

## The World 21

### Chapter 21: Envious Players

After having the scorpion warrior and the bandaged mummy stand guard together, Richard returned to the hall and habitually opened the [Forum Chat].

Two days had passed, and he did not know how the other lords were doing.

[F\*ck! Today, we attacked a small logging field and encountered an Elite 3-star wild monster. I f\*cking clashed with a husky monster... Why would an elite-level creature appear in a small logging field? All the troops I recruited were all sent out!!!]

[You might not believe me if I tell you this, but today, I met an NPC caravan. On board were aborigines. You didn't see them. Those aborigines used earth dragons to transport resources. Those are rare-level troops! I was so envious that my eyes turned red.]

[The one above is nothing. The NPC caravan that I met was planning to trade with me. However, my territory doesn't have any unique products. The other party took one look and left.]

[Pui, this is blatant discrimination! Hmph, these bastards, I'll let them know! Thirty years to the east! Thirty years to the west! Don't bully the young and poor!]

[Where on earth can I get food?!! My population has already exceeded 300!! But I really can't f\*cking afford anymore!!!]

[This was the first time I knew that 300 people had to consume so much food every day to eat. Who can lend me some food? I promise, when I'm rich, I'll pay back tenfold!]

[Hahaha, I finally have an elite-level troop lair!! I used half the population of my territory to be cannon fodder and finally captured that desert troop lair. But this doesn't seem to be anything worthy of happiness. Those residents have all run away because of this. Damn it! These days are too hard!]

[F\*cking game developer, don't let me know where you are!!! Why did you develop such a dehumanizing game? The residents of my territory rebelled just because they were hungry for a day!!! F\*ck! Wasn't it just a day without food? What right did they have to rebel!! So what if they rebelled? They even ransacked my territory!! Can we still live like this?!!]

[It's too hard. Why is this world so hard... How can we manage our territory like this? There's a shortage of food, water, and resources. And the outside world is filled with powerful wilderness troops. It seems like they're cursing...]

Richard looked around for a long time and found that most players live miserably.

Only a few of them could barely manage, but there were also many problems.

In comparison, Twilight City was too comfortable.

For two days, they had already established themselves in the desert, the forbidden land of life.

Although the food was not abundant and the water was scarce, it was countless times better compared to the miserable lives of the other lords.

After looking for a while, Richard suddenly thought of something.

He took out two resource treasures that he had exchanged for 800 units of food—the Russian olive seed and the spring water fragment.

“Ten mu of Russian olive seed, maturing once a month... Without a doubt, this kind of stable food source, the earlier you plant it, the better.”

“Although the income from hunting is high, it’s not stable. It isn’t a long-term development plan for the territory.”

“But the problem is that adequate irrigation is necessary for the Russian olive seeds...”

“And there’s only one piece of the spring water fragment. How can I get the other two pieces?”

“It’s typically not realistic to open the treasure chest by myself... I still have to buy it from other players.”

As Richard’s thoughts spun, he had an idea.

“Under the premise of ensuring the consumption of Twilight City, I can take out a portion of the food in exchange for the spring water fragment. I can start planting the 10 mu Russian olive seeds as soon as possible...”

“A Russian olive seed that can steadily produce food is greatly significant to Twilight City since it is in the desert.”

The desert was not a fertile place. Stable food production was not a guarantee.

Twilight City could not always rely on hunting to solve the food problem.

Hunting was fine when the population was small, but when the population grew to 3 – 4 thousand, or even tens of thousands, how many preys did they have to hunt every day to be satisfied?

If the territory wanted to develop, they had to farm.

After Richard made the decision, he asked someone to call Karu.

Without waiting for Karu to bow, Richard immediately asked.

“Karu, after today’s prey is processed, we have how many total units of food left?”

Karu’s slightly turbid eyes looked directly at Richard. His voice was old and steady.

“Lord Richard, after today’s prey is processed, there are still 1,300 units of meat, including the 3,200 units in the warehouse. So, there is still a total of 4,500 units of meat left.”

“However, drying these fresh meats into dried meats will cause too much damage.”

“Initially, we still have 500 units of coarse wheat left...”

“All the food added together can support the territory’s consumption for half a month. If we save some, we can last for 20 days.”

Richard’s eyes narrowed slightly.

Half a month’s worth of inventory was far from enough for a territory. The ability to resist risks was too weak.

However, in the early stages, where opportunities were precious, there was no need to save so much. A portion was enough for development.

Ten days’ worth of buffering was enough.

After having a plan in mind, Richard immediately got up and went to the warehouse of the mansion...

All the resources in Twilight City were in the warehouse.

Karu also arranged for a few people to guard it day and night.

Richard took 1,000 units of fresh meat from the warehouse and posted the information for a reward in the reward column of the [Trading Market].

[One thousand units of raw meat reward resource treasure: Spring water or spring water fragments x2.]

This information immediately appeared in first and second place in the reward area.

The reward column ranked items according to their corresponding value.

The system determined that his 1,000 units of fresh meat were worth more than all the items put up for reward.

In such a large [Trading Market], there were countless rewards.

However, it was the first time he had seen a meat item on the reward list using food. Furthermore, it was 1,000 units of meat.

These caused many lords who were short of food to be so envious that their eyes turned red.

They quickly started discussing in the [Forum Chat].

[I just saw that a big shot called Qing Qiu posted 1,000 units of meat just to exchange for a trash item. For what do you think this spring water fragment is? The water in my territory is flowing out every day...]

[I can’t afford it!!! Why only exchange for a treasure? Ahhhhh! 1,000 units of meat. I can let the residents of my territory eat for 10 days. A bowl of meat soup every day. Won’t they die of beauty?!]

[More people are dying than others! One thousand units of meat in one go. This is just the beginning... Who is so generous?]

[This is the first time I’ve seen such a tycoon. What kind of life is this big shot called Qing Qiu leading?!]

[Why is there someone who has so much food at this stage?? I’m not convinced!! Why can I only eat porridge today...]

These two messages immediately caused several players experiencing a shortage of food to wail.

When they were still worried about food, someone had brought so much food and meat in exchange for a piece of spring water fragment, a treasure that was trash to the rest. It simply made them envious...

## **Chapter 22: Desert Oasis and an Acre of Russian Olive Seed Forest**

After setting up the transaction, Richard went straight to rest. He did not expect it to cause such a heated discussion.

At this stage, the novice lords undoubtedly lacked food the most.

Each lord had to support hundreds of people and more.

Once they opened their eyes, these residents would also open their mouths to eat and drink, which was difficult for most lords.

The game “Shining Era” was not a modern-day world where one could buy a few truckloads of rice just by going out.

The most direct way to obtain food was to hunt.

However, hunting was inevitably dangerous, and it could even endanger one’s life. It was a high-risk endeavor.

In these two days, it was already rare for 70% of the people to muster up the courage to explore this unfamiliar world.

And planting, even for seeds like the Russian olive that ripens once a month, required time.

Thus, most people lacked the means to obtain food, and could only barely maintain their territory.

A small number of people with outstanding abilities could not bear to sell too much of the food they obtained.

The small portion that could be used to sell was simply a drop in the bucket for the 20 billion in the [Trading Market].

There were even fewer who were as rich as Richard.

Under the heated discussions of countless people, he fell into a deep sleep.

The next morning, Richard woke up.

After Richard washed up, he went to the hall and ate breakfast with two extremely striking kitchen maids. He slowly opened the [Forum Chat].

Two messages popped up in his private mailbox.

[Ding~ You have received a 1-star resource treasure — spring water fragment \*1.]

[Ding~ The item you are looking for has been purchased. You have obtained a 1-star resource treasure — spring water \*1.]

After a cursory glance, Richard was certain that the Russian olive seed had been discovered...

Then, Richard felt that something was wrong, so he took another look.

He had obtained a 1-star resource treasure — spring water.

There was no suffix like a fragment...

“Someone directly used a treasure like spring water to exchange for 500 units of food?!”

Richard laughed out loud. This was a pure surprise!

Even an Ordinary 1-star treasure was worth at least 2,000 units of meat in Richard’s eyes.

He did not expect the seller to bargain 500 units. Was he waiting for the rice to be cooked?

This unexpected gain made Richard think seriously.

“Next, perhaps I can use the other lords’ early demand to exchange for more good things...”

“Now that I’ve obtained the spring water fragments, there are two more water fragments.

“As long as I obtain another spring water fragment, I’ll have two spring water fragment treasures in my hands. The problem of Twilight City’s water consumption will be solved.”

This unexpected gain made Richard quite excited. After thinking for a while, he asked the kitchen maid to call Karu over.

Not long after, Karu hurried into the hall.

“Good day, Lord. What are your orders?”

Richard smiled and took out the Russian olive seed and spring water fragment. He then explained their functions.

After hearing this, Karu was so excited that he almost burst into tears.

“Is this the legendary divine gift?!”

“Gods above, you must be the son of god sent by the gods to save us!!”

