

MMORPG: The Almighty Ring

Chapter 16: The Wild Wolf Blockade

Recipe: Corsair's Breastplate

Requirement: Copper Ingot x10, Iron Ingot x5, Ruby x1

Product: Corsair's Breastplate (Physical Defense +30, Random Enhancement)

Some Recipes came with such detailed description. The finished product would not exactly be as stated. They often came with random enhancements in connotations. A sample may come with absolutely amazing attributes, or absolute shit. Either way, Jiang Fei was certain about the Recipe. The ring provided him with a 100% chance to add in an extra skill! Any such equipment would be worth a fortune! It was impossible for this Recipe to produce anything bad!

Using whatever gold coins he had left in his inventory, Jiang Fei went and scoured the market for materials. Just as he was about to head to the Blacksmith's Workshop and get to work with the ring of miracles, a familiar trio called out to him.

"Yo! Little brat! Looks like you made it out of the Beginner's Village!" Venomous Wolf smugly dissed Jiang Fei.

"Haha! Look at him! He's a Blacksmith now! Yo brat! You're dead meat!" Vicious Wolf was keen enough to notice the hammer hanging off Jiang Fei's waist. War-hammers and smithing hammers were visibly different. Based on the differences of the two, Vicious Wolf had quickly concluded that Jiang Fei was no combatant!

"What do you want?" said Jiang Fei maliciously. He frowned at the trio. They were bad news.

Unlike other games, Dawn Break's PvP system was a little more dynamic. Technically, there were no such things as safe zones. PvP could be initiated, anytime, anywhere. The only safe window a player had was the 20 seconds invincibility time when a player revived or loaded at a respawn point or a Teleportation Circle. Players could start attacking others at anywhere they wanted to!

However, there was a limitation to PvP. There was something called the Safety Level. There were 21 Levels of safety, from 10 to -10. All players started off with five points of Safety Levels. Every time PvP was conducted in an NPC controlled zone, or if you were the initiator of a fight, you would lose a Safety Level. If you kill another player, you would

lose another two points to your Safety Level and be a target of NPC guards. Upon capture, all items, equipment, and coins would be confiscated. You would also be imprisoned for three days.

If the Safety Level dropped to zero, NPCs would place you under a trade embargo. If your Safety Level dropped beyond zero and reach the negative area, NPC guards would start a manhunt. Safety Levels below negative five would trigger an event — where your current city would issue a “Kill on Sight” reward mission to other players.

Naturally, Safety Levels could be regained and increased. Players could accept challenging quests to either redeem themselves or even further boost their Safety Levels. At Safety Level eight or higher, that player would be an Official of the city, granting access to waived service charges, special set equipment and others.

A player in the negative Safety Level zone would not be able to proceed like any other player. They could either head over to a Neutral city or join the Chaos City where robbers and Bandits roamed free.

Due to the sandbox nature of the game, many players had chosen to lead exciting lives of crime. They would enter a city, kill a player, and rob them of all their precious equipment. Before the NPC guards arrived, they would pass the stolen goods to a normal player and leave the city. As long as the stolen goods were high in value, those no-good players were willing to take the punishment and remain in prison! Losing all their lousy equipment was a worthy trade-off!

“Relax little one. We won’t touch you... Not yet. You’re still green behind the ears! Nothing but rubbish and junk metal. For now. Hehe. You’re not worth prison. Better watch yourself in the future. Just when you’re thinking of walking around in better armor, we’ll be right behind you. Lurking in the shadows, striking where it hurts most when your guard is down. Hehehe.” Hungry Wolf laughed menacingly. Long ago, he had been petrified by Jiang Fei’s cold stare. The situation was different then, and it was different now. Jiang Fei was a non-combatant! There was nothing to fear from a f*cking Blacksmith! What was he going to do? Test his knee-jerk reflex with that toy hammer?

“You dare?! This cute brother here is one of ours! The Rosette Knighthood!” said Miaomiao, leaping forward.

“HAHA! WHAT IS THAT PETITE LITTLE THING!”

“Good god! Not bad brat! You’ve learned the ancient art of cowering behind a lady! I’m impressed! Truly impressed!” said Hungry Wolf, guffawing like an actual wolf.

