! You have crafted an equipment—Green Copper Wrist Guard! Smithing Experience +1”

“Ding! You have failed the Smithing process!”

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As the minutes ticked by, Jiang’s Fei spent more and more Copper Ingots in his inventory. As a result, the empty slots in his inventory had been replaced with equipment! Smelting was nothing like Smithing. While Smithing, failing to produce an ingot from the ore would still grant Jiang Fei experience points. Smithing, however, the materials would still be processed. Failures resulted in a wastage of materials, and it would not award any experience points.

After smelting eight stacks of Copper Ingots — a total of 1,600 Copper Ingots, he found that he was able to produce a total of 160 Green Copper Wrist Guards! It was a 50% success rate! Moreover, amongst the 160 Green Copper Wrist Guard, 20 of them were Green tier! That was a pretty good yield!

Based on the market prices, a Level 10 White tier equipment would cost roughly 20 silver coins. Green tier equipment at the same level would cost around 50 silver coins. To put it bluntly, Jiang Fei could sell all of his equipment for more than 40 gold coins. A total of 20 stacks of Copper Ore would only cost 20 gold coins. His profit margin was nearly 100%.

It did not sound like much, but these Profession players would not profit much from their labors, to begin with. The main reason was due to the rat race of increasing one’s Crafting level. Almost all Crafters at this stage of the game would have to invest heavily to gain levels. This once again proved that no Profession player could survive on their own — not without the help of a guild, at least!

Though their pockets would lighten as they leveled up, a good Recipe could switch the situation around. Their pockets would end up bulging at the seams!

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Jiang Fei turned to the Temporary Storage at the Blacksmith workshop, slightly happier than before. Even though he was a Profession player, the euphoria and entitlement he felt then matched the elite players of the game. Still, having that many equipment was a problem. Despite being stackable, 140 of them had still taken up 14 slots.

“*Woosh*” The ring hummed.

Jiang Fei looked at the ring and finally realized that the ring had been flashing for a while now. It looked like it was hungry for those equipment that were threatening to give Jiang Fei more headaches!

“Haha! Good timing. I’ll let you have them!”

Jiang Fei quickly deposited all 140 White grade Green Copper Wrist Guards into the red slots of the ring inventory. Ironically, he was grateful for the functions of the ring. Most of his success had largely been due to the ring.

Jiang Fei took the 20 Green Grade Green Copper Wrist Guards and threw them into his own inventory before heading back to the Bank. There, he extracted the remaining 30 stacks of ores and deported the equipment.

30 stacks of Copper Ore could be smelted into 12 stacks of Copper Ingots. With that amount, it would be another wholesome metal banging practice for him. After what seemed to be half a day later, Jiang Fei had exhausted all the Copper Ingots in his inventory and managed to produce 200 normal White tier Green Copper Wrist Guard and 30 Green tier Green Copper Wrist Guard.

Even though roughly 100 White tier Wrist Guards had been fed to the ring, he still had plenty of equipment to go around.

“Sooo... How’s your day? Masters? Anything good?” As Jiang Fei leaned back for a breather, the girls returned from their “field trip.” They immediately checked up on their resident crafters.

“It’s going well for me. Sadly, the experience bar is a little on the slow side, but I’ve made more than 40 10-Slot Inventory Bags!” Jade Tinkerbelle was the first to reply. Jade Tinkerbelle was a Tailor. Her job was ideal for the beginning stages of the game. It was a sure-fire way of making a stable profit. The reason due to the simple fact of how their wares would always be relevant in the market. One such ware provided additional inventory slots.

Players started off with five slots of inventory bags. In some of the earlier tutorials, the system awarded players with a 32-slot inventory bag. After that, Players were left to expand their slots on their own. However, due to the &\$@% system drop rate, not even 10,000 players would be able to farm one Inventory Bag. Hence, not only was the value of the Inventory Bag sky-high, its demand would never end.

“That’s wonderful! The sisters were complaining of not having enough inventory slots! Many of us had to return to the city to restock on potions!” Rosette Rose cried happily.

“How about you? Cutey Brother?” said Rosette Miaomiao. After claiming one Inventory Bag from Tinkerbelle, she zoomed towards his general direction and came to a complete stop in front of Jiang Fei.

“Sadly, the things that I made would not be of much use to you! I’m a Blacksmith. There’s no need for you lot to grovel over me.” Jiang Fei snickered.

“What are you saying? Our little sister Miaomiao looked up to you!” All of a sudden, Jiang Fei heard a voice right behind him. He spun around in shock only to see a beautiful girl’s face. She was centimeters away from him!

“AIYAYAYAY! Sister Fox is a bully! I’ll wreck you!” Like a cat, Miaomiao hissed and jumped on Rosette Fox’s back.

“Hehe.” Jiang Fei could not help but snicker at their comical behavior.

No, comical might have been a little too harsh. They were more like a family and a close bunch friends. A bunch of girls sharing the same dream.