“Twilight City will surely become the pearl of the desert under your leadership!”

An acre of Russian olive seed ripens once a month.

This was immeasurable to Twilight City.

As an old man who had experienced countless storms, Karu had a lot of experience.

He knew that hunting could bring good profits, but the problem was that it was unstable.

And it was full of danger.

In comparison, the income from farming was extremely reliable. Even if it took a long time to cultivate, it was completely worth it.

“Bring people to the surrounding areas to choose the Russian olive seed planting area.”

“Remember, in the future, Twilight City will expand very quickly. The chosen area can not be too close, but it can not be too far either. In case anything happens, we can deal with it in time.”

Karu nodded excitedly. The wrinkles on his face seemed to have come to life.

“As you wish, I will immediately go down and make the arrangements!”

Not long after, the entire Twilight City was in an uproar because of the news that Karu had spread.

The Great Lord, under the blessing of the gods, had obtained a god-given item — an acre of Russian olive seeds.

Moreover, it was a miracle plant that matures once a month!

This news greatly boosted the morale of the residents who had just woken up, and one by one, they rushed to help Karu choose a suitable location.

Under the efforts of many residents, five potential locations were placed in front of Richard in less than an hour.

“Lord, these locations are plains and not far from Twilight City. They are very suitable for planting the Russian olive seeds... Please, make your decision.”

Richard opened the rough map and compared it with the system map.

A moment later, Richard pointed at one of the points on the rough map on the table—the logging field—and tapped twice with his index finger.

“The Russian olive forest will be placed here.”

“This place is about 1.5 kilometers away from Twilight City. The terrain is relatively even, and the rare-level desert bees are also around here.”

“Yes, Lord!”

Richard stood up. “Call all the residents. Let’s go and plant the olive seeds.”

Karu’s wrinkled face relaxed a lot as if the crumpled paper had been smoothed out.

“They’ve been waiting for a long time!”

Richard took Karu out of the door and found that all the residents of the territory were truly there.

“Good day, Lord!”

“Lord...”

Seeing him appear, the residents in front of them all put their hands on their chests and bowed.

Richard nodded and walked directly toward the direction of the logging field under the protection of the bandaged mummy and the scorpion warrior.

When the residents saw the strong scorpion warrior, they had a heated discussion, and their respect for Richard rose again.

“That’s the newly recruited troop of Lord Richard, right? It’s too powerful...”

“That scorpion tail is thicker than the arrows of the siege ballista I’ve seen...”

Everyone was bewildered.

In the dangerous desert, Richard was the ruler of Twilight City, the only ruler.

The stronger he was, the safer they would be.

Since Richard’s troop was strengthened, the residents were happy.

About 10 minutes later, the group arrived at the logging field.

At this time, a long-armed laborer was cutting wood. When he saw Richard, he immediately put in more effort as if he had seen his boss inspecting him.

Richard ignored the long-armed laborer and went through the logging field to the other side.

The terrain of this area was even. There were no obvious depressions or bulges. It was suitable for the olive forest.

Moreover, the desert bees were only ten minutes away from here. It would be convenient to move them over later.

“Wait here.”

Richard walked hundreds of meters forward alone.

Then, he slowly stopped under everyone’s gaze. Richard bent down and buried the Russian olive seeds into the yellow sand.

He took out a pot of water from the system space and poured it onto the sand.

The sand was soaked by the water and immediately condensed into a dark color.

After pouring the pot of water, Richard put the pot back into the system space and turned around to walk toward the residents.

But the moment he took his first step...

The Russian olive seeds sprouted roots at a speed hundreds of times faster than the speed of a process video. Green leaves grew out.

That patch of green became the starting point. On the surrounding sand, dozens of tender buds sprouted at the same time.

Under the shocked gazes of the residents, with every step that Richard took, a patch of tender buds sprouted behind him.

This scene was like a miracle from the myths and legends.

At this moment, Richard was like a god who possessed the authority of life descending to the mortal world. Every step Richard took nurtured hope and the future.

The yellow sand behind him was covered with green leaves.

The Russian olive seeds grew at an astonishing speed. Under the special force, the yellow sand on the ground slowly condensed into lumps and turned into soil...

When Richard returned to the logging site, the Russian olive forest was already lush and green.

The residents looked at him with burning and fervent eyes.

At that moment, it was as if Richard was the incarnation of a god.

Richard turned his head to look at the Russian olive trees. By now, they had grown to half the height of a man.

And they were growing at an extremely soaring speed.

The miracle of life in the desert...

### **Chapter 23: Incomparable Delicacy**

[Ding~ The Russian olive seeds (acre) have been successfully planted. The Russian olive seed ripens once a month. Please maintain sufficient water sources for irrigation.]

Richard looked at the lush and verdant olive trees in front of him and was in a great mood.

This was the future.

Richard reached out and took out a resource treasure — spring water fragment. Under the extremely heated gazes of the residents, he placed it directly at the entrance of the olive forest.

In the next second, the crystal-like treasure melted directly into the ground.

After a few breaths, gurgling sounds could be heard as if something had appeared. The sand was rapidly rising.

The surrounding residents were stunned. What was this?

‘Puchi!’



The spring water fragment with fine sand suddenly spurted out water a few meters high from the yellow sand.

The crystal-like water column brushed down. Under the sun's illumination, it emitted a seven-colored glow.

Desert rainbow...

The surrounding people immediately cried out in surprise.

"There's water! There's water!!"

"There's really water!!"

"It's so amazing!!"

Everyone was shocked.

After the spring water fragment spurted out a water column that was several meters high, it gradually returned to normal spring water.

Only the rainbow was still hanging in the air. It was magnificent.

After the water flowed into the dry sand, spider web-like traces immediately appeared.

The surrounding yellow sand began to crazily devour the water source.

Following the saturation of the underground water, the spring water began to flow into the olive trees.

When Richard saw this scene, the smile on his face was dazzling.

He turned around to face the excited crowd and spoke loudly.

"My people, this is only the beginning. Twilight City will be an oasis in the desert, an oasis of hope and the future.

"All of you will follow me to witness this miracle!"

Two short sentences immediately raised the atmosphere to another level.

"Long live, the Lord!"

No one knew who spoke, but everyone followed suit and shouted excitedly.

"Long live, the Lord!"

"Long live, the Lord!"

Everyone was overjoyed.

The shouts were filled with respect for Richard and hope for the future.

At this moment, they used their voices to release all the excitement in their hearts.

After a long time, the crowd that had enough of it dispersed excitedly.

Richard left Karu behind and gave him a new mission.

“Send people to build a reservoir near the spring. The sand cannot hold water, so it needs to be built with stones.

At the same time, send 10 residents to manage the olive forest. Build a ditch inside so the spring water can flow in.

“Russian olive trees need an adequate water source. We must ensure that every single Russian olive tree is watered.”

“Yes, Lord. I will personally supervise it. There will surely be no mistakes!” Karu’s tone was firm.

This was the cornerstone of Twilight City. If anything happened to anyone, these Russian olive trees would not have any trouble!

After giving his instructions, Richard passed through the Russian olive forest and returned to the place where he had killed the nak troll the other day.

Even without the nak troll, the desert bees were still buzzing.

He didn’t know where these desert bees went to gather honey.

The Russian olive trees had been planted. It was time to move these rare-level desert bees.

Otherwise, if a wild beast dug out the beehive, Richard would lose a lot of money.

But before that, he had to level up the desert bees first.

Now that the desert bees still recognized him, if he dared to dig out the beehive, he would surely be stung.

Richard, who was already prepared, took out 200 units of fresh meat from the warehouse in the system space in the morning and exchanged them for 8,000 units of supplies.

Then, he opened the [Trading Market] and spent 5,000 units of resources to buy 10 lairs of insect troops.

[Ding~ The desert bee lair has met the requirements for upgrading. Do you want to use 10 normal insect troop lairs to upgrade?]

[Confirmed.]

The 10 troop lairs in Richard’s hands shattered and turned into a fluorescent light that flowed into the honeycomb on the bush.

After a few breaths, the light was swallowed by the honeycomb.

“Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!”

A large number of desert bees surged out of the honeycomb and flew around Richard to show their affection.

[Desert Beehive]

[Level: Special]

[Queen Bee: Rare (When upgrades to advanced-level, the hive produces better quality, advanced desert honey)]

[Characteristics: Can produce a better quality of desert honey with a special aroma. After eating, it can greatly increase the recovery speed of stamina and injuries, and slightly increase the recovery speed of magic power.]

[Number of Bees: Small]

[Quantity: A minimum of 10 units of better quality honey per week]

[Description: A rare-level bee in the desert. Extremely rare.]

After leveling up, the desert honey had an additional characteristic that could recover magic power. It was truly a superb item.

Richard laughed heartily.

Now, he could taste the sensation of the honey.

Richard took two steps forward, pushed aside the bushes and leaves, and reached out to break a piece of honeycomb out of the hive.