“Is that right? Mark my words, I’ll be seeing you in the future. It won’t be you lurking in the shadows...” said Jiang Fei as he tugged Miaomiao back. He knew that he was ill-suited for combat, but it did not mean that he could not protect a lady!

“Hoho! I’ll remember what you said, boy!”

“Take care, brat! I’ll be seeing your real soon!”

“Don’t forget to train your Levels, yeah? Work hard, practice your craft, and when you start producing some nice shinies, you can watch me pry them off your dead hands from your disembodied head — if your eyeballs are still intact, that is!”

As soon as they were satisfied, they laughed and left Jiang Fei alone with Miaomiao still in his arms.

Miaomiao turned to Jiang Fei and said, “Brother, don’t let them get to you! They’re just assholes!” Miaomiao had pointedly flung that last word at them, running in their direction for good measure. She turned back to Jiang Fei. “Don’t be disheartened by those creeps!”

“Not to worry! I’m fine. They’re not creeps! They’re clowns!” Jiang Fei laughed it off. Even though he was smiling and cheerful on the outside, he felt extremely unhappy for not being able to stand up to them. As a blacksmith, he would be a major disadvantage against a combat-class player. Jiang Fei glanced at the ring in his finger and thought to himself, “I’ve taken a hit for you! You’d best not let me down, little one.”

The ring glowed brightly in response, as if it was trying to comfort Jiang Fei. It behaved as if it was saying, “Worry not. Stick with me, and I’ll deliver the world into your hands.”

“Okay then,” said Miaomiao. When she was convinced that Jiang Fei was truly unfazed, she nodded her head in approval. The girl was only around 15 to 16 years old. She was still too young to understand how one would feel.

The two of them proceeded to the Blacksmith’s Workshop with Jiang Fei taking the lead. Jiang Fei went on with his usual routine. Furnace, ores into ingots, hammer.

The Corsair’s Breastplate was a Level 15 Green tier Recipe. Crafting the equipment would take a longer time than the Green Copper Wrist Guard.

A flash of green light, and a new equipment was born.

Sturdy Corsair’s Breastplate (Chainmail, Fine)

Physical Defense: +40

Equipped: Grants passive skill—Sturdy, increases maximum Health Points by 10%.

Level Requirement: 15

Jiang Fei's first equipment crafted under Miaomiao's supervision had lived up to the ring's amazing ability. The equipment was Green tier and possessed an extra attribute. Its defense value was only 30% more than a similarly Leveled White tier equipment. Then, there was the passive skill. It turned the equipment into something else entirely.

"Here." Jiang Fei stood up and passed the chain mail to Miaomiao.

"Wow! This is great! I'm sure second sister would love yo—it!" cried Rosette Miaomiao.

The game was still growing. It was not even in its pubescent stage. Everyone was either wearing White tier equipment, or nothing at all. Green tier equipment were rare. To obtain stronger equipment, one must kill a boss, or have a Profession player craft it for you. However, Crafters could not just make something out of thin air, even if they had an abundance of materials at their disposal. They still needed Recipes from the bosses! Eventually, it all came down to the boss. Taking on a boss required a complete party, and at the heart of it was a solid tank!

A tank, as the name implied, was a player who took the brunt of the punishment meant for the team. Hence, a good tank required high Health Points! The higher Health Points a tank had, the stronger he would be against high profile bosses. That was why Rosette Miaomiao had been so thrilled to see a passive skill that increased Health Points!

Chapter 17: Mass Producing Equipment with Bonus Attributes

"Ding... Ding... Dang... Dang..."

"Ding! You have crafted a Vampiric Corsair's Breastplate!"

"Ding... Ding..."

"Ding! You have failed..."

"Ding... Ding..."

"Ding! You have crafted a Robber Corsair's Breastplate!"

"Ding... Ding... Dang... Dang..."

"Ding! You have crafted a God of Destruction Corsair's Breastplate!"

After a few attempts, Jiang Fei got the hang of it. After producing two equipment with two extra attributes in a row, Jiang Fei's third attempt had produced a Blue tier sample.

Vampiric Corsair's Breastplate (Chainmail, Fine)

Physical Defense +40

Agility: +3

Equip: Grants Beginner's Lifesteal. Deals additional 10 damage and heals oneself.