“All the equipment that I have crafted are in the public guild storage. Please help yourself.” Jiang Fei walked towards Rosette Rose and informed her of his progress.

“Thank you for your work.” Rosette Rose thanked Jiang Fei as she smiled in response.

“Wow! How—? There’s so many equipment! There’re even Green tier ones too!”

When Rosette Rose checked on the storage, she was shocked to see that many valuable equipment stored. 200 White tier equipment was more than shocking, but 50 Green tier ones as well? To put things in perspective, normal Blacksmiths could only produce around 100 White tier equipment at the expense of 50 gold coins. On the other hand, Jiang Fei had produced 50 Green tier equipment with so many White grades, at the cost of only 50 gold coins! The rate for producing Ascended equipment would typically be at 1%. If Jiang Fei were to produce 200 White equipment, he would have produced around three to five Green ones. Now, 50 of them were lying in the storage! What? How? The guy was a basically a money printing machine!

“It’s nothing much. I guess I was pretty lucky today!” Jiang Fei brushed it off, hiding the fact that it was all due to the ring’s mysterious properties.

“Haha! In that case, I wish you a lucky day, every day!” Rosette Rose said.

Even though the Wrist Guards were Level 10, their Green grades equated to a 130% basic attribute. Let’s not forget those bonus attributes! The Green equipment could last

till Level 15. Level 15 equipment would not be as good as a Level 10 Green grade Wrist Guard. She was already Level 15, but that equipment would still serve as an upgrade.

What made Rosette Rose more than happy was the fact that Jiang Fei had produced more than enough for the entire guild. There were only 40 of them, and only 20 of them were Heavy Armor users. There was more than enough for each of them! It was a fantastic feat. In the span of a few hours, the player called Verdure Glider had provided the entire guild with enough Green tier equipment for every member. Jiang Fei's achievement had made himself a valuable asset to the guild, in Rosette Rose's eyes.

A Blacksmith with a high rate of producing Ascended equipment would most definitely bring the guild fortune and wealth. His produce did not yet seem like much, but in the latter stages of the game, a Violet tier Epic tier equipment and a Blue tier Fine equipment meant the difference between Heaven and Earth.

Chapter 15: Three-Pronged Advantage of "Cheating"

Jiang Fei was bored...

After leaving the Rosette Knighthood girls to the equipment in the guild storage, his hands were left strangely empty. There was absolutely no work left to do! The daily 50-gold-coin limit was all spent; even if he tried to find himself more work, there would be none for him. With nothing else to do, Jiang Fei began window shopping around town, looking for unique Recipes.

All the Recipes that NPCs sold were all White tier, which were mainly used for leveling up Crafting skills. Earning money through them would be out of the question. Even with Jiang Fei's exceptionally high Luck, he could only earn peanuts. This was why his current priority was getting his hands on rare Recipes.

...

Jiang Fei casually brought up the Dawnlight City's Level Leaderboard. In the lead was a Level 17 player. It was as expected, for the game was still growing. Even the strongest guild had an average level of 15. Reaching that Level so soon was no easy task. That average level would have meant that most mini-bosses around that area have already tasted their blade. Easter Egg bosses might drop one Green tier equipment, but a Leader tier boss and a hidden treasure chest might actually yield rare Profession Recipes.

"Ding!" It sounded just like one of those classic phones.

Jiang Fei looked down and realized that all the White tier equipment in the red slots were all gone. The mark had made a full circle — its ends had met.

“Hoho. Leveled up! What surprises have you prepared for me?” said Jiang Fei with a smile, as he opened up the ring’s properties window.

Luck +20

All Green tier Equipment crafted will be randomly granted a skill!

One level had made a huge difference to the ring. Not only was the bonus Luck now at 20, there was an additional skill that almost send Jiang Fei’s eyes flying out of their sockets.

All Green tier equipment would have one additional attribute, and that attribute would typically be the common ones like Strength, Agility, or Defense. Some attributes were better than the others, such as Accuracy, Evade, and Block. On the other hand, outright passive skills provided a far greater advantage. And at the top of it all, having an equipment that provided an active skill was the ultimate upgrade. In the early stages of the game, having one or two additional active skills did wonders, since the default skills granted by their class was lackluster.

Furthermore, despite having relatively longer cooldowns, equipment’s active skills were cost-free. It would exponentially increase one’s damage output.

“I have to get my hands on some rare Recipes!” Jiang Fei decided. White tier equipment may sometimes come in Green tiers, but the success rate was low. With such an amazing “cheat” tool around his finger, why even aim for White grades, when you can make Green tier equipment even stronger!

...

Sadly, after spending an entire day scouring the entire city for player-sold higher grade Recipes for sale, he came up short. It was expected, but did nothing to ease off the disappointment as the Recipe could only be found in rare hidden treasure chests or a Leader tier boss drop. At the current stage of the game, not even one of these Leaders have tasted defeat. Even if someone did manage to farm one, their guild would never allow them to put it up for sale!

“WHAT!?” cried Jiang Fei when he finally saw one such Recipe.

