

## **The World 61**

### **Chapter 61: Hidden Attribute: Popular Sentiment Reaches 80**

After Richard left the gold mine, he continued to scan the map with excitement.

The most direct manifestation of a soldier's strength was their level and potential.

[Level: With every level increase, a certain amount of strength can be obtained.]

[Potential: Represents the amount of strength that can be obtained after leveling up.]

Hunting not only allowed one to obtain resources, but also a large amount of experience.

To level up was an eternal melody.

It was not until dark that Richard returned to his territory with a tired body.

Although he was tired, he was in a good mood.

After today's busy day, he had gained a lot.

First, he had occupied a medium-sized gold mine that could produce 14,000 units per week. Although it could not be compared to the harvest from hunting, this was a fixed income, and it was quite fragrant.

Secondly, he had annihilated the Half-Metal Giant in a head-on clash. It had proved the combat strength of the troop once again.

It gave him a direct understanding of the strength of his hands.

Thirdly, he obtained a blueprint of a food workshop from the gold mine, which gave Twilight City another direction of development in the future.

This was a building with added heritage.

Lastly, today's scan had harvested a lot of prey and experience.

The Poisonous Scorpion Warrior, Cursed Pharaoh, and the Axe of the Dead had all reached level 4. And they now crossed the threshold of level 5.

The system space was also filled with prey, and it could process at least 2,000 units of food.

The harvest was full.

Back in the territory, Karu waited for him as usual.

But today, the other party seemed to have a lot on his mind.

Only after Richard asked did he find out that the water level in the territory's well had dropped greatly in the past two days, which made Karu very anxious.

"Lord Richard, the water level of the territory's well has decreased again today... it might drop again in a few days..."

Richard also had a headache. Water in the desert represented life. The lack of water was fatal to the territory.

He had already accumulated nine pieces of spring water fragments, and he was one piece away to synthesize medium-sized spring water.

However, he had not seen any sign of transaction for the reward these days...

"I will resolve this matter, in two days, at most."

Richard will augment the worth of the units of resources in exchange for the spring water fragment if no transaction is completed the next day.

Money was money, so spending it was not shabby.

When Karu heard this, he was finally relieved.

After Richard placed the harvest of the day by the well for the residents to deal with, he returned to the Lord's mansion.

After his dinner, he opened the [Forum Chat] to behold.

At this time, he realized that he had become the subject of countless discussions, and his expression immediately seemed odd.

These sand sculptures did not change their character no matter where they went. They had nothing to do every day, and they still had the strength to spit at each other.

He glanced at the reward that he still had not completed, and then went to search for the spring water fragments for sale.

He discovered that the other people who sold the spring water fragments were all heartless fellows, and their bids were more and more ruthless.

After he weighed up, he directly increased the worth by 30,000 units of resources.

He still couldn't believe that five desert horses and 30,000 units of resources were not enough in exchange for a spring water fragment...

After hanging it for a few minutes, a private message suddenly rang.

[Ding~ Your reward has been sold. You have lost five desert horses and obtained a spring water fragment \*1.]

The corner of Richard's mouth twitched. Why did he feel he lost money when the deal happened so quickly?

However, he was also relieved in his heart. He had finally gathered enough fragments to level up.

Three spring water fragments could be combined into a 1-star treasure spring water. Ten of them could be combined into a 2-star treasure medium-sized spring water. Thirty of them could be combined into a 3-star treasure large-sized spring water.

The water shortage problem in Twilight City had been delayed for a long time. It was not a problem.

According to the estimation of the spring water in the Russian olive forest, the medium-sized spring water could be used by 3,000 to 5,000 people without a problem.

In the future, he would not have to worry about it for a long time.

After this problem that had troubled him for a long time was solved, he was in a good mood again and went to sleep happily.

It was not too late to put it away tomorrow morning.

May 10, early morning.

A noise outside awakened Richard.

With some doubts, he washed up and walked out of the Lord's mansion.

As he traced the noise, he came to the area where the well was.

At this time, a large group of people gathered by the well was discussing something with frowned faces.

When they saw Richard, they were stirred up and quickly bowed.

"Good day, Lord."

However, their tone was not as energetic as before, like an eggplant beaten by frost.

Richard raised his eyebrows.

"What are you discussing so early in the morning?"

A resident with a sad face replied.

“My Lord, the well suddenly ran out of water this morning for some reason...”

‘Ran out of water?’

Richard was stupefied.

He took a few steps forward and came to the well through the gap between the crowd.

He looked down.

He saw a half-wet wooden barrel tied with a rope. Drops of water slid down from the side.

In the wooden bucket, the water only flooded the bottom of the bucket. Moreover, it was muddy water with a lot of sand, so it couldn’t be drunk at all.

“Last night, Karu said that it could last a few days, but today, the water ran out...”

Richard instantly remembered the system notification the previous Monday...

This week was a special week: drought week.

At that time, he had even complained about the impact of drought on the desert.

Now that even the water source ran out, how could he be so unreasonable...

“Is this the power of drought week? It’s truly amazing. We can’t underestimate these special weeks in the future.”

The surrounding residents started discussion again.