Level Requirement: 10

Robber Corsair's Breastplate (Chainmail, Fine)

Physical Defense +40

Strength: +3

Equip: Grants Mug. Attacks have a 10% chance to rob the target of 10 copper coins.

God of Destruction Corsair's Breastplate (Chainmail, Superior)

Physical Defense +45

Strength: +5

Equip: Grants Destruction Fist. Deals 300 damage to a target and stuns it for one second, 2-minute cooldown duration.

Level Requirement: 15

"Phew..." Jiang Fei sighed. Those four samples were already enough to wear him out. Crafting Green tier equipment or better was not as easy as White tier equipment. The crafting process required full concentration, or the process would fail. As such, Jiang Fei had wasted enough materials for six attempts.

If other Profession players knew of Jiang Fei's success rate, they would have been beside themselves with envy! How could they not be? Their success rate of producing Ascended was even lower than 25%! They were no match to Jiang Fei! Nobody else under Level 10 in the game could possibly acquire 20 Luck points!

"Wow! Cutey bro! How did you do that? That's so awesome!" said Miaomiao as Jiang Fei leaned back and caught his breath. She gave Jiang Fei a pat to the back, but she did not stop there. Her hands slithered to his chest and started rubbing away vigorously!

"Hey!"

Jiang Fei jerked and involuntarily slapped Miaomiao's hands away. Even that brief moment of contact had been enough for him to feel Miaomiao's soft hands. Jiang Fei

may be able to put up a straight face when he was handling others, but when it came to girls, he had zero experience.

He had been an invisible man since birth, all the way to high school. He had never once spoken to a girl, and he could not care less about them. That was why that slap had been enough to send him steaming red across the cheeks.

“Nishishishi...” Miaomiao stuck her tongue. She too had realized that she had gone over the line back there. Still, her cute act of brushing things away as if it had been nothing only made her cuter.

At that moment, the two of them basked in the euphoria and excitement. Crafting such formidable equipment had just opened up a new avenue to the two of them!

When he became a Blacksmith, he knew what he was signing up for — a treacherous path that meant zero to no combat ability. His attribution growth rate would not be pretty, either. He would be useless in a fight! However, due to the ring’s mysterious abilities, all his work would possess an extra skill at a 100% rate! No other Crafter could boast of this! They needed hundreds of attempts before they could come up with a premium sample!

Now, as the sole producer of such fine equipment, he had the full right to take the best of the best and wield them himself! He would be a beefed-up Crafter, hacking his way through dungeons and adventure!

Truth be told, Jiang Fei was not the only one that had that thought. Many other Profession players shared the same thought. However, their success rate was far too low to be feasible! Out of a hundred equipment, one of them might have a skill, who knows. It might not even have a useful skill! They would have to go through thousands of attempts before they finally win the lottery. That would take a lifetime! That was from the point of a Profession player. Some players believed that money was all they needed to win the game. They were called Whales (1). However, it still came down to luck. Unless they were made of money, they could only sit and continue dreaming about their ideal set!

“I need Recipes! I need more!”

That was the only thought in Jiang Fei’s head. If he wanted to match the combat power of other classes, he needed to start matching skills. He needed multiple copies of the same extra skill! Having just one Corsair’s Breastplate was not going to cut it!

“Sister Xue! Over here!” cried Miaomiao as Jiang Fei was worrying about the upcoming struggle. Rosette Rose came towards them with a warm smile on her face. When Jiang Fei had first produced the first two Green grade pieces of equipment, Miaomiao had silently contacted Rose.

Rosette Rose real name was Murong Xueqing. Rosette Miaomiao and Xueqing had known each other for a long time. Their families in the real world were close. Jiang Fei had been right. Every single member of this guild were rich Ojou-sans. Murong Xueqing hailed from a wealthy family, and she was the only child. The Murong family ran Wanlong Industries. That was why she behaved ever so elegantly; very much like a woman of the house!

“What’s wrong, Miaomiao? Did someone bully you?” Miaomiao had sounded frantic in her private message. It was only natural for it was not safe to be alone, not even in the city!

“Nope! I found a big treasure trove! Nishishishi!” Miaomiao snickered as she jumped towards Jiang Fei and hugged his arms. It was the exact behavior of a little girl hugging a teddy bear; her precious treasure.

