

## Oasis 45

### Chapter 45: A Jungle That Came With Its Own Soil

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“Begin the draw.”

As he spoke, Kant’s eyes shone with anticipation.

A prize draw from the system provided far better rewards than those acquired from side quests.

The treasure chest opened.

Rainbow-colored lights were seen.

[Ding... You have acquired an item pack.]

[You have opened the item pack and found Date Palm Jungle within.]

[Acquired: Date Palm Jungle x 2 acres (matured trees)]

A card was seen on the system’s dialog box.

It was an image of a jungle as seen from above. It had lush trees growing in the sand. Dates were vaguely visible hanging on the branches, which were evidently ripe and ready to be harvested.

Date Palm Trees.

Kant was familiar with the tree. It was the most practical thing available in the desert.

When he first arrived in the Nahrin Desert, he had been given 20 Date Palm Trees as a reward from a side quest.

However, 20 trees were nothing compared to two whole acres worth of Date Palm Trees.

“What kind of reward is this?”

Kant, who usually had a rational mind, found the reward to be somewhat ridiculous.

While it seemed easy to plant two acres worth of Date Palm Trees, there were only 7.5 acres of land for farming in the entire Oasis Lookout. All of that land had been used for planting wheat. There was currently no space available for planting these Date Palm Trees.

At the moment, it was a totally useless reward.

[Ding... System Prompt]

[All items acquired from prize draws will be completely materialized as seen in their card form.]

A dialog box re-appeared on his retina. The system seemed to have detected Kant’s unease about his prize.

That line immediately made Kant frown.

“Completely materialized?”

Kant pondered on what those two words meant. He knew that any prompts given by the system always meant something.

He willed and summoned the card he had just acquired on his retina.

There was no way the two acres worth of Date Palm Trees could have been fully illustrated on that small card. Instead, it was just a small part of the jungle as seen from above being illustrated. It included the sand where the trees were planted.

When he saw that, Kant’s heart raced.

He cross-referenced his thoughts with the hint given by the system. He quickly realized what the system meant. “Oh, don’t tell me...”

He headed straight for the northern end of the Oasis Lookout. That was where the agricultural area of Drondheim was located and the 20 Date Palm Trees were planted.

The items acquired completely materialized as was seen in their card form.

If what those words meant was exactly what he speculated them to be, he was about to gain himself a tremendous windfall.

It was a windfall comparable to how he had gained a new Council Hall when he first came to the Oasis Lookout. That needed building symbolized the beginning of the establishment of Drondheim.

“This is it.”

Kant swiftly headed to the northern end of Oasis Lookout.

The crude network of irrigation channels had been completed. Fresh spring water flowed in them, rendering the farm, which consisted mostly of sand, wet. The precious fresh water supply spread throughout the originally barren land.

Using the irrigation channels allowed for the 14 plots to be divided from the 7.5 acres.

It was still a desert. Even soil found in an oasis consisted mostly of sand.

The irrigation channels had been specifically dug to ensure ample irrigation. The sprouting of the seedlings meant that the channels, planned and dug by Kant and the peasants, worked as they were supposed to.

At the moment, however, Kant set his sights on the two rows of Date Palm Trees.

The 20 Date Palm Trees were planted neatly at the border where the oasis and desert beyond met. They were lush. They looked very green and pretty. They added color to the otherwise barren, boring yellowish tone of the place.

Kant suddenly hesitated.

He gulped and took a deep breath before asking, "System, can I plant the Date Palm Jungle here?"

"You could," the system answered.

A glimmer was seen in Kant's eyes as he willed the card in his mind into existence.

A mystical aura instantly emerged. Data streams of staggering numbers were seen deep in Kant's eyes. They shot out like a hurricane at the desert before him, systematically enveloping only the two acres of land.

The process only took seconds.

The data streams began to recede. Right before Kant's eyes, a jungle filled with tall, sprightly trees was now seen.

A Date Palm Jungle had emerged.

"I knew it."

Kant gulped. His hands were clenched in excitement.

His gaze moved to the base of the stout trunks. Instead of finding yellowish, soft sand beneath, he saw brownish, solidified sandy soil.