“Lord, what should we do?”

“Do we have to go to the Russian olive forest to fetch water in the future...?”

“Why did the water well suddenly dry up?”

“It didn’t dry up suddenly. I noticed yesterday that the water has become fewer...”

“Let’s dig another well...”

The group of people was bewildered.

The drying up of the well had dealt a heavy blow to them.

This was a desert. Water represented life. One could not live without water.

At this moment, Karu had also rushed over. His wrinkled face like an old tree looked even older after he had witnessed this scene.

“Good day, Lord...”

After he saluted Richard, he wanted to say something but didn't say anything in the end. The worry on his face was almost overflowing.

Richard looked at everyone's eyes and smiled. Wasn't this going against the gun?

Yesterday, he had increased the worth of resources for the last spring water fragment.

“There's no need to be nervous. I have a way.”

This calm voice immediately made the crowd quiet down.

The leadership skill had a strong charisma and could easily convince his subordinates.

A strong sense of trust rose in the hearts of the residents. It was as if nothing could stop him after he spoke.

Richard waved his hand, and ten crystal shards appeared in his hand. They looked like broken crystals, but they did not cut his hand.

The spring water shards were only one-third the size of a palm. They looked like broken crystals, but they did not cut his hand.

[Spring Water Fragment — Can consume 10 pieces of synthetic medium-sized spring water. Do you want to synthesize it?]

“Confirm.”

The moment he made his choice, the spring water fragment in his hand suddenly emitted a bright light.

The surrounding residents were stunned. What was going on?

Those old residents who had seen the Russian olive forest and the birth of spring water were excited at this moment.

“I’ve seen this scene before. That’s a god-given gift... The Lord ultimately still has it!”

When the crowd heard this, they were instantly in an uproar.

“A god-given gift?”

“Is that a god-given treasure?! Gods above, I never thought that I would have the chance to see such a treasure...”

The crowd marveled.

They all opened their eyes wide. They wanted to see what the legendary god-given gift looked like.

That ray of light gradually condensed in Richard’s hand, and the spring water fragments fused into a crystal ball that emitted a cool aura.

In the middle of the crystal ball, spring water gurgled.

It was full of a unique atmosphere.

Richard dragged the crystal in his hand and walked toward the well.

‘Tap! Tap! Tap!’

The crisp sound of leather boots that stepped on the floor seemed to have stepped everyone's heart at this moment.

He came to the front of the well and flipped his hand.

The crystal ball directly fell into the well.

"Ah?!"

The crowd subconsciously let out a cry of surprise.

'Thump!'

The sound of a stone smashed into water rang out.

Then, the situation returned to tranquility.

Richard glanced at the crowd.

"It's settled."

He directly turned around and left after he said no more nonsense.

The residents subconsciously parted to their left and right. They looked at the silent water well, their faces somewhat stunned.

Why doesn't the god-given gift move?

Did the lord just leave like that?

While they were filled with confusion...

'Bang!'

A water column that was more than ten meters tall suddenly spewed out from the dried-up well.

After the clear water rose to the peak, it fell with a splash.

The clothes of the surrounding residents were all drenched.

However, at this moment, no one hid or felt unhappy.

As they stared at the water column that filled the sky, endless joy rose in their hearts.

“Hahahaha!! There’s water!!!”

Amidst great sorrow and joy, everyone seemed to have gone crazy as they began to run to the well.

After the high water column fell, the well water seemed to have an endless stream of spring water that gurgled from the well.

After the depression, people laughed and splashed water on their friends. They released the fear and unease they had just felt.

Under the first ray of sunlight in the morning, they laughed like never before.

The water in the desert was hope, life, and everything.

Those who had not experienced the drought in the desert would never be able to experience the preciousness of water.

The lord had once again given life to this land, hope, and the future.

After a long time, the exhausted crowd quieted down.

A young man turned to look in the direction where Richard had left, speechless for a long time.

In the end, he slowly placed his hand on his chest and bowed towards the direction where Richard was no longer there.

This scene touched countless residents.

At this moment, everyone's eyes scorched as they saluted the empty path.

[Ding~ Your actions have conquered the residents of Twilight City. Your progress in leveling up your leadership skill has increased by 50%.]

[Ding~ Twilight City's Hidden Attribute: Popular support has reached 80. Obtained Attribute: Stable place.]

[Stable Place: Popular support has a high degree of happiness. The attraction to refugees has increased by 30%. There is a higher probability of attracting high-level talents or low-level heroes to seek refuge with you.]

## **Chapter 62: Territory Upgrade, R & D Attack**

Richard was stunned when he heard the system notification. He read it again carefully.

[Place of Stability: The people are united. The degree of happiness is high. The attraction to the refugees is increased by 30%. There is a higher probability of attracting high-level talents or low-level heroes to come and seek refuge.]

“Wow, the people are united. How can there be such a harvest?”

This was pronouncedly a developmental characteristic. It might not have much effect in the short term, but the longer it was, the greater the benefits.

“Hahaha, this round was not a loss.”

Richard, who was in a good mood, came to the Lord’s mansion and opened the resource panel of Twilight City.