“Haha. Is that right...” said Rose as she patted Miaomiao’s head and smiled gently.

“Heyyyy! I’m not a little kid anymore! Don’t do that!” Rosette Miaomiao grunted as she pushed Rose’s hand away. She brought Rose to the four newly-crafted equipment. With a big grin on her face, she said, “Look at these! Cutey bro made these! Isn’t he great!”

“These... What...” Rose was stunned. As the leader of the Rosette Knighthood, Rose was a fairly experienced player who knew the game far better than Miaomiao, even though she was only 3 years her senior.

As a woman who had had the value of economics imbued in her by her materialistic family, she knew all too well how valuable such equipment would be, and how important of an asset Jiang Fei was to the group.

Based on the %\$@& drop rate of the game, and the @#\$%& success rate of additional attributes, the items that laid out in front of Rose were almost priceless. Especially that Blue tier one with an active skill. At that point, money was no longer the issue. This was the work of the divine!

Chapter 18: The Overly Attached Girl?

“Erhm... Guildmaster? What are you doing?” said Jiang Fei nervously. Rosette Rose was beautiful, and that was perhaps an understatement. How would one feel when a girl stood extreme close to you, staring into your eyes as if she was staring into your soul? Some might feel happy, or their hearts might even skip a beat, but Jiang Fei was not one of those people. On the contrary, it was creeping him out!

“Urgh... My apologies. Perhaps if we could have this conversation in another place?” said Rosette Rose.

Huh?

Something was different. Rosette Rose had changed the manner of her speech. The tone of her voice was extremely tender, the same kind of tone one would expect when confessing to their love.

“What are you going to do to me?” Jiang Fei quickly snapped. He did not mind the tone of her speech, but the sudden change was way too suspicious.

“It’s too rowdy here. Let’s have a change of atmosphere!” said Rosette Rose. She immediately grabbed hold onto Jiang Fei’s arm and dragged him away.

At that moment, unbeknownst to Jiang Fei, Rosette Rose was fighting the turmoil in her heart. The contract she had previously given Jiang Fei had been too simple! How could she have known that Jiang Fei would be this capable? Jiang Fei did perform admirably by having a high chance of crafting Ascended equipment, but Rosette Rose still did not plan to use him as a money-making mule. She never had that intention from the start. However, things changed when Jiang Fei drew his trump card; being able to constantly produce equipment with an additional attribute! Money had never been on this guy’s mind!

By then, an epiphany dawned upon her. This was only the third day prior to the server launch. Those who were able to “graduate” from the Beginner’s Village in such a short amount of time would either be a member of a guild or professional lone players. However, when professional players chose a Profession class instead of a combat class... what did that mean?

The man must have either obtained a powerful item or an enigmatic skill to support his perplexing choice of play style! No random pug player (1) would choose the boring life of crafting or gathering over the exciting adventures of the common class!

Rosette Rose then regretted giving Jiang Fei such a lax contract. She had believed that the money would have been enough to buy his loyalty. She was only in this game to prove something to herself. She was a veteran MMORPG player, but her band of ladies were not. This was all about herself, not the formation of a top-end guild.

Amongst the members of Rosette Knighthood, Rose most probably had the most experience. The rest of them were just playing it for the fun of it. That was why nothing in her party stood out. As prideful as Rosette Rose was, this had left her slightly disgruntled. Anyhow, she had to hold herself back and remain as a pub gamer if she wanted to keep playing with them. Today, Jiang Fei had reignited the fire in her heart. The fire that could drive her little guild into one of the top-ranking guilds of the game!

Now, Jiang Fei was her VVIP. She swore that this Verdure Glider would never leave her guild alive. Desperation had momentarily driven her to resort to the cheap “lady lure” tactic.

The signed contract was now a new source of headache. That contract had been written on the basis of having fun. It was extremely flexible, and the contracted player could just pay a minimal violation fee and be done with the guild. This Verdure Glider might just glide away whenever he liked!

“Brother Glider, something has been on my mind. You’ve had a good look at the guild. You’re the only man around the sea of girls. See... there are things that us, girls, could never do as well as you could. Are you the man that I think you are? Are you capable of taking up such a responsibility?” Rosette Rose took extra care to layer her voice with a hint of seduction. They were in a quiet hotel room. Jiang Fei had been sandwiched between Rose and Miaomiao with the both of them caressing his arms.