The honey had been sealed, and he could smell a very distinct fragrance without having to place it next to his nose.

It was ten times more fragrant than any honey he had ever eaten before.

He was salivating wildly.

Richard could not help but take a bite directly.

The honey had a long silk thread, which looked especially crystal clear under the sun.

Richard chewed lightly, and with a bit of sticky honey in his mouth, he scratched his tongue.

In the next second, an indescribable sweetness exploded in Richard's mouth.

His entire body was instantly filled with an indescribable sense of satisfaction.

'Gulp.'

After swallowing down to his stomach, Richard's abdomen was slightly warm, and then it quickly spread to his limbs.

His entire body felt like he was soaking in warm water, and he felt relaxed all over.

After he finished off a small piece of honeycomb, Richard did not come back to his senses for a long time. He had been immersed in that peerless delicacy.

After a long time, Richard let out a long breath and felt the comfort coming from his body. His eyes were full of amazement and emotion.

“This is a superb taste bomb!”

“Before I transmigrated, this thing was sold for 100,000 yuan per jar. Now, a million yuan is f\*cking worth it!”

“How can there be such delicious honey in this world? Moreover, this is only honey made from a beginner-level honeycomb... Now that the queen has been upgraded to rare-level, how amazing will it be when the rare-level honey is produced next week?!”

“If it’s upgraded to advanced-level honey, how will it feel?”

Richard took a look at the desert bee’s next upgrade requirement.

Just like the other two troop hives, the upgrade requirement had been increased to 10 elite-level troop hives or 100 normal troop hives, and the cooldown time had not changed.

The next upgrade could only be done in seven days.

Unable to suppress the excitement in his heart, Richard took out an empty bucket from the system space and personally removed the honeycomb.

Then, he went to the center of the Russian olive forest and temporarily placed the beehive there.

Richard called Karu, who hadn’t left yet, and told him to ask the carpenter to build a giant beehive for the desert bees.

Richard’s order was the iron order of absolute priority.

In less than an hour, a few carpenters arrived carrying a specially made giant beehive.

Richard put the beehive in the giant beehive.

At the same time, he left two pieces of sealed honey as food for the bees.

With about 10 units of honey left, Richard put it away with a smile on his face.

After he had the beehive secured, the desert bees, which produced the best honey, completely settled down in the Russian olive forest.

From now on, 10 units of honey would be provided to Richard every week, and this was the lowest.

After a few days, when the Russian olive trees bloomed, the production of honey would be even greater.

Richard looked at the water that was already flowing into the Russian olive forest, and his mood was great.

It was all thanks to this spring water fragment that the entire ecosystem was activated.

Russian olive forest and honey. This was almost becoming an industry.

“I still don’t know what the taste of Russian olive is like, but the quality of the honey is surely top quality.”

“If we can breed a few more lairs of desert bees and make them a specialty of Twilight City, it won’t be a dream to make money while lying down in the future...”

## **Chapter 24: Emergency and Hero Unit**

Richard had never raised desert bees, but in the game “Shining Era”, most people were filled with some inexplicable knowledge.

When the number of desert bees increased, a new queen would be born.

The new queen would take some of the desert bees away and divide the lair.

Usually in the spring, there would be more lairs.

However, judging from the rate at which the desert bees produced 10 units of honey a week, the reproduction rate was surely not slow.

Perhaps, it would not take long for the second and third colonies to be separated.

If they could truly become large-scale, it would undoubtedly be a great help to Twilight City.

Richard believed that those who had tasted the desert bee honey would never forget the amazing flavor.

After arranging all these things, it was already noon.

In the yellow sandy land just now, the olive forest was lush and green. The spring water was flowing, and the desert bees were buzzing.

It had already become a paradise in the desert, an oasis of life.

After eating lunch, Richard did not stay in the territory. He continued to explore with nearly three squads of soldiers.

Today, his goal was to hunt.

The price of food was so high that Richard was greatly tempted.

If he could exchange it for a few treasures like the olive forest, it would be worth a lot to Twilight City.

Today, Richard was exploring the north.

With nearly three squads of elite-level soldiers, Richard was very confident.

According to yesterday’s search experience, Richard left 4 bandaged mummies and 4 scorpion warriors to protect him.

The other two teams spread out and searched as far as they could.

The effect of this method was very obvious. After less than ten minutes, a group of scorpion warriors 200 meters in front of them suddenly sent out a warning.

They had discovered enemies!

Richard, who was already considered experienced, immediately pulled back his troops and gathered the majority of the warriors.

He lowered his footsteps and led the troop to the side of the scorpion warriors who were on alert.

Following his guidance, they climbed up the low sand dunes and looked ahead in secret.

They saw that in a passage formed by the neighboring sand dunes...

Hundreds of desert bandits riding horses, wielding machetes in their hands, and wearing white headscarves, were attacking a carriage that was protected by more than ten people.

The two forces collided violently.

The hooves of the horses trampled on the sand, sending up waves of dust. They fought and roared. It was chaotic.

[Ding~ An emergency has been triggered. A team of desert bandits is robbing a caravan. You can choose freely.]

[1. Join the camp of desert bandits and snipe the carriages.]

[2. Join the camp of the carriages and resist the desert bandits.]

[3. Do nothing and watch or leave directly.]

[Note: The reward for the crisis is uncertain. Please explore on your own.]

An emergency?

Richard looked at the mission notification that suddenly appeared in the system. He could not help but feel a bit amused.

He had not expected to attack the caravan together with the desert bandits.

However, Richard could choose freely. He knew only children would choose sides. He wanted all of them.

Richard opened the attribute panel.

[Desert Bandits]

[Level: 2]

[Potential: Ordinary 3-stars]

[Skills: Robbery (E-rank) — When robbing a caravan, all attributes increase by 20%.]

[Dexterity (F-rank) — When mounted in battle, all attributes increase by 30%.]

[Race Talent: Increases speed by 15% while running in the desert.]

[Fetters: When robbing using the right hand, all attributes increase by 10%. When robbing using the left hand, speed increases by 20%.]

[Description: Hurry up and hand over the money! Quickly!]

When Richard looked at the desert bandits' attributes, he cannot help but laugh.

Boy, this was a robbery-for-hire unit.

The caravan was a lot more significant.

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[Human Warriors]

[Level: 5 (Rare) — Strength increased by 15%]

[Potential: Elite 1-star]

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[A Human Swordsman]

[Level: 5 (Rare) — Strength increased by 15%]

Potential: Elite 2 stars

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[Human Archer]

[Level: 5 (Rare) — Agility increased by 15%]

[Potential: Elite 3-stars]

There were only 14 soldiers in the carriage, all of whom were elite-level soldiers.

However, the difference in numbers between the two sides was too great.

The desert bandits outnumbered a squadron.

Moreover, there were bandits holding crossbows and arrows at the rear to suppress them.

Although the carriage guards fought desperately to break through the blockade, they had no success. They only left corpses behind.

If they were not well-equipped, they would not have been able to hold on for long.

Just as Richard was about to attack, he suddenly saw a middle-aged man dressed in a luxurious robe. He had a big belly and was short like a sausage.

The middle-aged man was roaring and commanding the battle.

The attributes of the human warriors made Richard very interested.

[Onyx]

[Hero Unit]

[Potential: C]

[Occupation: Merchant]

[Level: 5 (Rare) — A hero. Negotiation ability is increased by 20%]

[Skills: Negotiation, Intimidation, Diplomacy, Trade, Observation, and Information Gathering]

[Hero Characteristics: Can accurately determine the value of goods.]

[Race Characteristics: Can learn the knowledge of other races.]

[Fetterse: When working with members of Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce, you can earn an additional 20% profit.]

[Description: This artifact of yours is fake. I can only offer 10 gold coins...war god.]

“Wow, this caravan truly has a hero unit.”

However, the other party’s connection made him think.

“Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce?”

“NPC, Aborigines...”

When these words surfaced in his mind, Richard immediately became extremely interested.

In the [Forum Chat], the other lord players had also mentioned that they had encountered some aboriginal caravans over the past few days. Richard didn’t think that the caravans existed in the desert.

Who knew that it would appear like this?

Seeing that the situation was getting worse and the caravans were starting to crumble, Richard no longer hesitated.

With a wave of his hand, Richard decisively gave the order.

“Everyone, listen up. Kill all the desert bandits! Do not harm the people in the carriages!”

The mummies and scorpion warriors, who could no longer hold themselves back, immediately charged toward the battlefield.

The eight-legged scorpion warriors were one step faster than the mummies. These powerful troops with two giant iron pincers suddenly charged into the desert bandits who were surrounding the convoy from the side.

The desert bandits reacted the moment they appeared. They immediately sent out five small teams to snipe.



They were about to take down their target. They would never allow others to snatch food from the jaws of the tiger!

'Ta! Ta!'

The desert horse's broad hooves stepped on the yellow sand. As it ran, it kicked up sand and dust in the air behind it.