[Twilight City]

[Level: 1 small village (2,000 gold, stone, wood, and iron ore units each)]

[Building: Basic lord mansion (1), elite residence (10), basic blacksmith shop (1), basic barracks (1)]

[Special Building: None]

[Open Space: 10 squares]

[Residents: Human (340 people), desert gnome (20), long-armed laborer (30)]

[Resources: Gold (25,000), wood (25,000), stone (12,000), iron ore (12,000)]

[Rare Resources: Mercury (0), sulfur (0), crystal (0), gemstone (0)]

[Occupied Resource Points: Mini quarry (1), mini logging field (1), mini iron ore (1), medium gold ore (1), mini gemstone ore (1)]

[Special Resources: Russian olive forest, Desert Crown Bee, fire dragon rabbit]

[Territory Attribute: Yellow sand land (under the protection of Lord Richard, residents of Twilight City will not get lost in the desert, and their stamina consumption in the desert will be reduced by 30%.]

[Troop Lairs: Guardian's Land — Elite 3-stars (3)]

[Great Pyramid — Elite 3-stars (3)]

[Scorpion's Nest — Elite 3-stars (1)]

[Curse Pyramid — Elite 3-stars (1)]

[Battle Axe Wooden House — Rare 3-stars (1)]

[Army: Guardian Pharaoh Mummy — Elite 3-stars (90)]

[Bandaged Mummy — Elite 3-stars (51)]

[Poisonous Scorpion Warrior — Elite 3-stars (20)]

[Cursed Pharaoh — Elite 3-stars (20)]

[Axe of the Dead — Rare 3-stars (15)]

[Hero: Adele Thorin — A-rank]

[Description: An unremarkable territory in the death desert, but it has a certain amount of potential for development.]

After Richard read the territorial attributes a few times, he had an idea.

The large-scale dungeon at the end of the month can determine the overall strength of the territory, and the top one million lords could enter.

He did not know how high the territory level was. To be safe, he needed to level up first.

It would be a joke if he did not get selected because his territory level was not high enough.

He silently said, "Level up."

[Ding~ Do you want to use gold coins, wood, stone, iron ore, 2,000 units each to level up your territory?]

"Yes."

[This level up will take 30 minutes. Please clear the residents in the Lord's mansion.]

After Richard ordered everyone to leave the Lord's mansion, he chose to level up.

In an instant.

A faint yellow sand-like light appeared in the sky above the Lord's mansion.

It enveloped all the buildings in the Lord's mansion.

Looking down from the sky, one could pronouncedly see that the bluestone floor at the edge of the territory began to spread in all directions. Soon, the desert was covered by a large area.

This movement immediately attracted the attention of the residents.

They looked at the changes in the Lord's mansion, they were all very excited.

"I know. This is the power bestowed by the gods to Lord Richard. It can quickly upgrade buildings..."

"Every time I see it, I'm amazed..."

Silence wrapped the whole crowd.

At this time, Karu had also arrived behind Richard. The old man was still immersed in the excitement from the advent of the spring, and his clothes were wet.

"Lord..."

Richard waved his hand. "It's okay. I'm upgrading my territory."

He thought for a moment and continued.

"Tell all residents to leave their residences. Don't stay in the buildings. The blacksmith shop is no exception."

"As you wish."

Karu left in a hurry.

Half an hour later, a system notification sounded.

[Ding~ Twilight City has been upgraded. Current level: Level 2 small village. Territory expanded by 10 spaces. The current space is 20 spaces.]

“Continue to upgrade.”

[Ding~ To upgrade to level 3 small village requires two buildings to reach the elite level.]

Richard gazed at the territory buildings.

The residential buildings were already elite level. Now, he only needed to upgrade one more building.

He opened the attributes panel of the blacksmith shop.

[Blacksmith Shop — (4 spaces)]

[Level: Ordinary (upgrading requires 1,000 units of iron ore, 1,000 units of wood, and 1,000 units of stone)]

[Characteristics: Forging efficiency increased by 10%.]

[Capacity: Minimum of 2 people, maximum of 10 people]

[Description: An ordinary blacksmith's shop. You can forge farm tools or low-level weapons here.]

[After upgrading to an advanced blacksmith's shop, you can start your research.]

Richard nodded. "Upgrade blacksmith's shop."

[Ding~ Do you want to consume 1,000 units of iron ore, 1,000 units of wood, and 1,000 units of stone to upgrade the blacksmith's shop? This upgrade will take 10 minutes.]

"Confirmed."

Ten minutes later.

[Upgrade successful. Current Level: Elite Blacksmith Shop.]

"Upgrade territory."

[Ding~ Do you want to use 3,000 gold coins, wood, stone, and iron ore to upgrade your territory? This upgrade will take 1 hour.]

“Confirmed.”

1 hour later.

[Territory upgrade completed. Current level: Level 3 small village. The territory expanded by 10 square meters. Current space: 30 square meters.]

“Continue to upgrade.”

[Ding~ To upgrade to a level 1 town requires three buildings to reach the elite level.]

“Upgrade barracks.”

[Ding~ Do you want to spend 1,500 gold, stone, wood, and iron to upgrade barracks? This upgrade will take 20 minutes.]