The place had literally been terraformed.

It was the only term appearing in Kant's mind that he felt was adequate to describe his shock of the scene.

Kant finally realized just how powerful the system was at that very moment.

It was capable of entirely changing a landscape.

The system had just transformed the seeming useless sand into a sandy soil capable of being used for farming.

That power surpassed the understanding of common folks. It made it seem like a divine miracle of sorts. In fact, it had been nothing short of a miracle since it was a sandy soil that could have only been created through the great powers wielded by gods.

"This is my cheat."

Kant quelled his excitement. He worked hard to calm himself down.

The system of the game was available only to him.

He alone wielded such mystical powers.

There was no reason for him to get excessively excited about things. Once he managed to calm himself down, everything would return to feeling normal.

He eyed the densely packed Date Palm Trees and sighed. This is just magnificent.

Lush Date Palm Trees were planted in neat rows.

The way they were planted seemed to have been planned since the trees had been saplings, which was why they currently looked very neat.

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Full, ripe purplish-red dates were situated in clusters beneath the signature long, slender leaves of the stout, tall palm trees. That meant the dates were definitely ready for harvest.

All of the Date Palm Trees were now bearing viable fruit.

The Date Palm Trees, which were all over 22 feet tall, seemed to have shrouded the northern side of the desert from sight.

Kant had no idea just how many of those trees could be planted on two acres worth of land.

[Ding... System Prompt]

[50 Date Palm Trees can be planted on one acre of land. The current total of two acres of land has 100 Date Palm Trees.]

The subsequent dialog box from the system gave the answer that Kant sought.

Nice, very nice indeed.

Kant grinned at the thoughtful system. His face was adorned with a beaming smile.

With so many Date Palm Trees now available, his current problem with food was completely solved. Even if his forces were to eat only dates and drink only spring water from the oasis, it was enough to last them at least half a year.

If the trees were meticulously taken care of, another batch of dates would be ready for harvest in another six months.

He finally realized why people native to the middle-eastern deserts of Earth planted so few crops of other kinds yet had such an abundance of Date Palm Trees.

The dates, which were known to be desert bread in the minds of the desert people, were comparable to staple foods like wheat, rice, and others.

He instantly made a decision.

Kant speculated that if he called upon all of his people to pluck the dates, the harvest would probably be enough to fill the entire storage room.

The amount of harvested from 100 Date Palm Trees was equal to the total amount of crops planted by a village. They provided ample food for at least 300 people over the course of months. It was more than enough to last until the next harvest.

The harvest was thought to have been able to last for half a year. If the ripe dates were harvested in time, the trees would likely bear fruit even sooner.

Six months was only an estimate of the time required for the dates to become ripe and ready to be eaten.

The trees, which grew in a desert climate, were free from the interference of seasons. They were able to bear fruit at any time of the year. Therefore, his people had the opportunity to secure a steady supply all year long. It was a huge advantage over fruit trees planted on flatlands and mountains yet were affected by weather conditions.

That was why Date Palm Trees were considered something else altogether.

Then again, the trees could absolutely do more than just provide food.

Kant licked his lips.

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Kant, who hailed from Earth in his past life, knew without a doubt that if there were a huge number of trees found in an oasis, the oasis would have been considered a mature oasis capable of forming a self-sustaining ecosystem.

Photosynthesis of the trees and evaporation of water enabled effective temperature regulation throughout the oasis.

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Days could potentially become less hot, and nights could potentially become less cold.

If they worked on the land between the trees further, it enabled the planting of more drought-resistant crops. As long as irrigation and fertilization were sustained, one had the potential to plant vegetables and fruit trees. Such was the way of farming invented by desert people.

Eventually, it would have been possible to keep small animals, such as breeds of chicken and goats capable of surviving in a desert or desert horses, around.

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The emergence of the jungle really has brought the development of the village back on track again.

Kant felt overwhelmed and excited.

Products provided by the system were nothing short of the best. There was no way defective products were found among them.

Kant's eyes glistened at the thought that he still had one honor left. It meant that he could continue drawing yet another prize.