The desert bandit swung his scimitar fiercely. Under the high-speed running of the horse, the power of the scimitar was greatly increased.

'Ta! Ta! Ta! Ta! Ta! Ta!'

It's close! It's really close!

The desert scorpion's cold face revealed a chilling smile.

The two iron pincers suddenly opened up and waved like lightning.

The two sides ran towards each other and met up at an extremely soaring speed.

In that instant...

'Clang! Clang!'

'Puchi!'

Blood splattered!

The dead bodies of the desert bandits broke into two pieces and flew out after the high-speed inertia. They crashed heavily onto the ground, and the blood that flowed out dyed the sand red.

Instant kill...

The charges that had just started seemed to be nothing more than rushing to their death.

The desert horse under the desert bandit had also entered the latter stage after their life and death. When the iron pincers of the scorpion warrior were opened, they were like a great killing machine.

When they were closed, the curved hook protruding out in front was also like the iron hook of a pirate. It was incomparably sharp.

'Rip!'

The iron hook directly cut through the side of the desert horse, tearing a huge wound.

The flesh and blood turned crazily at this moment, and the ghastly white bones were broken inch by inch.

The desert horse let out a painful howl and then directly fell to the ground and died.

As an undead creature, the scorpion warrior did not know what mercy was.

After the first desert bandit was killed instantly, more desert bandits charged over. They wanted to use the charging power of the horses and the advantage in numbers to kill these terrifying enemies.

However, the scorpion warriors were not afraid. Instead, they became more excited and launched a counter-charge at the desert bandits!

A desert bandit brandished his scimitar from the side. Under the sunlight, his weapon reflected a cold light.

He swore to kill the scorpion warrior on the spot.

The scorpion warrior did not turn its head back. The curved scorpion tail on its back stabbed out like lightning.

The desert bandit that was charging from the side had no time to dodge.

'Chichi!'

The sharp scorpion's tail directly pierced through the desert bandit's chest, causing blood to spurt out.

Before the desert bandit died, the scimitar that carried a powerful force ruthlessly hacked at the scorpion's tail.

'Chichi!'

A series of sparks flashed past. A few holes appeared on the scimitar, but the scorpion tail was not damaged at all.

'Chichi!'

The scorpion's tail was pulled back fiercely. The desert bandit directly fell off his horse, and his corpse fell to the ground.

The scorpion warrior laughed sinisterly. It did not open its pincers but used the hook that was even more terrifying than the one in the butcher's hand to attack.

'Whoosh! Whoosh!'

As the hook swung, a loud sound of air being torn apart was heard.

'Clang!'

A desert bandit's scimitar was knocked away after colliding with it.

The scorpion warrior swung its left arm down, and the hook pierced through the neck of the desert bandit. It pulled hard, and the head flew several meters high.

It was extremely violent.

The desert bandits were in a one-sided situation when they clashed with the scorpion warriors.

It wasn't like the desert bandits were surrounding and killing the scorpion warriors, but more like the scorpion warriors were slaughtering the desert bandits.

An Ordinary 3-star troop had a total of five squads, and they were even clashing with the scorpion warriors under the high-speed charge of horses.

Even though they had the advantage, they were still stunned by the scorpion warriors' slap.

They were like a wall. No matter how hard the desert bandits charged, they could not make them retreat even half a step.

The desert scorpions went crazy.

## **Chapter 25: Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce**

The scorpion warriors completely wiped out the five teams of desert bandits in just a few minutes.

Although the bandaged mummies were strong, they were still much slower than the scorpion warriors.

After the desert bandits were slaughtered, the situation immediately changed.

The carriage guards, who had just been on the verge of collapse, were full of energy again.

They unleashed their final strength and stubbornly withstood the desert bandits' wave after wave of attacks.

After the scorpion warriors killed five small teams, they were not satisfied. They immediately grinned hideously and charged in the direction of the carriage.

When the desert bandits saw that their five small teams were quick to slaughter, they were greatly startled.

However, they were unwilling to give up the fat meat right in front of their mouths. They immediately gritted their teeth and continued to attack the carriage team.

It was just like a gambler who wanted to use the last chip on the gambling table to turn the tables.

The two iron pincers of the scorpion warriors had now become the Grim Reaper's scythe.

They began to harvest the souls of the enemies.

The desert bandits could not stop the scorpion warrior even with their full strength, not to mention that they had to divert their attention to attack the carriage team at this moment.

Fresh blood immediately dyed the desert red.

After the number of the desert bandits dropped drastically to two small teams, they completely collapsed.

Unable to suppress the shock in their heart, they turned around and ran away.

At a disadvantage, the desert bandits had a 20% increase in speed.

In a few breaths, the desert bandits run at an extremely long distance...

Which directly prevented the scorpion warrior from pursuing them.

[Ding~ Your troop has annihilated a group of desert bandits and obtained victory in a small-scale battle. You have obtained 120 experience points.]

[Ding~ The scorpion warriors have experienced several battles, and their levels have increased. They are currently level 2.]

The remaining seven or eight carriage guards witnessed the slaughter as the desert bandits were ravaged and fled. They heaved a deep sigh of relief in their hearts.

However, their tensed nerves did not relax at all.

Although these terrifying troops that had suddenly charged out did not attack them, their ferocious and terrifying appearance and powerful combat strength gave them even greater pressure than the desert bandits.

The merchant hero was as round as a short sausage. He mustered up the courage to stand out and face the poison scorpion warriors who had surrounded the carriage.

“Respected experts, we are members of the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce in Solan City. Thank you for your assistance to us... The Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce will surely repay you handsomely!”

Silence...

A deathly silence...

The scorpion warrior looked at the merchant hero with a cold gaze and did not say a word.

The atmosphere gradually sank to a freezing point.

The carriage guards, who had just exhausted their strength, were now even more nervous.

They had no choice but to brace themselves and prevent these terrifying creatures from suddenly launching an attack.

At this moment, a new face emerged in front of their eyes.

More than ten mummies surrounded a handsome young human, as they slowly approached from afar.

The short sausage-shaped merchant hero’s eyes immediately revealed a look of surprise.

When Richard approached, the merchant hurriedly took two steps forward and respectfully saluted with his hands on his chest.

“Honorable Lord, Solan City’s Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce Merchant Onyx, offers you the highest respect.”

“Thank you for saving my life. The Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce will remember your friendship.”

Richard nodded slightly.

“Lord of Twilight City, Richard. Greetings, Lord Onyx.”

After receiving his reply, short sausage-shaped Onyx still did not dare to relax and bowed again.

“Where is Solan City? How far is it from here?”

Onyx straightened his bulging belly. He looked like he was six months pregnant.

“Dear Lord Richard, Solan City is at the edge of the desert. It is one of the largest cities in the Deadly Desert.”

Then, as if he had thought of something, Onyx exclaimed.

“You don’t even know about Solan City. Could it be that gods have chosen you and that you came from another world? God of merchants, I didn’t expect to meet the god of grace in the depths of the desert! Lord Richard had been chosen by the gods and had come from another world.”

Wasn’t this the background setting of the players in the game “Shining Era”?

The Deadly Desert... Richard didn’t expect the desert he was in would be that.

They say there were dozens of deserts of different sizes in the game “Shining Era”.

The largest and most famous ones were only three on the official website — the [Deadly Desert], the [Lost Desert], and the [Endless Desert].

The [Deadly Desert] was at the center of the main plane of the game “Shining Era”. It was extensively broad, and it would take five to six months to traverse it, even under the best circumstances.

However, that was all the information Richard knew.

“Yes, Lord Onyx, but why are you so surprised?”

Onyx calmed himself down and said.

“Because you are the lord chosen by the gods! Isn’t this exciting enough?”

Richard’s mouth twitched.

‘If you knew that there are 20 billion of so-called god-blessed lords, you might not be so excited.’

Richard did not struggle with this. He changed the topic instead.

“How far is it from here to Solan City?”

Onyx’s face fell. He took out a map from his pocket and looked at it carefully.

A moment later, Onyx said dejectedly.

“There’s still a month’s journey!”

“Oh god, we’re too far away from the trade route...”

Richard was a little curious.

“How did you guys get here? How were you attacked by the desert bandits?”

Onyx had also regained some of his calmness. He began to recount what had happened to his group.

Although the Deadly Desert was extremely terrifying, since it is in the center of the main plane, it was surrounded by all the major forces.

As long as one could cross the desert and reach the other end of the desert, they would be able to exchange their goods for ten times or even ten times the profits.

If merchants had 100% of the profits, they would dare to risk their lives. If they had 300% of the profits, they would dare to trample all the laws of the human world.

Under the temptation of high profits, Solan City’s powerful Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce invested a large amount of manpower and resources to open up a trade route.

However, a week ago, a sandstorm attacked the caravan.

During the natural disaster, they got separated from their companions.

After leaving the sandstorm, they encountered desert bandits.