“Erhm... Guildmaster! I-I-I-I-I I cannot accept this! Could we just talk normally?! I-I-I-I-I feel extreme weird right now!” Jiang Fei cried out. Rose was beautiful, there was no doubt about that. But when two world-class beauties were sitting arm-to-arm with him, the only thing that rose were his goosebumps. It was as expected of a virgin.

“Shishishis... Nishishi...” Miaomiao started off with a snicker. It quickly grew into a ridiculously deafening guffaw.

“YOU LITTLE BRAT! WHY’D YOU LAUGH!” Rose started to laugh as well. The both of them started to laugh as if Jiang Fei had just pulled off the best stand up comedy in years.

“Excuses us... Haha. That was a little inappropriate,” Rosette Rose quickly tried to return to being as lady-like as possible.

“Erhm... F-Fine,” Jiang Fei stuttered. At first, he actually believed that Rose was going to court him. He felt an immediate relief when Miaomiao and Rose started laughing like possessed hyenas. That embarrassing moment had made Jiang Fei relax for a bit. That maniacal laughing was more heartfelt and sincere than anything else that came from them. Before that, he felt like he was about to be pranked, or worse, blackmailed.

“I’ll be frank. The contract that you signed earlier was a mistake on my part, and I deeply regret it. If it’s alright with you, I’d like to offer you a new one,” said Rosette Rose bashfully.

“Huh?”

Jiang Fei cocked his head. Although there was a saying that girls changed clothes faster than the flipping of a page, but this was just too fast! It had only been several hours before!

“Here’s the new contract. Please read it thoroughly,” said Rose, handing over a new contract. Dragging Jiang Fei all the way to the hotel while crafting a new contract at the same time was no easy feat. That only proved just how capable that girl was.

“Hmm... This is a little...”

Jiang Fei read the new contract and did not know what to feel. The previous contract had come as enough of a shock with that ridiculous profit sharing ratio. This revision blew the old one out the window! That ridiculous profit sharing had just gotten even more... Ridiculous!

The profit sharing remained the same as before, but there was new clause beneath it. Jiang Fei now had the authority to withdraw anything from the guild storage. Moreover, he was now the Vice Guildmaster! Most shockingly, Rosette Rose had handed Jiang Fei 50% of the shares! This was not a contract! It's a partnership! And a pretty clingy one at that, too!

“Erhm... Miss, are you trying a little too hard? Am I that good of man?” Jiang Fei muttered quietly. For a moment, he felt smug about himself. For the longest time, he had been an invisible man, treated as if he had never existed in the school. However, the girl in front of him, Rose, was different. Unlike others, she was “proposing” to “be with him”!

“Alright. I see nothing wrong here. I'm in.”

The contract was too good to be true, but he could find no reason to reject her proposal. Jiang Fei had deliberately turned a blind eye to one particular condition, and that was — Jiang Fei was not allowed to leave Rosette Knighthood by his volition. Who cares about that condition! Everything else was crazy! Only a fool would drop it!

Chapter 19: Armored Shield

When Jiang Fei nodded his head ever so earnestly, Rosette Rose turned her back for a split second and rolled her eyes. If she had known Jiang Fei to be a man of sound reason, she would not have resorted to such un-ladylike behavior!

It was just another one of her tricks that she picked up after years of conducting business. Since childhood, she had been taught to weigh the effort and benefits. If it paid off, no place was too low for her to stoop. On the other end of the spectrum, Jiang Fei had been raised in an average family. Men at his age would choose honor and glory over benefits!

From Jiang Fei's perspective, Rosette Rose was there to help him when he needed help the most. She had accepted him into the guild and had supported his heavy investments without second-guessing his decision.

Jiang Fei felt greatly indebted to her, so of course, he would return the favor. Like Rose herself, Jiang Fei was playing the game, not for the benefits in the game, but to take out

most of the items from the game into the real world to complete his dream of becoming superman! He was, truthfully, not interested in any benefits in the game!