Recipe: Corsair’s Breastplate (Recipe, Fine)

Requirement: Beginner Blacksmith Level 1

“My good brother! How much is this Recipe?” said Jiang Fei, rushing up to the Bandit behind the counter.

“This? 100 gold coins. No more, no less!” the Bandit replied in a flash.

“Deal! Uh, give me one moment.” Jiang Fei accepted the offer and took off.

The Recipe was expensive, probably priced higher than its actual worth, but it was worth every coin Jiang Fei was willing to fork out. The drop rate was too low, to begin with. But to amass that amount of money would take at least a week! He might already be Level 20 by then! However, Jiang Fei had an idea. He remembered counting the number of gold coins in the public guild storage! They had at least 400 to 500 gold coins stashed away!

“Guildmaster! Are you busy?”

Jiang Fei sent a written message to Rosette Rose. At that moment, he was broke and had already spent his daily limit of 50 gold coins. He could only get more money through the Guildmaster.

“What’s wrong?” Rosette Rose replied after a short delay. She was busy killing monsters with her band of sisters.

“I need some gold coins.”

“How much?”

“...200... gold coins,” Jiang Fei hesitated. If he only asked for 100 gold coins, he would not have enough to buy the materials! The materials of Green tier equipment would not be cheap!

“That much? What is it for?”

Rose had thought that Jiang Fei wanted 10 or 20 more gold coins. That was completely fine. However, when Jiang Fei requested 200 gold coins, she had to raise an eyebrow. That amount was almost half of what the entire guild owned! Even though she had spent her own cash to purchase in-game currency, she could feel the sting! Plus, the game was spanking new! The gold-to-dollar ratio would be extremely high!

“I need it for a rare Recipe! It’s an emergency! I cannot miss it! If I get my hands on it, I might even craft a bigger surprise for you guys!”

“Erhm... That’s alright with me. I’ll send Miaomiao over to you,” Rosette Rose replied. She decided to take a leap of faith in the new boy. That sum was enough to give even her pause, it was a risk that she was willing to take, especially after the Blacksmith’s strong showing in his debut!

“Okay! I’ll be waiting at the East gate. Please tell Miaomiao to be quick!” said Jiang Fei.

“Brother...Did you get the Recipe from a treasure chest?” asked Jiang Fei. While waiting for Miaomiao to come over, Jiang Fei tried to strike up a conversation with the Bandit.

“Haha. You want to give it a go?” said the Bandit. His tone suggested that he had taken some offense to it.

“Ah! No. Nothing of that sort. I’m just a Crafter. Going out in the field would be suicide,” Jiang Fei said. Jiang Fei deduced that the Bandit was a lone adventurer. Only a solo player would sell the Recipe for money.

“So? Are you going to buy it or not?” said the Bandit. He was getting impatient.

“Please wait. I’m waiting for someone to deliver some coins.” Jiang Fei hurriedly explained. What if the Bandit suddenly up and left?

“Brother! I’m here!” cried Miaomiao, running towards Jiang Fei.

“Did you bring the money?!” Jiang Fei asked, barely able to keep his voice level.

“Here!” Rosette Miaomiao sent him the gold.

“Alright. I’ve got the money. Brother Bandit. Let’s make the trade.”

Jiang Fei then sent a trading invite to the Bandit.

“Alright. I’ve got the money, you’ve got the Recipe. It’s a done deal, and I’ve gotta get back to grinding.”

The Bandit promptly turned and left.

“Brother!” cried Jiang Fei. “Let’s be friends. I’ll buy all the rare Recipes that you find in the future!”

“Gale Moonwalker,” said the Bandit without turning back to face Jiang Fei.

“I got it. Thanks!” Jiang Fei sent a Friendship request. The Bandit accepted it before disappearing into the crowd.

Satisfied with the transaction, Jiang Fei smiled. When he turned back to face Miaomiao, she was sulking.

“What a douche,” she said.

“Haha!” Jiang Fei could not care less about her comment. He was the big winner in life here!

“Brother! What are we going to do next?” said the petite little girl.

“Huh? Weren’t you just training with the other sisters?”

“Hey! You just took 200 gold coins! I’m going to observe you!” said Miaomiao as she crossed her arms and put on a conceited face.

“Did the Guildmaster put you up to this?” Jiang Fei was worried. Had he lost credibility in their eyes?

“Nope. Sister Rose just asked me to deliver the money. That’s all!” said Miaomiao with a broad grin.

Jiang Fei quickly turned his back to Miaomiao. He was blushing madly.

“Gogogogogogo—away and disturb someone else! I-I-I-I’m busy!” Jiang Fei stuttered.

He was happy that Rosette Rose had trusted him that much.

“Hell Nayyy~~~ I’m coming with you! Bite me!” Miaomiao clung onto Jiang Fei’s arm.

“*sigh* Fine! Do what you want!”

Jiang Fei shook his head. He immediately put the Recipe to use and learned the art of Smithing!