At that time, they had three small teams of guards.

However, in the past few days of entanglement, the merchants suffered heavy losses. Only seven or eight people were left.

Richard accepted to the merchant’s accounts.

“You are lucky to have survived the sandstorm. What are your plans now? Do you want to return to Solan City immediately or meet up with your caravan?”

Onyx shook his head.

“After the caravan is separated, I don’t know how many people will survive.”

“We plan to return to Solan City directly.”

After saying that, Onyx looked at Richard with longing eyes.

“Dear Lord Richard, can we go to your territory to rest and replenish the water source before we leave?”

He was worried that Richard would refuse, so Onyx quickly said.

“I am willing to pay. Also, you saved us. On behalf of the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express my gratitude to you.

“If it is suitable, we can start business transactions in the future.”

[Ding~ You saved the caravan of the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce. You have won their gratitude and respect. Your current relationship with the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce is — friendly.]

[Ding~ The Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce has applied to inspect your territory. You can establish new business relations with them.]

## **Chapter 26:: Special Building – Hero’s Altar**

When Richard heard the system notification, he fell into deep thought.

‘At this stage, although I can use the [Trading Market] to trade with players, there’s no doubt that the aborigines who occupy the dominant position in the game “Shining Era” are the gold mines to be dug out...’

‘If the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce can establish trade relations, it’ll surely be a great thing.’

Since Richard had not responded to his request for a long time, Onyx’s expression became increasingly indifferent.

Indescribable anxiety rose in Onyx’s heart.

‘Although the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce was very famous in the [Deadly Desert], this Lord didn’t know about it.’

‘If evil intentions arose, Lord Richard could order his subordinates to kill them with a wave of his hand.’

In this vast desert, the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce couldn't know about it...

The more Onyx thought about it, the more terrified he became when he saw Richard's impassive face.

Onyx sneaked a glance at the ferocious scorpion warriors around him. Their emotionless eyes were coldly staring at them.

It seemed that in the next second, they would use the iron pincers that could easily tear apart horses and cut off his head...

Onyx's anxiety magnified to the extreme.

In this strange atmosphere, Onyx gritted his teeth.

He then took out an item from his clothes and handed it to Richard.

"Dear Lord Richard, we lost contact with our caravan, and most of our goods are gone.

"Only this treasure that we snatched from the sandstorm is left.

"To thank you for saving my life, please, accept it. I think your territory needs it too."



The guards around the carriage hesitated when they saw Onyx's disposition.

They wanted to say something but feared the scorpion warriors around them, so they shut their mouths.

They didn't want to die here either.

Richard was slightly stunned. He looked at the anxiety in Onyx's eyes and then gazed at the scorpion warriors around.

Was this the real version of the alliance under the Solan City?

However, Richard was not going to stand at the ceremony. He reached out and took it.

[Ding~ You have received a gift from the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce — Blueprint for the Hero's Altar.]

'Blueprint?'

Richard finally saw the blueprint!

He opened the attribute panel.

[Blueprint for the Construction of the Hero's Altar]

[Level: Special Building]

[Characteristics: Can provide a layout in building the Hero's Altar. Upon a hero's death, it can be resurrected on the Hero's Altar using resources. The Hero's Altar can resurrect five heroes every month.]

[Space: 4]

[Resources Required for Building: 10,000 units of stone, 10,000 units of gold coins, 10,000 units of wood, 500 units of crystal, 500 units of gemstones, 500 units of mercury, and 500 units of sulfur.]

[Description: An extremely rare building blueprint. Even a dragon would be moved by it.]

"Hiss!"

Richard's eyes widened.

'Hero's altar!!!'

'Special building!!!'

'Holy sh\*t!!!'

The information given by the game "Shining Era" official site wasn't much. But the Hero's Altar was mentioned particularly. It was said to be a rather valuable item.

Richard didn't expect that he would obtain this treasure from a member of a down-and-out merchant group!

That gave him a strong sense of surprise as if Richard had spent 2.50 yuan on buying a bottle of drinks and obtained a laptop.

'Isn't this reward a little against the rules? Hahaha, this feels so good...'

'Was the reward for a sudden incident so unpredictable?'

'This was a bloody win!!'

The only regret was that the Hero's Altar required a lot of rare resources.

Richard didn't even have a unit of this thing now, so he was afraid that he wouldn't be able to build it in a short time.

However, Richard wasn't in a hurry. The Hero's Altar was a late-stage building, and he had only just begun.

Richard did not even have a hero yet.

Better keep it as a treasure first.

Suppressing the excitement in his heart, Richard patted the shoulder of the short sausage-shaped Onyx.

Richard was full of praise.

"Lord Onyx, I am greatly delighted with your welcome gift."

"There is no need to think much. Twilight City needs friends and also needs to trade with the outside world."

"Please come back to my territory with me so you can rest. In the name of the Lord of Twilight City, I promise you that even giant dragons can not hurt you in my territory!"

Hearing Richard's words, Onyx's heart that was hanging in his throat finally settled down, and he let out a long sigh.

"Thank you for your trust. It's an honor."

He had finally saved his life.

With such a big harvest, Richard was not in a hurry to explore other areas.

He asked the mummy and the scorpion warrior to help push the cart.

Richard brought Onyx and a few of his guards back to the territory. He agreed to help bury the bodies of their companions.

Seeing Richard return so quickly, Karu, who had received the news, was slightly surprised.

When Karu saw the eye-catching Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce symbol on the carriage parked at the entrance of the Lord's mansion, he was a bit casually astonished.

“Lord Richard, this is the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce symbol. Are they the lords of the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce?”

Seeing that there were people who knew him, Onyx was starkly relieved.

As long as someone knew about the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce, he was confident that the hosts would treat them well.

It was because rescuing the caravan of the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce would be extremely rewarding.

That was the moral reputation that they had built up over the past decades.

“That’s right. These friends will start trading with us in the future. We have to treat them well!”

“In addition, we just defeated a group of desert bandits. The enemies’ mounts, the desert horses, have been hunted down.”

“Send someone to bring the horses back. Follow the traces of the carriage we came back from.”

Karu’s eyes lit up. “Yes, Lord Richard!”

After saying that, Karu immediately turned around and called for help.

That was a matter of making a living. Richard was more proactive than anyone else.

Onyx looked at this simple territory with a subtle expression.

It was the territory of divine grace.

The gods had created it using rules.

Otherwise, who would be bored enough to build such territory in the depths of the Deathly Desert?

The territory was still in a safe period, and Richard wasn't worried about what Onyx and his people would do.

After talking and comforting some of the residents around him to take care of each other, Richard prepared to explore again.

It was still early today. And it would be a waste to stay in the territory.

However, when he was about to leave, Onyx seemed to have thought of something and hurriedly said, "Lord Richard, I'm sorry."

"Lord Richard, when we were hiding from those bandits, we accidentally found a one-way portal. I don't know if you're interested."

"We didn't explore it. We don't know what's on the other side of the portal..."

After saying that, Onyx spread his hands with a pungent smile.

"We don't have the chance to explore it in our current state."

'One-way portal?'

Richard's eyes lit up.

"Where's the one-way portal?"

Onyx took out the ancient map from his pocket and spread it on the table.

He pointed at a location.

"It's about two hours away from your territory."

Richard looked sideways and saw the images on the map in front of him constantly flowing as if they were moving pictures.

And the location that Onyx was pointing to, had the mark of a door.

[Magic Map]

[Level: Special]

[Characteristics: Can record the area that you have walked through, the Lord can know where you are at this moment.]

[Description: A magic item made by a powerful spellcaster.]



No wonder Onyx knew where he was so well.

This was simply another version of the system map.

Looking at Richard's interested gaze, Onyx's face immediately turned aggrieved.

"Lord Richard, this magic item is a forbidden item of the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce. It is not allowed to be leaked..."

Richard waved his hand.

"No need to think too much. The gods have given us a better map. I'm just a little curious about it."

Onyx was finally relieved.

Richard picked up the map and handed it back to Onyx after the system notification finished sharing.

"Lord Onyx, you can rest in my territory for a few days. It's not too late to leave after you recover."

"There are still many unknown areas around the territory. I need to explore them."

Onyx immediately said, “You don’t have to be so polite. It’s our honor to be able to come to your territory.

“If there’s anything you need, just let us know.”

After exchanging a few pleasantries, Richard directly left the territory with the mummies and the scorpion warriors.

He was a little curious about the one-way portal.

Where did the portal lead to?

Could it be another area similar to the Dark Temple?

### **Chapter 27: Gift From The Gods – A Rare Delicacy**

“Lord Onyx, the blueprint for the Hero’s Altar is so precious. Why did you give it away?”

Not long after Richard left, a few carriage guards asked Onyx in confusion as there was no one around.

Onyx, who felt restrained even when he was sitting on the wide chair, glared at them.

“Who saved us just now?”

They whispered.