Both parties came from different backgrounds, so they viewed the same subject very differently. As it was, they eventually ended up at the same spot. Jiang Fei was happy, and so was Rosette Rose. Jiang Fei felt like he was making use of the girls, as he thought they were attracted to him. Rosette Rose needed him for his equipment crafting skills and had gotten him to stay in the guild.

“Alright. Now that everything is said and done. We are now a family. So tell us brother, what is your secret?” said Rosette Rose. There must be a reason behind his high Luck and the ability to constantly produce Ascended equipment.

“Yea! Cutey brother! Do tell!” said Miaomiao, ensuring that Jiang Fei’s arm sank into her chest.

Jiang Fei fidgeted a little and thought up of a fake excuse.

“Erhm... It’s nothing really. Back in Beginner’s Village, I found and completed a hidden quest. As a reward, I obtained some Luck attribute and an additional skill. Every day, whenever I craft any Green tier equipment, the first 100 equipment would have a 100% chance of gaining an extra skill!”

Jiang Fei decided to fake a story and “blame” it on a hidden quest. He would never reveal the secrets of the ring. Once word got out, there was no way for him to hide it. Might as well tell them that the source of his “magnificent” power was a reward for a hidden quest.

“Ahh. I see. Now I understand why in the world you would choose Crafting.” Rose exclaimed. Jiang Fei’s “excuses” was actually dead on one of her many hypotheses of why Jiang Fei would end up being a Blacksmith. It was only natural, she thought, as she would have taken the same path if she had been in his shoes.

“Nishishishi! What did I tell you, Sister Xue! I found a big treasure trove! Sister Xue! How are you going to reward me? Nishishishi!”

Rosette Miaomiao had not idea just how important Jiang Fei was as a player. She knew he was special, but the grand scale of which eluded her little world. However, that did not stop her from demanding something from Sister Xue.

“Okay okay...” said Rose as she patted her head.

“I guess that you are the main protagonist in this scenario. Hmm... I remember you liking my limited edition bracelet. Tomorrow, it’s yours!”

“Yay! No backsies! Pinkie promise!” cried the little girl as she held out her little finger. That was just the reward she had in mind!

“You guys have fun. I’ll continue shopping for more Recipes.” Jiang Fei hurriedly extricated himself from the chair and left the room. Girl talk was too much for him. Before he left the room, Jiang Fei passed all his handiwork to Rosette Rose.

After leaving the hotel, Jiang Fei went towards the entrance of the city, the same place where he first bought the Corsair’s Breastplate Recipe. That place was a hotspot for small, player-run stalls. An auction was currently ongoing, but almost 99% of the players in the game were broke. They would rather sit for two hours than throw their hard earned money at something that would be discarded a few levels later.

After loitering for some time, Jiang Fei was left disappointed. Players at the city entrance were mostly selling materials. Pub players who picked up Gathering classes could never compete with players in Professional guilds. They could gather items quickly and pass it to the Crafters in the guild. If there was any excess, they would store them in the public guild storage.

Sadly, players without guilds had limited inventory slots. The bank storage system was too expensive to use and even more expensive to expand. In the end, they could only gather whatever they could for the day and sell them at the city entrance.

The last thing Jiang Fei needed now was materials. His previous batch of purchases had not even been used up. Rosette Rose had disrupted his crafting session.

At that point of the game, players could not solo a Leader tier boss. Most of the bosses around were targets of stronger guilds. Treasure Chests, on the other hand, boiled down to sheer luck. It was almost impossible for random players to farm for Recipes on their own. Jiang Fei had already been extremely fortunate to have been able to find the Corsair’s Breastplate Recipe in the public market!

“Argh... Might as well buy the whole set of equipment Recipes from the NPCs!”

Jiang Fei gave up finding for Recipes and decided to turn to the NPCs. If one went out of the city for an adventure, he needed solid equipment. Since there were no Recipes, Fine or higher, he was forced to resort to the lowest grade Recipes, White tier, from the NPCs.

“What a bummer! I can craft that almighty Corsair’s Breastplate, but I can’t even equip it!” Jiang Fei muttered under his breath as he made his way towards the Blacksmith Instructor.

There were two types of Leveling systems in the game, namely Character Level and Class level. Character Levels determined the attributes you gained, while also meeting

the equipment's Level Requirement. Class Level determined the skills you could learn, along with its potency.