Twenty minutes later.

[Barracks upgraded successfully. Current level: Elite]

“Upgrade territory.”

[Ding~ Do you want to use 4,000 gold, stone, wood, and iron to upgrade your territory? This upgrade will take two hours.]

Noon.

[Ding~ Twilight City has been upgraded to a level 1 small town, territory building limit has been upgraded to advanced, Lord’s mansion has been expanded by 10 spaces, the territory has been expanded by 30 spaces, and the current space is 60 spaces.]

[Twilight City]

[Level: 1 small town (10,000 units of gold, stone, wood, and iron for each upgrade. Three buildings have been upgraded to advanced, with 500 residents.)]

[Building: Elite Lord’s mansion (1), elite residence (10), elite blacksmith shop (1), elite barracks (1)]

[Special Building: None]

[Empty Space: 60 spaces]

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Richard glanced at the [Territory Ranking] — 10 million+. He could not help but feel that the probability of the emergence of a strong person was truly exaggerated.

Even if it was one in a thousand, it would still be counted in the tens of millions.

Usually, they would cry on the forums about how miserable they were. Behind their backs, they were developing better and better. These old coins.

Although a level 1 small town had yet to catch up with the first-line troops, it was not at the bottom of the food chain.

“To upgrade to a level 2 small town, three advanced buildings and 500 people are required.

“Advanced buildings are easy to solve, but the population...”

This condition was somewhat helpless, so he could only put aside the idea of continuous upgrading.

“It seems that I have to find time to go to that desert oasis and retrieve the refugees.”

He turned his gaze back to the blacksmith shop.

He did not forget that the advanced blacksmith shop could activate the research function to upgrade the attack of the troops.

This was a rather powerful characteristic. It had been mentioned many times on the official website of the “Shining Era”.

[Blacksmith Shop]

[Space:4]

[Level: Elite (2,000 units of iron ore, 2,000 units of wood, 2,000 units of stone)]

[Characteristics: Forging efficiency increased by 20%.]

[Capacity: Minimum of 2 people, maximum of 20 people.]

[Description: An ordinary blacksmith’s shop. You can forge some pretty good weapons here.]

Although the continuous upgrading had depleted the resources in his hands, he still had the resources to upgrade the blacksmith’s shop.

“Upgrade the blacksmith’s shop.”

[Ding~ Do you want to consume 2,000 units of iron ore, 2,000 units of wood, and 2,000 units of stone to upgrade your blacksmith shop? This upgrade will take 30 minutes.]

30 minutes later.

[Upgrade successful. Current Level: Advanced]

[Blacksmith Shop (4 space)]

[Level: Advanced (upgrade requires 5,000 units of iron ore, 5,000 units of wood, and 5,000 units of stone)]

[Characteristics: Forging efficiency increased by 30%.]

[Research and Development: You can choose the troops in your territory to study and increase their attack power. Currently, you can study the number of troops: 1.]

[Resident Hero: Adele Thorin]

[Hero Additional Characteristics: Research speed increased by 30%, and the success rate increased by 30%.]

[Capacity: Minimum of 2 people, maximum of 30 people.]

[Description: The advanced blacksmith has already possessed a certain level of extraordinary power.]

Richard was overjoyed.

The advanced blacksmith was like a completely different person compared to the elite blacksmith.

He selected the blacksmith's research and development function with a thought.

The image of all the troop nests in Twilight City appeared in his mind in the next second.

[Ding~ Please select the troop type you want to research and develop. Note: The higher the level, the longer the research and development time, and the lower the success rate.]

[The first research and development, try using the bandaged mummy first...]

Richard chose the great pyramid that could recruit bandaged mummies.

[Ding~ Bandaged mummy basic attack, estimated research and development time: 7 days. Estimated resources required: 5,000 gold coins, 5,000 units of wood, 20,000 units of iron ore, success rate: 80.]

[After confirming success, please arrange for people to carry out research and development promptly. Before the research and development are completed, it will be impossible to develop the next technology.]

### **Chapter 63: The Military Troop Lair Upgrade**

“Ah, this is just the beginning of research and development?”

Richard was stunned for a moment before he reacted. This fellow had taken off his pants so quickly that he didn't even have time to react...

After he read the notifications a few more times, he gradually began to savor them.

“Five thousand gold coins, 5,000 units of wood, 20,000 units of iron ore...”

“I didn't expect that the first research would require 30,000 resources, and there were so many requirements.

“Fortunately, there's no need for a one-time payment. We can start the research first and provide the follow-up resources gradually.

“But isn't the chance of failure a bit too much?”

After Richard pondered for a while, he finally realized the value of an A-rank hero like Adele.

Hero characteristics: increases success rate by 30%. Increases research speed by 30%.

It was simply a godly skill.

Not only did it increase the research speed it also increased the success rate crazily.

One could imagine that in the future, in the research and development of high-level technology, the effect of this characteristic would be increasingly great.

Comfortable.

After deeper thoughts for a while, Richard tried to change the research object to the Axe of the Dead.

Sure enough, the system notification said that he had to complete the research and development of the bandaged mummy before he could proceed with the next research and development.