“Although it was Lord Richard who saved us, there is no need for us to use such a precious item as a reward, right?”

“We paid a huge price to save it from the sandstorm!”

“Stupid!” Onyx’s fat face showed some disdain.

“If the enemy had ordered an attack at that time, what do you think would have happened to us?”

“Remember, the first rule of the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce. In the desert, life comes first.”

“Don’t think that the sky will fall just because you lost a precious blueprint.”

“Weaklings have no choice. At that time, even if the odds of the enemy attacking us were only 30%, we would never take the risk.”

At this point, Onyx’s tone became inexplicably low, and memories flashed through his eyes.

“Fifteen years ago, I once followed Young Master Oko to deliver a batch of goods. You may not know who Young Master Oko is, but you must know that Young Master Oko was the one who bought the weapons produced by the Phoenix-Tailed Flower Guild for 50 years!”

The room was immediately filled with shock.

“That time, we encountered something similar to today. The storm blew away the caravan. After we escaped, we were surrounded by a group of desert bandits.”

“Young Master Oko would never surrender. He resisted with his life, and in the end, he was killed by those desert bandits.”

Onyx was full of regret. “Initially, the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce wanted to negotiate with a powerful empire to establish trade relations.”

“Young Master Oko’s death led to the failure of the negotiations. The competitors took that spot by force. We suffered immeasurable losses.”

“From then on, the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce came up with that iron law. In the desert, life comes first.”

“If Young Master Oko was still alive, the current Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce would probably be ten times stronger!!”

“Therefore, you must remember that surviving is the most important thing in the desert. Only then will you have the chance to continue earning more profits for the Chamber of Commerce.”

“I will personally explain this matter to the president. If there is any punishment, I will bear it alone!”

When they heard this secret, Onyx’s companions immediately fell silent.

After a long time, someone finally spoke up.

“Lord Onyx, what should we do next?”

“Rest well first before returning to Solan City. Remember, don’t cause trouble in this territory. Our lives are in the hands of others!”

After Onyx and the others discussed for a long time, Karu, who had already arranged for someone to bring back the prey, walked into the house with a smile.

Two men carrying tightly covered trays followed behind him.

The cook in the Lord's mansion specialized in serving Lord Richard. These outsiders were not qualified to take a second look.

"Lord Onyx, I am the Administrative Officer of Twilight City, Karu.

"When Lord Richard left, he specially instructed me to bring the most precious specialty of Twilight City for all the distinguished guests to taste."

'Specialty?'

'What specialty could there be in this shabby place?'

Although a few guards had faint smiles on their faces, they were silently slandering him in their hearts.

Onyx stood up politely and laughed loudly.

"Thank you for your hospitality. It's my honor."

However, Onyx did not even look at the things that the two men were carrying.

As a merchant of the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce, he was a hero.

He had seen so much of the world, so what else was worth him looking at.

Karu seemed to have noticed their carelessness, so he did not care. He reached out his hand and motioned for the two men behind him to take off the tightly sewn wooden lid on the tray.

The moment the lid was taken off, an indescribable strange fragrance instantly filled the room.

'Gulp!'

Onyx and the others swallowed their saliva at the same time. The sound was so loud that everyone could vividly hear it.

Immediately, their faces flushed red.

They looked at each other, their faces filled with embarrassment.

One second ago, they had looked down on them, but they didn't expect it to be so embarrassing in the blink of an eye.

Fortunately, they didn't say what they were thinking. Otherwise, they would have died on the spot.

Onyx couldn't care less now. He took a step forward and looked at the crystal clear and slightly golden object in the gray bowl.

Suddenly, he felt that the simple bowl had become extraordinary.

"Is...is this honey?"

Looking at the stunned expression on Onyx's face, Karu revealed a proud smile.

"That's right, Lord Onyx. This is a specialty of Twilight City. Lord Richard brought this exquisite delicacy back."

The taste of desert honey. Those who had tasted it would never forget it.

The pinnacle of the human world.

"Can I have a taste?" Onyx swallowed hard.

Speaking of which, it was embarrassing. Onyx had traveled all over the world for so many years, but this was the first time he had seen such a special fragrance of honey.

"Of course, this was originally used by Lord Richard to entertain you all. But because it's too precious, the quantity is not much. Please, forgive me."

"Thank you, Lord Richard!"

Onyx impatiently picked up a clay bowl filled with honey from the tray.

He placed it at the tip of his nose and sniffed it.

That special fragrance made him feel like he was floating in the air. He felt relaxed and happy.

This was surely a rare delicacy!

His eyes flashed with a hint of intoxication.

He couldn't wait, but Onyx didn't want to go too fast. He brought it to his mouth and concentrated all his energy.

Like a pilgrimage, Onyx tasted the desert honey in small mouthfuls.

When the honey entered his mouth, Onyx only felt an indescribable delicious explosion.

He was in a daze.

How could there be such a delicious thing in this world?

Was this a gift from the gods?

After he finished the honey, Onyx looked at the residue at the bottom of the bowl and licked it clean without any hesitation.

When he came back to his senses, Onyx remembered that he had done it in front of outsiders, and his old face immediately turned red.

He thought he was knowledgeable, but Onyx didn't expect that he couldn't even withstand a few drops of honey.

Just as he was about to speak, Onyx suddenly felt a warm current coming from his stomach.

Then, his entire body felt as comfortable as if he was soaking in warm water.

His spirit was greatly boosted, and in the blink of an eye, Onyx had recovered more than half of his depleted physical strength. Even the injuries on his body had healed quite a bit.

Onyx became more and more excited.

Not only was this honey delicious, but it also had the characteristics of recovering physical strength and injuries!!

Gods above, what kind of f\*cking peerless delicacy was this?!

In his excitement, Onyx turned his head to look at his companions beside him and discovered that they were currently hugging their bowls and licking wildly...

The corners of Onyx's mouth twitched. Was there hope for them?

Onyx looked at Karu, completely devoid of the nonchalance from before.

His tone was somewhat heated.

"Sir Karu, may I ask, how much more of this honey is there? How much can you produce per month? In the name of the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce, I implore to open up trade with Twilight City..."

### **Chapter 28: A Dragon's Lair Nearby?!**

Richard didn't know that desert honey had captivated Onyx.

Comparing the system map, the bandaged mummies and the scorpion warriors went to the one-way portal Onyx had mentioned.

These special buildings usually hid something valuable.

Just like the Dark Temple with powerful guards.

Once occupied, there would be grand benefits.

On the way, Richard passed the area where he had just killed the desert bandits. Dozens of residents were fervently moving the desert horses back.

The bandits' bodies were piled up on a small hill.

Richard was very interested in this bloody scene.

'This harvest was not only the blueprint for the construction of the Hero's Altar.'

'Dozens of desert horses were also a fortune that made people envious.'

‘Although the desert horses were not plump, they had a bit of meat with lots of bones.’

‘Given the quantity here, they could be exchanged for precious strategic treasures.’

‘Needless to say, trading for a few water spring fragments or a few seeds of olives, wouldn’t that be great?’

The more Richard thought about it, the more he felt that the reward this time was bountiful.

The level of the scorpion warriors was raised to level 2 due to the battle, and Richard had also obtained 70 to 80 horses as food.

Moreover, he had established a relationship with the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce and obtained an extremely precious blueprint of the Hero’s Altar from them.

In the end, Richard even obtained information about a one-way teleportation door from them.

He suddenly felt that Onyx was simply a lucky star.

“When I return, I have to treat this guy well. I can interact with him more in the future. I love making friends.”

“Maybe I can ask Onyx where I can find a dragon egg...”

This time, the target was the one-way portal, but Richard did not give up on scouting the surroundings.

He still spread out the troops of the two squads and had them search them thoroughly...

The one-way portal was about two hours away from Twilight City, but Richard had spent twice as much time.

He had gained a lot from the fierce battle.

The most obvious sign was that both the bandaged mummies and the scorpion warriors had leveled up to level 3.

Meanwhile, Richard’s experience points had also reached 900. He was only 100 points away from leveling up again.

Among them, the ones who contributed the most were a group of desert half-rats who had emptied a sand dune. There were four squadrons in total. The mummies and the scorpion warriors had gone crazy from the killing.

The endless yellow sand always gave people a desolate and tragic feeling.

However, after seeing it for too long, the feeling of boredom came over.

“It should be not far away...”

Looking at the signs that were gradually approaching on the system map, Richard’s spirit was roused.

After crossing another sand dune, the land in front of him gradually became dry and hard.

A large amount of gravel appeared.

Richard raised his vigilance and slightly pulled the troop back.

Amidst his vigilance, he stepped over a thousand-meter-long gravel area, and then the terrain suddenly sank.

Richard walked closer to take a look, and a river that had been dry for an unknown number of years appeared in his line of sight.

The cobblestones in the center of the river bed had been weathered and cracked.

The yellow sand seemed to have become the running water of the dried-up river.