Players could raise their Character Levels by slaying monsters or completing quests. That was the basis of almost all MMORPGs. Class Levels could be raised by repeated uses of the class-provided skill or completing Class specific quests.

Right then, Jiang Fei's Character Level was Level 10, while his Class was only a Level 1 Beginner Blacksmith. Fortunately, that Level 1 experience bar was close to the brim.

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With money, one could easily get by with life; after buying all the Green Copper series equipment Recipes, the Instructor praised Jiang Fei with a few words and rewarded him with another Recipe.

“Armor Shield”

Armor Shield (Enhancement Material, Normal)

Use: Grants a special skill on a Breastplate “Armor Shield.” Absorbs Physical Damage equivalent to 20% maximum Health Points. Last 20 seconds. 5 minutes cooldown. (Limited to Blacksmiths).

This skill was considered a class-specific perk. Any Profession class could obtain such an item from their respective Instructors, simply by purchasing and learning more than five different kinds of Recipes.

Blacksmiths aside, other Crafter classes had similar perks. Tailors could obtain a special Mana Absorption enhancement effect. Alchemists could obtain special flasks that allowed the concurrent ingesting of three potions, minus cooldowns.

These perks allowed Profession players to survive a little longer whenever they came under the assault of PKers until the NPC guards came to their rescue.

Chapter 20: Equipment Sales

After learning all the Recipes on hand, Jiang Fei used all the remaining golden Copper Ores. He did not waste any time returning to the Blacksmith's Workshop to bring hammer to anvil.

Since the Recipes were all Level 10 White grades, crafting them was quick and crisp. Without even realizing it, Jiang Fei found himself out of Copper Ingots. In return, he now held 300 White tier and 100 Green tier equipment.

Even though Rosette Rose had given Jiang Fei full access to the guild storage, he could not simply waltz right up and exhaust all the gold in the storage for his own sake.

After thinking for a bit, Jiang Fei had a fresh idea. Of all the equipment that he had just created, the best 30 of the 100 Green tier equipment were deposited into the guild storage. The rest of the junk would be sold off.

Since Rosette Knighthood was already a small guild, to begin with, members who could equip Heavy Armor were even fewer — 20 players at most. It was best to sell what he could for more materials and transform them into better equipment. With his high Luck and ability to mass produce Ascended equipment, Jiang Fei was confident of a sure, easy path ahead. At the same time, he would earn enough money to be self-sustaining!

“Hot sales! Limited stock of Level 10 set equipment for sale! Location @ XXX, XXX Dawnlight City East Gate!!!! First come first serve!”

To hasten the entire process, Jiang Fei bit down his pride and bought a broadcasting service to help spread his message throughout the city, as well as players who were close enough.

“What the hell? Someone is selling set equipment!”

“Go! Go! Go! We can get two sets if it’s cheap!”

“We gotta start running. That stock won’t last!”

Jiang Fei’s sudden advertisement had caused a major commotion throughout the city. Almost everyone in the game was &^%# pissed off at the @%\$#* drop rate and were still lugging beginner gear about.

Pub players were not the only ones having a hard time. Even the major, Profession-centric guilds were troubled by the &^%\$@* system. Everything had such &^%\$@* success rates! When they were just starting out, almost all Profession players were burning through all their materials to attempt creating some shitty gear. Producing a single Green grade with a White grade Recipe was a dream. Unlike Jiang Fei, others were not making any profit from White tier equipment as the end product was worth even lesser than the raw materials they were derived from. Even the Whalers were having a tough time handling this problem. At most, they could only walk around with full sets of White tier equipment — all from the quest rewards of the Beginner’s Village!

Now that Jiang Fei had made his broadcast citywide, even the big Guildmasters were scrambling in a hurry!

“Hey! Glider! What are you doing? Didn’t we agree that you would prioritize the members of Rosette Knighthood?!” cried Rosette Rose. She was probably the only person in the entire city unhappy with Jiang Fei’s sale.

“Hehehe. Calm down, Guildmaster. I’m just liquidating some junk. All the good ones are in the storage. See for yourself. I’m just looking for more funds to further my craft,” Jiang Fei explained calmly.

Rosette Rose was stunned.