However, the requirements for the research and development of the Axe of the Dead appeared.

[Basic Attack: Estimated development time: 10 days. Estimated Resources Required: 10,000 gold coins, 10,000 units of wood, and 50,000 units of iron ore. Success Rate: 70%.]

After Richard finished reading, he could only hold his forehead and sigh.

The research and development time of the Axe of the Dead had also increased to 10 days, and the resources required had soared to 70,000.]

It was simply outrageous.

“The resources required for this research and development function will probably not be inferior to the upgrade of the troop’s lair.”

Another gold-swallowing tycoon.

Richard was both in pain and delight.

After the upgrade, the resources in his hands had bottomed out again.

He sighed helplessly. When would Twilight City be able to survive the decadent life of a landlord...

It seemed that he would have to start hunting again to earn some extra money.

“Lord Richard...”

At this moment, a call from behind shook him.

He turned around and smiled when he saw the person.

“Adele, what do you need from me?”

The girl who carried a huge copper hammer was in a good mood.

“Lord Richard, a special research room has appeared in the blacksmith shop. There are many tools inside.

“I can study how to increase the strength of the troop there. My father taught me...”

Richard laughed.

“From now on, you will be in charge of the research and development of the blacksmith shop. I will send you the corresponding resources.”

“Let’s start with the bandaged mummy...”

Adele smiled brightly.

“Lord, I need bandaged mummies to work with...”

“No problem. How much do you need? You and Karu, all the resources will be given priority to you.”

After Adele held the promise of primary support, she joyously left.

Richard waited until Adele left before he thought of going to the territory for a walk.

After the territory was upgraded to a small town, the territory space had increased by 50 spaces, and the total space had reached 60 spaces.

Each space had an area of 10 \* 10 meters, and the area it occupied had pronouncedly expanded by a large margin.

Twilight City had suddenly gone from slightly crowded to widely decongested.

He glanced at the Lord's mansion.

After the upgrade, the core building of the territory had increased from 30 spaces to 40 spaces. And it had become increasingly magnificent.

The two-stories main building in the middle had become three stories high. And the front and back yard had expanded a lot.

As one walked along the road, the initially small and inconspicuous blacksmith's shop had now become a tall building with a small courtyard.

Even the military barracks, which had always been unnoticeable, had now become conspicuous. The wooden fence outside was as tall as two people.

Because the soldiers in his hands were all undead creatures, they didn't need to rest at all. Therefore, the military barracks had always been inhabited by desert gnomes.

This building wasn't used much.

After walking around, Richard seemed to have thought of something and opened the attribute panel again.

There was a cooldown time of seven days after the troop's lair was upgraded. After seven days, it could be upgraded again.

The Great Pyramid could be upgraded.

The Poisonous Scorpion Warrior's nest could be upgraded.

One of the three bandaged mummy troop's lairs had its cooldown time three days ago, while the scorpion warrior troop's lair could be upgraded today.

However, Richard quickly came back to his senses.

"To upgrade from elite to rare, I need 100 troop's lairs, which means 50,000 units of resources. Two means 100,000 units..."

He looked at the remaining 20,000 or so resources, then he felt his liver ache.

“It’s not just these two lairs. Cursed Pharaoh can also level up in two days. This is another huge expenditure.

“The bandage mummy isn’t in a hurry to level up. It’s not too late to level it up when the attack technology is developed.

“I’ll level up the Poisonous Scorpion Warrior troop’s lair first...”

After Richard clarified his thoughts, he opened up the [Trading Market].

He kept the final reward — 30 desert horses for 10 acres of Russian olive forest still hadn’t been sold.

When Richard saw this, he could only shake his head regretfully and cancel the reward.

It was pure luck to be able to obtain a resource treasure in the early stages.

Moreover, others might not necessarily be willing to sell them even if they obtained them.

It was fine if he couldn’t buy it, but it was more important to increase the strength in his hands first.

Fortunately, there were quite several 30 desert horses. Each of them had 6,000 units, and they had a total income of 180,000 resources.

With money, his confidence was immediately sufficient.

With a wave of his hand, Richard first sent the 30,000 units of resources needed for research and development to the blacksmith shop.

Then, he used 50,000 units of resources to purchase a troop-type lair. After he returned to the Lord's mansion, he upgraded the Poisonous Scorpion Warrior troop from elite to rare.

This was the first time he had upgraded a troop's lair twice.

One hundred soldiers turned into streams of light and merged into the Poisonous Scorpion Warrior's lair.

A dark light flashed on the wall with the picture of a scorpion warrior's body and a human face. The relief sculptures became even more exquisite.

After the light faded, the upgrade was completed.

[Poisonous Scorpion's Warrior's Lair]

[Level: Rare 3-stars]

[Available for Recruitment: Scorpion Warrior (Rare 3-stars)]

[Recruitment Quantity: 0]

[Weekly Output: 7]

[Recruitment Conditions: 400 gold coins, 400 units of wood, 400 units of iron ore]

[Description: Ordinary desert troop lair.]

[The Black Gold System lit up with a notification.]

[Troop nests have been successfully upgraded. After cooling down for 7 days, these troop lairs can be upgraded again.]