However, even though it was so dry, one could still tell from the traces of the river bed and the stone walls on both sides how turbulent the river was.

After taking a few more glances at the magnificent scene, Richard walked toward the dried-up river bed.

“How did this guy, Onyx, get down here?”

The stones on the ground made it difficult for Richard to move forward. With the mummies lying in front of him, it was not much better.

After staggering for more than ten minutes, Richard suddenly stopped.

At a depression in the cliff wall, a building that looked like an arch was erected.

The arch was five meters tall. The middle of the arch was not a door, but a translucent shield that emitted a wave-like light.

An ancient aura came toward them.

A one-way teleportation door!

Excitement rose in Richard’s heart. The appearance of the portal was not simple at all.

He had the mummies and the scorpion warriors check the surroundings. After making sure that there was no danger, Richard walked closer.

Standing in front of the five-meter-tall building, Richard felt an inexplicable sense of insignificance.

He did not know where the half-bright ripples would lead to.

Richard opened the attribute panel.

[One-Way Teleportation Door]

[Level: Special]

[Characteristics: One-Way Teleportation — Leads to an area, a burnt village. Entering it requires completing a mission before returning. Difficulty: 1 star.]

[Description: Perhaps, you will be teleported to the dragon’s treasury, or perhaps, you will be able to go to hell and have dinner with the demons. Before using the teleportation door, pray to the goddess of luck.]



“Dungeon?”

Richard’s eyes lit up.

In the background settings of the game “Shining Era”, as provided on the website, the dungeon existed during the last battle of the gods. The gods had broken the river of time, causing countless time fragments to scatter across the various planes.

These time fragments contained small-scale worlds, and those who entered could obtain various resources from them.

The completion of a mission depended on the distinct rules of each time fragment. Only by complying with the rules could these time fragments return to the river of time.

This setting was quite good. Now that the setting had become reality, it could be said that there were no major bugs.

Dungeons were good things because some of the time fragments were from the ancient era. There were chances for them to appear in dungeons that could not be obtained from the outside world.

However, the problem was that the dungeon in front of him only had a very simple description. There was no other valuable information.

This made Richard hesitate.

The difficulty was only 1-star. It did not seem high.

But what was the evaluation standard for this 1-star?

Was it just a normal soldier or just a giant dragon?

Just as Richard was thinking...

The Black Gold System lit up and upgraded.

[Discovered Dungeon — Burning Village]

[Dungeon-Level: 1-star]

[Average Strength of Soldier Type: Rare]

[Heroes Unit (Presence): Yes]

[Factions: Demons, Undead, Churches, Humans]

[Hint: The level of the dungeon cannot be increased.]

Richard was stunned for a moment before laughing out loud.

‘Damn, the Black Gold System is still awesome...’

Fortunately, he did not act rashly.

The average strength of the troops had reached the rare level. There were also heroic units, and it even involved four factions...

If Richard were to rush in recklessly, it would truly be a waste.

“Although it’s much weaker than the troops of the temple, it’s just courting death to go exploring now. To be safe, I’ll first go back and accumulate strength. After killing a wave of troops, I’ll come back. At the very least, I’ll kill a squadron of rare-level troops...”

After making a note on the system map, Richard didn’t stay any longer and turned around to return to his territory.

It was already afternoon, and there was still a two-hour journey back.

The danger level in the desert at night was more than one level higher than during the day.

Richard had just walked back for a few minutes, but before he could leave the riverbed, an indescribably terrifying pressure suddenly swept down from the sky.

It was as if Richard was standing under a hundred thousand feet tall mountain that was collapsing.

The sky and earth seemed to be collapsing.

“Roar!”

A thunderous roar came down from the sky, and the dry riverbed seemed to quake.

The pressure increased exponentially.

The next second...

A huge shadow was cast on the riverbed under the sun.

It covered the earth.

Richard subconsciously raised his head and looked at the sky.

He saw a terrifying creature that was covered in scales that were so tough that even a city-breaking crossbow might not be able to pierce through. It was waving its ferocious wings and flying.

The creature’s body was enormous with a wingspan of more than 20 meters.

Its strong limbs had sharp claws that shone with a cold light. Perhaps, it could easily destroy a city wall.

That extremely terrifying creature was crossing the riverbed.

Its pupils suddenly constricted, and a word that made people stop breathing appeared in its mind.

“A giant dragon!!”

There was a dragon lair nearby?!

**Chapter 29: Desert Crown Honey (Happy New Year!)**

A dragon in the sky flashed past. It flapped its wings and flew across the river valley in a blink of an eye.

Richard immediately opened the attribute panel after being shocked.

[Desert Dragon]

[Level: 15]

[Potential: ???]

[Skills: ???]

[Race Talent: ???]

[Fetters-Dragon: ???]

[Description: A top-tier predator in the desert. No one can resist its dragon breath.]

“Damn.”

“It was level 15?!”

The other attributes could not even be seen.

Level 15 might be considered low in other games, but level 30 was god-tier on the official website of the game “Shining Era”.

Every 5 levels was a threshold. The higher the level, the more difficult it would be to level up.

Level 15 was enough to be tyrannical.

The strong level 8 temple guard could not raise its head in front of this dragon.

When Richard was lost in his thoughts, the rapacious and domineering dragon had already disappeared from his sight.

After a long time, Richard let out a long breath.

His eyes were filled with passion.

“I must catch a dragon to ride in the future!!”

The rapacious and domineering appearance of the dragon directly hit Richard’s heart.

Riding such a flashy life form to the peak...

Just the appearance alone was extremely flashy.

After coming out of the river valley, Richard, who was stimulated, quickened his pace.

Before sunset, Richard returned to the territory.

The moment he returned to the territory, Richard immediately relaxed.

That kind of stability made him feel at ease.

Thinking back, today's encounter was enough.

First, Richard saved the caravan of the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce. Then, because of this, he obtained the extremely precious blueprint of the Hero's Altar and a large amount of food. Along the way, Richard also discovered a dungeon map, and finally, he encountered a level 15 dragon.

After a busy day, Richard only wanted to take a hot bath.

"Lord, you're back!"

When Karu, who was waiting for Richard at dusk, saw him, he immediately let out a sigh of relief.

"What's wrong?"

Richard looked at Karu's expression. Karu was surely about to say something before Richard asked, "Is it about the people from the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce?"

Karu nodded, and his tone became excited.

"They were completely captivated by the honey and told me to discuss business with you immediately after you return."

Richard smiled slightly.

"Who could resist the taste of desert honey?"

"Has the kitchen maids prepared food? Let them see me after you are done."

"They are already waiting for you."

"Then, let them continue waiting."

Richard did not care about anything else. After returning to the mansion, he finished his dinner with the help of two enthusiastic kitchen maids.

Richard took a hot bath along the way.

After taking a bath to get rid of the fatigue of the day, Richard asked someone to call Onyx who had been waiting for half a day.

In the hall with a rough architectural style, twelve oil lamps made of animal fat on the stone pillars were emitting dim light.

The bright moonlight shone into the hall through the glassless wooden windows, adding an extra layer of light.

"Good evening, Lord Richard."

Onyx came alone with his round belly. After entering the room, Onyx immediately put his right hand on his chest and saluted.

"No need to be so polite, Lord Onyx. Please, take a seat."

After Onyx thanked Richard, he immediately took a seat and then spoke impatiently.

“Lord Richard, thank you for treating us with such precious honey today.”

“The Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce lacks such delicious delicacy.”

“I wonder if we have the honor to establish a long-term cooperative relationship with you?”

Richard smiled.

“Lord Onyx, the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce is a large chamber of commerce that can cross the Desert of Death. Have you ever seen my Desert Crown Honey?”

“Forgive my ignorance, but I have never seen it before.”

“My Lord, this delicious honey is called Desert Crown?”

Richard nodded as if it was a matter of fact.

“I obtained the Desert Crown Honey from a secret chamber. At that time, I even saw the murals that have been circulating in the secret chamber for countless years.”

“Countless years ago, the Deadly Desert was unified by a powerful emperor. He conquered the desert.”.

“His legend was even spread throughout the entire mortal plane And the greatest treasure of this great ruler was this honey. He compared it to his crown, and only the noblest people could wear a crown... So, he named it — Desert Crown.”

Before Richard could finish his story, Onyx’s mind was already wavering.

Only the noblest people could wear a crown.

And this honey was called the Desert Crown...

Didn’t that mean that only the noblest people could taste such a delicacy?

For a moment, a sacred feeling rose in Onyx’s heart.

It was as if he had become the noblest person on par with the king.

“Lord Richard, can I have a look at that mural? I wonder how elegant the great emperor who once ruled the Deathly Desert is.”

Richard’s face was not even red.

“You’re too late. The sandstorm a while ago erased all traces.”

“You should know what kind of place the desert is.”

After saying that, Richard did not wait for Onyx’s reply and continued.