He was getting anxious.

"System, begin the draw again!"

#### **Chapter 46: Firentis the Wandering Knight**

The treasure chest shown on his retina reopened.

As he confirmed his choice, the last honor Kant had disappeared.

A faint rainbow glimmer was seen as the treasure chest slowly opened.

[Ding... You have acquired a hero pack.]

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[You have opened the hero pack and found Firentis, the Wandering Knight from Swadia.]

[Acquired: Firentis the Wandering Knight (the only hero)]

A card appeared on his retina.

It was not a building or an item illustrated on the card. It was the image of a young knight. He was looking ahead, seemingly gazing at something. However, the knight's eyes were filled with sorrow. He looked as though he was perhaps hesitant or anticipating something.

Kant was slightly jolted.

However, he quickly grinned. He was quite familiar with the Wandering Knight known as Firentis.

"Materialize."

His will connected to the system. The card in his mind disappeared into golden specks of light.

On a nearby dune, a rider clad in mail armor and a linen robe riding a chestnut-colored warhorse had become visible. The rider seemed to have just appeared there by chance. The rider halted his horse at the top of the dune, seemingly watching the Oasis Lookout.

He had the appearance of a traveler who had been on a long journey and just discovered a village. The rider slowly rode down the dune.

"Firentis, a noble of Swadia."

Kant wore a wide grin as he watched the rider heading toward him.

Kant was impressed with Firentis, the man who called himself a Wandering Knight. He thought, This is one righteous guy who managed to hold onto his beliefs in this messed up world. He is a true knight.

Kant knew that man quite well.

Firentis was a decent character back in the game. He was a hero who stood fast to the principles of knighthood.

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The knight was kind-hearted and compassionate to the weak.

Firentis was someone who hailed from a militaristic noble clan in Swadia. He was proficient at combat and leading forces into combat. Furthermore, he held fast to the code of knights and was eager to lay the hammer down on crime and evil.

He never robbed commoners or attacked villages with force.

After defending villagers from invading bandits, he had even refused gifts from them.

If a player committed any of the above acts, Firentis would have immediately left the party. Those actions violated the principles he held so steadfastly in this messed-up place of a world. While he seemed insignificant, he was still shining like a star.

Furthermore, personal problems never caused him to leave a party.

Firentis had not cared about realistic problems, such as pay being delayed or a food shortage. He always remained waiting for orders from the party despite any problems.

That was why Kant liked the knight very much.

Firentis was a true knight who never resorted to cunning tricks or sheepishly fled from the battlefield. He also had a great sense of responsibility. A party that was in the early stages of establishment could not have asked for a better member.

“Greetings, Lord Kant.”

Firentis came before Kant, deftly halting and getting off his horse.

He looked at Kant quietly after briskly getting off his horse. His eyes glittered for a bit before he half-kneeled before Kant and said, “Although I have never met you, your kind actions of taking in the refugees have impressed me.”

“Welcome aboard, Firentis.”

Kant was slightly stunned, but he quickly came to his senses.

Kant’s intention of taking the refugees in was only to add to the population of his village. In the eyes of Firentis, it was an act of mercy for the weak that deserved praise.

Firentis lowered his head and replied, “It would be my honor to serve you.”

Kant helped him up. Firentis was his first hero general and one of the best combatants available in the game. Kant was overjoyed to have Firentis join in his forces.

Firentis was a noble as well as a knight with formidable combat prowess.

He was capable of leading troops into battle, as well as fighting on his own.

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Firentis’ arrival alleviated Kant’s pressure in commanding Dronnheim’s current growing fighting force. The knight was able to make his forces fight more efficient.

After chatting with Firentis for a bit, Kant was even more pleased.

Kant was of noble birth in that world as well, yet he relied mostly on self-study when it came to affairs of war.

Firentis had provided him with a systematic elaboration on how to make use of the fighting forces of the Kingdom of Swadia. Besides, he was a true Swadian and a knight from a militaristic clan.

He was proficient in matters like leading Swadian fighting forces into battle and using strategies and tactics.

From what Kant knew, Firentis the Wandering Knight was a person who walked the talk.