[You can use resources to upgrade the previously recruited Elite 3-star soldiers to the same level as the troop lair.]

Richard glanced at the notification a few times. After he had confirmed that he did not misunderstand, he laughed out loud.

“After the troop lairs were upgraded, the previously recruited soldiers could also be upgraded...!”

“The Black Gold System was practically going to heaven!!!”

He opened the Poisonous Scorpion Warrior's attribute panel. As expected, it showed that they could be upgraded.

However, the resources needed to upgrade were the same as the resources needed to re-recruit.

Two small teams of scorpion warriors would need 8,000 gold coins, 8,000 units of wood, and 8,000 units of iron ore to level up.

At this time, Richard still had 120,000 units of resources. He did not hesitate at all.

They all leveled up.

In an instant, the scorpion warriors following behind him suddenly had their joints creak.

A faint silver-white glow appeared on their bodies, and a mysterious pattern appeared on their pincers. It reflected the luster of metal and looked even stronger than steel.

The poisonous curved scorpion tail like a longbow also became sharper. The poisonous faint blue light could make one's scalp go numb.

Its appearance became much more domineering.

[Poisonous Scorpion Warrior]

[Level: 4]

[Potential: Rare 3-stars]

[Skills: Poisonous Scorpion Tail (D-rank) — The poisonous scorpion tail can cause armor-piercing damage. After being stabbed, it will cause a large amount of poison damage, and has a 3-second paralyzing effect.]

[Undead Body (D-rank) — Reduces 50% physical damage. Immune to pestilence and poison. As long as the head is not chopped off, it will not die.]

Powerful Iron Pincers (D-rank) — Double pincers sharpness increases by 50%, attack power increases by 50%.]

[Desertification-Sand Transformation (D-rank...)]

[Race Talent: When fighting in the desert, strength increases by 30%.]

[Fetter-Scorpion Warrior: When the number of scorpions is greater than 10, strength increases by 10%, poison increases by 10%.]

When the number of scorpions is greater than 20, strength increases by 20%, poison increases by 20% (activated).]

When the number of scorpions is greater than 30, strength increases by 30%, poison increases by 30%.]

[Description: A dead creature sealed in the Pharaoh's Pyramid. I believe you do not want to be stung by it.]

After its potential had been raised, all of the scorpion warriors' skills had reached D-rank, and the additional attributes of the skill had been greatly increased.

The poisonous scorpion tail skill also gained a new characteristic—paralysis—and it lasted for as long as three seconds.

These three seconds were enough to decide life and death in a battle.

Together with the Cursed Pharaoh, the effect on the enemy was doubled.

Combined with the Axe of the Dead, which could burst out with super damage, it was enough to make any enemy tremble in fear.

## **Chapter 64: Ghost City**

After the Poisonous Scorpion Warrior troop lair upgrade, Richard was in a lively mood.

The feeling that he witnessed the strength in his hands gradually increased has fascinated him.

He had been busy all morning as he upgraded spring water, territory, and scorpion warrior.

It was already half past noon when he rested.

Just after lunch, a few ugly long-armed laborers were brought into the hall by the bandaged mummies which guarded the Lord's mansion.

The long-armed laborers looked terrified and extremely flustered like they have been petrified.

"Lord...something bad has happened!!"

Its tone became sharp because he was too nervous.

When Richard saw the appearance of the long-armed laborers, his gaze froze.

"What happened?"

The bandaged mummy hurriedly reported. "When we were mining iron ore this morning, a group of ghosts suddenly appeared outside the mine... They were too scary..."

"Ghosts attacked the iron mine?"

Richard's eyes shone.

He didn't care about the resource points, but the sudden appearance of these ghosts piqued his interest.

Maybe it was another unexpected event.

Didn't these attacks mean missions and benefits?

"Are there any other enemies besides the ghosts?"

"I don't know..." Several long-armed laborers shook their heads. "We immediately evacuated after we found the ghosts."

"Lead the way. I'll handle it myself."

"Yes, Lord..."

The long-armed laborers' morale was immediately boosted.

After Richard gathered the troop, he didn't delay and directly gave the order to set off. The long-armed laborers panted heavily and led the way.

Half an hour later.

Richard observed the iron mine 200 meters away and frowned slightly while on a high sand dune

Even if he wasn't close enough, he could feel that this iron mine was different from its usual state. It was gloomy and cold everywhere. It gave people goosebumps.

He opened the attribute panel.

[Haunted Iron Mine]

[Level: Small]

[Reserves: 16,820 units]

[Maximum Output: 2,100 units per week]

[Capacity: Minimum of 5 people, maximum of 10 people.]

[Description: An iron mine occupied by the ghosts.]

'An iron mine haunted by ghosts?'

Richard was even more excited. The sudden appearance of these ghosts did not seem to be that simple.

He would first occupy the iron mine and then investigate the reason.

With a wave of his hand.

"Troops, prepare for battle.

"Maintain formation and advance towards the iron mine."

Two small teams of scorpion warriors stood in two rows at the front to protect the mine. One and a half teams of undead soldiers stood at a distance of 20 meters from the front, while the cursed pharaohs were at the back.