“Lord Onyx, the production of the Desert Crown is extremely rare and precious. I wonder what price the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce would be willing to pay for it?”

Hearing this, Onyx's heart skipped a beat. It was not because of the price, but because the production was extremely rare.

"Lord Richard, can you tell me the exact amount of production?"

Richard spoke with some regret.

"Currently, it can only produce five units per week."

After saying that, Richard added another sentence.

"But in the next time, there is still room for improvement in the production."

The rarer an item was, the more valuable it was.

The quality of desert honey was so high, so it naturally had to take the high-end route.

If the quantity was small and the origin was extraordinary, would the price still be low?

As for whether the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce would believe Richard's story or not, it didn't matter.

If the person was smart, he would make this story even more perfect...

And the quantity was small, so Richard could control the price better.

"Hu~"

Onyx heaved a huge sigh of relief.

Fortunately, fortunately...

If Richard could only produce five units a year, that would indeed be too little.

If Richard could produce five units a week, that would be 20 units a month. Although it was still pitifully little, Onyx could already accept such delicious food.

Onyx stood up and said proudly.

"Lord Richard, the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce will have everything you need!"

"We can get you even the lair of the dragon troop... As long as you can pay the equivalent price of the Desert Crown!"

Richard believed in these words. There was no need to doubt the strength of the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce that could cover the entire Deadly Desert.

"Lord Onyx, how do you think the Desert Crown should be priced?"

This...

Onyx could not help but hesitate.

The Desert Crown didn't need to be elaborated further. But after all, Onyx had never bought it outside, so it was hard for him to say the exact price.

Onyx thought for a while...

“Lord Richard, can you let us take some of the delicacies first and leave? After we return, we’ll let the consumers examine them before we set the price.”

Richard smiled slightly and waved at Karu, who had not spoken all this while.

Karu immediately turned around and left, then returned with a tray.

There were two broken glass bottles on the tray.

Through the glass bottles, one could see that half a jar of crystal clear honey was inside.

Richard picked up a bottle from the tray and put it on the table.

“You can use this bottle to set the price when you return.”

After saying that, Richard picked up another bottle and put it in front of Onyx.

“Lord Onyx, you have given us the blueprint for the construction of the Hero’s Altar as a mark of our friendship. In return, I will give you the most precious treasure of Twilight City — the Desert Crown.”

“I hope our friendship will last forever.”

Onyx was overjoyed.

The pain in his heart for giving away the blueprint completely disappeared at this moment.

“Thank you for your generosity!”

Richard smiled and continued.

“Lord Onyx, if possible, I hope that you will bring more blueprints for the construction of the territory when you come next time.”

“It would be best if there are resources-related treasures such as olive seeds...”

### **Chapter 30: Adele Thorin**

After a short conversation, Onyx readily agreed to Richard’s conditions under the temptation of the Desert Crown.

For the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce, these requirements could be fulfilled with the flick of a finger.

The aborigines had developed after countless eras in the Shining Era, and the resources in their hands were many times better than the current players.

After Onyx went down to rest, Richard asked Karu.

“Have those desert horses been brought back?”

“They have been brought back, a total of 92 horses. But there are too many of them, and I haven’t had the time to deal with them yet...”

Richard nodded. “There’s no need to deal with them. I have other uses for them.”

After thinking for a while, Richard directly opened the [Forum Chat].

He opened the private chat of [Where’s Your F\*cking Italian Cannon].

“I’ll produce the food for you in advance.”

When Richard bought the Russian olive seeds and the spring water fragments, he still owed [Where’s Your F\*cking Italian Cannon] 1,600 units of food.

Richard had never liked to owe money.

Now that he had the resources in his hands, there was naturally no need to make him unhappy over this little thing.

After sending the message, Richard went to the well and looked at the pile of desert horses on the ground. He picked six of the larger ones and directly traded them in a way that fulfilled the contract. Richard paid the other party accordingly.

The moment the trade was successful, the contract between the two disappeared without a trace.

[Where’s Your F\*cking Italian Cannon] suddenly saw in the system notification that he had received six desert horses.

He immediately replied to the message after he came back to his senses.

[Sh\*t! Big Brother Qing Qiu!! I haven’t seen you for a day and you are rich again?]

[Awesome!!!]

[To be honest, I truly admire you. I haven’t found a food source yet. You always have thousands of units of food... Can you bring me along?]

[As long as you are willing, you will be my big brother in the future!]

Richard’s face was full of black lines.

[If you have any good treasures in the future, you can contact me.]

After sending that message, Richard did not bother with the top-grade treasure anymore and directly opened the [Trading Market].

Richard began to post the information on the reward column.

[Reward 1-star Resource Treasure — (Spring Water or Spring Water Fragment) Reward Amount: 3; (Desert Horses) Reward Amount: 4]



[Reward 1-star Resource Treasure — (Acre of Russian Olive Seeds) Reward Amount: 15; (Desert horses) Reward Amount: 2]

[Reward Special Lair — (Desert Bee) Reward Amount: 20; (Desert Horses) Reward Amount: 1]

After posting this information, there were only 24 desert horses left on the ground.

Pondering about it, Richard posted another message in the reward column of the [Trading Market.]

[Reward: Any valuable resources or other treasures that can be used in the desert. Price: 20 desert horses. This reward requires both parties to agree to the transaction.]

As a result, there were only four desert horses left in the mountain of desert horses.

Dozens of residents who had just finished their dinner and were happily preparing to deal with the desert horses looked at the empty ground and couldn't help but be stunned.

If it weren't for Richard, they would have shouted that there was a thief.

"Good evening, Lord Richard..."

"Greetings, Lord Richard... Those desert horses?"

Richard waved his hand.

"I have other uses for them. You can deal with these horses. Thank you for your hard work."

A few residents answered in fear.

"No, no!"

"It's our honor to serve you!"

Richard nodded and directly returned to the mansion.

At this time, the Lord's [Forum Chat] blew up again because of his information on the bounty.

[F\*ck!!! Did you see that? That Qing Qiu boss is selling food again!!]

[This is f\*cking ridiculous. I just did some calculations, and the other party sold more than 80 desert horses at one time... I just want to ask, are you the galloping horseman?]

[Which wild horse group's lair did they dig out? Why is it so exaggerated?]

[F\*ck, my territory ran out of food today. How can Qing Qiu get so much food?]

[Casually taking out tens of thousands of units of meat? Isn't the desert lacking in resources?]

[My territory is in the desert. I'm telling you clearly, Qing Qiu must be next to an oasis rich in resources! A territory in an ordinary desert is simply the beginning of hell on level 10 difficulty!]

[That's right, this lousy desert is not a place for people to stay! Inadequate water. Inadequate food. Everything is inadequate! It would take less than two hours to kill monsters in the desert, and one would be completely exhausted! Moreover, those troops in the wild were stronger than the last. Yesterday, I

had gone through great difficulty to kill more than a dozen desert rats. On the way, I even encountered a group of more than a hundred desert bandits... If we didn't run fast, we would be dead!]

[Sob, sob, sob, sob, I don't want to play anymore. I want to go home...]

[F\*ck, why don't I have any resources or treasures? I seriously want those 20 desert horses.]

Richard was completely speechless.

Several players were doing well. However, there was only one person like Richard who traded over a thousand units of meat the other day and sold over 80 desert horses and over 20,000 units of food today.

This caused countless people to be envious.

How many lords could kill over a hundred desert bandits in just three days?

Richard was tired for the entire day and had a good sleep.

Early the next morning, he was woken up by the noise outside.

After getting up and washing up, Richard went out and saw a group of haggard refugees squeezed into the space around him.

Karu was talking to these people.

After Richard came out, the noise just now seemed to have pressed the pause button and disappeared in an instant.

The pressure from the dozens of soldiers behind Richard was too strong.

Especially the scorpion warrior. Its two-meter-long body was bent like a steel whip behind its tail. With the addition of two terrifying giant pincers, it looked terrifying.

Although the mummy didn't have such a strong body, its snow-white bandages and dry hands were equally terrifying.

Living beings always had a special fear of the undead.

Under the terrified gazes of the refugees, Richard scanned his surroundings.

"What's going on?"

Karu immediately stepped forward and bowed.

"Good day, Lord Richard."

After he finished his bow, Karu straightened his body and pointed at the fearful and uneasy crowd.

"These are the refugees we found outside the Russian olive forest this morning. They are together with the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce..."

Richard nodded.

His sharp gaze swept across the crowd.

“You people, who is in charge here? Come out and talk to me.”

Hearing this, the crowd subconsciously turned their heads to look behind them.

‘Tap, tap, tap’

The sound of boots stepping on the ground was clear.

A slender girl separated the crowd and walked to the front of the crowd.

What caught people’s attention was that the thin girl was carrying a bronze hammer that was taller than a person on her back.

The other party’s delicate eyes looked straight at Richard, and she leaned forward with her hands on her chest.

“Respected Lord, Adele Thorin sends her regards.”