“Is that right... My bad for misjudging your actions. Brother Glider, you’ll have to work hard for all the sisters in the guild. They are all depending on you!”

Before he knew it, Rosette Rose changed her tone again. It was so... Indescribable. It was the tone that a woman would adopt whenever she wanted to kiss a man! At least, that was what he saw in the movies...

After finally forcing his saliva down, Jiang Fei spat, “Guildmaster! Could you speak like a normal person? You’re creeping me out!”

“Sigh... What an airhead. So be it! You’re all on your own!” Rosette Rose rolled her eyes and left. At first, she wanted to flirt with this young man, who was only one year her junior. But still... What a virgin!

By the time Jiang Fei was done talking to Rosette Rose, a massive crowd had swarmed him.

There was just too much for him to store. Not even the temporary storage beside the Workshop could hold that many equipment at once. It was not the quantity but rather, the variety that was causing the issue. 300 White tier equipment could be stacked and took up only 30 slots. On the other hand, the Green tier equipment had taken up 70 slots! The variety of skills and different attributes that they possessed was just overwhelming. Jiang Fei had to make return trips to the Workshop just to carry all the “trash equipment.”

When it seemed that the entire city had clamored around him, Jiang Fei opened up the stall and displayed all of his wares. At the forefront were all the White tier equipment. Jiang Fei intended to empty out the White grades first before anything else. That way, he could further inflate the prices.

“Each White grade stack contains 10 copies of the same thing. 2 gold coins per stack! Only 30 stacks in total! NO NEGOTIATIONS!”

“What the hell! That’s a lot!”

“This guy must be from a top guild or something...”

“Top guild? Most probably the spokesperson of a professional Crafters-only guild!”

At first, many players were expecting only 20 to 30 items. A far cry from the three-digit zone they were looking at. The only plausible conclusion was that this seller was not a lone player, but a representative of a conglomerate of crafters.

We literally called these groups Workshops. They would take in any Crafter class players and even more Gatherers! That way, they could sustain a mutual relationship by selling equipment and sharing the profit!

“Why must they come in sets? I don’t need the rest, just the boots,” said one of Jiang Fei’s buyers. Based on the price that Jiang Fei had set, each article of equipment will cost 20 silver coins. At that price, average players could afford one or two pieces, not the entire set.

“I’m sorry. Sets only,” said Jiang Fei. There was no time for him to reorganize and piece the misfits together again. After all, he was here to clear everything out while maximizing his profit.

“I’ll take everything!” A voice rose up from the noisy jumble of voices. The husky voice was easily distinguishable — their owners even more so. Four hulking Orc Warriors waded through the crowd and made their way to the front. Like a hot knife through butter, those strength-based players shoved the other players aside. Apparently, they were escorting a Human, who quickly approached Jiang Fei.

Southern Azuresword (Apprentice Knight, Human)

Level : 17

Health Points: 2,215

Attack Power: 175

Note: Guildmaster of “Omnisword”

Due to the power of the ring, Jiang Fei had all the information about the man standing in front of him.

“Deal,” Jiang Fei agreed without a second thought, even though the man did look a little sketchy.

The transaction was made, and the Guildmaster’s inventory was immediately filled with all the White tier equipment. In exchange, 60 additional goldcoins jingled in Jiang Fei’s pockets, eliciting a satisfied grin. He could now afford the next batch of smithing. Anything from the Green tier equipment would be pure profit.

“Damn it! Just when I thought that I could finally get some upgrades, a random Whale appears and sweeps everything away!” someone in the crowd groaned. He was not

alone in that sentiment. Several more were unsatisfied with Jiang Fei since he had refused to sell any of the equipment separately.

The tension was tight and tempers running short due to one simple factor.

F*#&^@\$&*^ LOW DROP RATES! This led to a whole slew of other complications.

Without proper equipment, players would struggle to continuously fight monsters, even if they were at the same level. Leveling up became an absolute chore past Level 10.

The free Level 10 White tier equipment were by no means insufficient, but the monsters also packed a punch of their own. Players had to choose between spending more gold on equipment, or on potions! A miserly player could take a seat and recover health the old-fashioned way. Either way, unless they could get their hands on stronger equipment, they would struggle like zombies for a much longer time.