The iron mine soon pressed to the edge of the iron ore. Richard was at the back, his eyes fixed on the iron mine, ready to give an order at any time.

'Roar!'

A shrill roar like that of dozens of people on the verge of death suddenly sounded.

Five teams of ghosts suddenly appeared in the slightly gloomy iron mine.

These ghosts had the appearance of human beings. They floated 10 centimeters above the ground, their bodies emitted faint blue light.

Their bodies were translucent, and their faces were extremely blurry and twisted.

The air was gloomy.

[Mine Ghost]

[Level: 3]

[Potential: Ordinary 3-stars]

[Skills: Body of a Ghost (F-rank) — Immune to 50% physical damage, magic damage received increases by 10%.]

[Soul Claws (F-rank) — Can directly attack the soul.]

[Race Talent: Can devour souls to strengthen oneself.]

[Fetter-Ghost: When the number of ghosts exceeds 30, soul damage increases by 15%. When the number of ghosts exceeds 50, soul damage increases by 30% (activated).]

[Description: I like your soul.]

“All troops attack! Don’t leave a single one alive!”

With a cold command.

The scorpion warriors immediately charged forward. Two iron pincers appeared and threatened the ghosts.

The undead soldiers appeared at the same moment.

‘Whoo-hoo-hoo!’

The tomahawk made a loud noise in the air, and the ghosts floating in the air could not avoid it.

Kacha~

It was a huge force that directly exploded like a fragile crystal that fell to the ground.

The high magic damage made the ghosts, who are 50% immune to physical damage, felt the iron fist of Twilight City.

The undead soldiers murdered two teams in one wave of attacks.

There was still an insurmountable gap between 50% physical damage immunity and 99% Sand Transformation immunity.

The scorpion warrior growled deeply.

The iron pincers opened up and pierced through the incoming ghosts.

It was like the blade had pierced through the gel and jelly, which felt like apparent obstacles.

'Kacha!'

The iron pincers closed, and directly tore apart a large part of the ghosts.

'Puchi!'

At this moment, the poisonous tail of the scorpion warrior pierced through like lightning.

The moment it pierced the ghost, the poison from the scorpion's tail instantly spread out.

The translucent body of the ghost immediately glowed blue light. And its body fell into a state of paralysis, unable to move.

'Puchi!'

The iron pincers waved again, which completely tore apart the opponent's body.

The battle ended quickly under the crushing counterattacks of a few levels higher than the opponents.

The cursed pharaoh did not make a move in the end, but the elite-level ghosts of these five teams were annihilated.

[Ding~ The troop you led annihilated a group of ghosts and obtained victory in a miniature battle. You have obtained 100 experience points.]

[Ding~ You have recovered the iron ore that the ghosts had snatched. Do you wish to occupy it again?]

"Confirm."

After Richard made the choice, the haunted iron mine immediately turned into an ordinary iron mine, and the eerie aura disappeared without a trace.

When he saw that the quest had not been triggered, Richard could not help but feel a little puzzled.

'Where did these ghosts come from?'

He immediately called over the long-armed laborer who stood at the back and asked once.

The laborer shook his head. "Lord, we don't know either. We only know that the first ghost we saw appeared in that direction..."

As the long-armed laborer said that, he pointed to the north of the iron mine as it trembled.

"Lord, could it be that there's a city of ghosts over there...?"

The long-armed laborer didn't mean anything, but Richard sensed something.

Richard's eyes sparkled with a bright idea.

It wasn't impossible.

If there truly was a city of ghosts, this wave would count.

After Richard ordered them to resume their production work, he immediately led the troop to the north.

At the same time spread the troops in a fan shape formation.

Richard encountered an unexpected situation not long after.

In front of him was a gathering place for soldiers in the wild, but this gathering place had already been massacred.

What made him even more surprised was that pieces of flesh and traces of blood were scattered on the sand, but there were no bones.

It was as if the bones had been pulled out by someone.

“This is... a summoning skeleton?”

Richard was in focused thoughts.

“Summoning skeletons is the signature skill of the ghosts. They know how to murder wild monsters to gather troops. It seems that the ghost forces nearby are not weak.

“Could there truly be a ghost city?”

The interest in his heart grew even stronger.

He continued to explore. Within half an hour, he found seven or eight gathering places where all the soldiers had been slaughtered.

Without exception, their bones were missing.

There were even a few troop units that did not have corpses, leaving only traces of battle.

“No wonder they say that ghosts are scoundrels. If a ghost lord were to secretly develop for a time, wouldn’t it be able to amass a few large troops?”

Although the skeleton soldiers were not strong, if a few thousand skeleton soldiers were to come at him, not many lords would be able to withstand it at this stage.

The aggressive nature of this unknown ghost force also made Richard feel threatened.

If they could attack his iron mine today, they would dare to attack Twilight City tomorrow.

The ghosts were not a kind-hearted faction. There was no room for negotiation when they fought.

“Raise your vigilance to the highest level and continue to explore.”

Not long after, the troop found traces of the ghosts in the desert. It seemed that they had just passed by.

Richard perked up and quickened his pace.