My stress is considerably lessened with a general leading the forces.

Kant sighed, but he looked happy and contented.

He had been the one leading the battles with the Jackalans. While he had managed to win every single one of those battles, those victories made Kant realize that it was crucial to bring superior troop classes to bear down on any enemies.

When it came to details with strategies and tactics, he had nothing truly out of the ordinary to offer.

To put it precisely, he knew next to nothing about strategies and tactics.

All that he learned about war from games, movies, television series, and novels could not be counted as experience on the real battlefield.

At the very least, Kant knew that he was the one who was talking about things he knew little about. There was a lot he could learn from Firentis.

“Oh, right, Lord Kant.”

Firentis interrupted his thoughts.

His rather hesitant tone piqued Kant’s curiosity. “What is it, Firentis?”

“Well, Lord Kant, I’d like to first apologize for my rudeness.”

Firentis lowered his head and sighed, saying, “I saw a group of homeless vagrants on my way here, and I told them that there is a merciful lord, as well as hope for a better life, to be found here.

A prompt from the system was heard when Firentis was done speaking.

[Ding... Side Quest assigned]

[Side Quest: Firentis’ Refugees]

[Reward: Swadian Militias x 28]

[Introduction: Firentis led a group of refugees, who had nowhere to go, to the oasis. He is hoping that a merciful lord such as yourself will take them in.]

The dialog box was seen clearly on his retina.

Kant’s eyes glimmered. The grin on his face turned into boisterous laughter.

“Sure. Is there a reason why I wouldn’t take them in?”

As he turned to look at Firentis, Kant was in a considerably better mood. He said, “I would always welcome refugees into my village. I would bring them new hope, should they choose to believe in me!”



“Your compassion is impressive.” Firentis lowered his head with the utmost respect from the bottom of his heart.

[Ding... You have chosen to mercifully take in the refugees.]

[Side Quest: Firentis’ Refugees completed.]

[Reward Acquired: Swadian Militias x 28]

[Introduction: It is a wise choice to absorb refugees to boost the population. However, it is worth noting that too many refugees will strain the village, affecting the mood of the peasants.]

A dialog box from the system quickly appeared.

The assignment and completion of the side quest took less than two minutes.

The reward seemed to have been something like a free lunch.

Kant was pleased with the turn of events. Be it the incoming refugees or the new 28 Swadian Militias added to his forces, all of them were vital human resources to the current Oasis Lookout.

At the very least, Kant had yet to encounter the overpopulation mentioned by the system’s introduction.

Fighting wars was the best way to keep populations in check.

At the very moment, Dronnheim had a lack of peasants, troops, defensive measures, and civilian buildings.

The place had a shortage of everything.

The arrival of more refugees was a boon to him.

It was worth noting that the 100 Date Palm Trees spread over the two acres of land had the potential to produce more than 4,400 pounds of dates. Kant had been wracking his brains on how to divide his forces to pluck the dates.

At that moment, a huge labor force was sent his way.

Soldiers, who knew mostly how to hack and slash, were more suited for combat.

Farm work and menial labor were best left to the peasants.

“They are here.”

Firentis looked up at the dune from which he had come.

A huge group of refugees in ragged clothing was helping each other up as they moved. The 28 Swadian Militia members were surrounding and protecting the refugees.

They all looked exhausted, but they all cheered in excitement when they saw Dronnheim appear before their eyes. Their steps immediately quickened.

All of those people had been Kant’s side quest and reward from the side quest.

He had gained 200 Swadian Peasants and 28 Swadian Militia members.

“Get them food and water.”

Kant nodded and ordered several recruits not far away, “Make sure they have enough to eat and drink.”

“Yes, My Lord!”

The recruits immediately nodded and headed toward the spring water pond to the south.

Smoke immediately billowed from the Council Hall’s kitchen. The fragrance of cooking food gradually spread throughout the place.

The refugees, who had all been on an arduous journey, needed a good rest. Kant would have never taken them to be numb, unfeeling NPCs. They were all people of flesh and blood. At the least, he had to ensure that those people had their stomachs filled.