After another half an hour, the scorpion warriors who scouted ahead suddenly reported back... They had discovered the enemy.

“We’ve finally found them...”

Richard was very pleased. He gathered the troop that had spread out in the surroundings and arrived at the location of the scorpion warriors.

Under the cover of the sand dunes, they followed their directions and saw the target they were searching for.

It was completely different from the territory of the ghost city that he had imagined. In front of him was an iron mine that was more than half mine.

Ores were scattered all over the place.

A large number of skeleton warriors patrolled the iron mine. There were probably more than three squadrons.

At this moment, two squadrons of skeleton warriors slowly walked over from the desert. They carried some corpses into the iron mine.

Not long after, they disappeared from Richard’s sight.

Richard followed the direction where the skeleton warriors disappeared and carefully observed. He discovered that in the central area of the iron mine, there was a hole that led underground.

“Was it the ghost city in the underground?”

### **Chapter 65: Underground Entrance**

Richard’s eyes revealed some thoughts.

Were these ghosts similar to the temple guardians, or was there truly a ghost city underground?

His heart began to stir.

After he had observed for a long time, he still did not obtain much useful information.

Without hesitation, he immediately made a decision.

“First, annihilate the enemies outside the iron mine and guard that tunnel.”

Three squadrons of skeleton warriors guarded the iron mine.

Level 2, Ordinary 2-star.

Although there were quite a number of them, their strength was average.

This was also a characteristic of the ghost.

The troop immediately launched an attack the moment the order was given.

The scorpion warriors' charge speed was very fast. They were the first to charge into the iron mine.

The undead soldiers followed closely behind. As they faced these skeletons, they did not throw their tomahawks anymore. Instead, they directly charged forward with their tomahawks.

They held an absolute advantage as they faced this group of ordinary ghosts at 1.7 meters in height.

The undead slashed horizontally and vertically.

'Kacha!'

The ghosts were not afraid of death. But the difference in strength was there. No matter how crazy they were, they could not stop the advance of Twilight City's troops.

The three and a-half squads of rare soldiers seemed to have activated unparalleled, forward charge.

The skeleton warriors fell like wheat when reaped...

[Ding ~ The troop you led annihilated a group of skeleton warriors and obtained victory in a small-scale battle. You have obtained 600 experience points.]

This experience was rich enough.

Richard laughed heartily.

He came to the front of the underground tunnel with high interest after the iron mine was conquered.

The surface of this tunnel was about three meters high, and its entire structure was made of rocks.

The ground slanted downwards, and after a few dozen meters, a corner appeared.

The dark environment was like the mouth of a giant beast, waiting for outsiders to fall into its trap.

Torches flamed not far away from the tunnel.

The torches emitted faint blue light, like the soul fire in the head of the undead.

Richard looked at the torches curiously.

[Torch Monster]

[Level: 1]

[Potential: Ordinary 1-star]

[Skill: Burning (F-rank) — Able to absorb the death energy in the air, burning endlessly.]

[RaceTalent: The dimmer the light, the brighter the light.]

[Fetter-Torches: When the number of torches exceeds 10, the brightness increases by 20%. When the number of torches exceeds 20, the brightness increases by 40% (activated).]

[Description: Strange creatures created by the undead. Other than glowing, they are useless. Damn, this works too.]

Richard felt that his eyes opened wide. The ghosts were indeed undead. They had everything.

However, it was fortunate that there were these torch monsters. They would not make the tunnel pitch black.

“Leave a small team of scorpion warriors to guard outside. The rest of you, follow me in.”

This passage was quite spacious. It could accommodate a small team of scorpion warriors that walked side by side.

Richard combined five scorpion warriors and five undead soldiers in a formation. He had them scout the path about 50 meters in front to prevent sudden attacks.

Then, there were five scorpion warriors, ten undead soldiers, and fifteen cursed pharaohs.

He was in front of the cursed pharaohs and behind the undead soldiers.

He was at the center, and also in the safest position.

After he made the arrangements, Richard ordered the cursed pharaohs and the scorpion warriors in front to take out a few torches and hold them in their hands to light up.

Whether the light was dim or not did not have much of an effect on the ghosts. They could use their soul fire to sense their enemies and observe their surroundings.

The darkness does not affect the ghosts, but it does Richard. He had yet to obtain darkness vision, so he was still unable to see through the darkness.

The faint blue light appeared very dark in the underground passage. But it was better than nothing.

After they walked for less than ten minutes, the sound of battle suddenly came from the small team that scouted the path 50 meters ahead.

“Enemy attack!”

The moment the leading scorpion warrior roared, seven or eight small teams of skeleton warriors rushed out from the opposite side of the passage.

They engaged in close combat.

However, in such a narrow terrain, the skeleton warriors could not display their advantage in numbers.

Starlight City only used the strength of one team to block the enemy.

The two pincers of the scorpion warriors were like the scythes of the grim reaper. The skeleton warriors who held the bone blades could not hold on at all.

They were directly dismembered into a pile of bones.

‘Whoosh!’

Suddenly, the sound of arrows that pierced through the air echoed.

Two small teams of skeleton archers appeared behind the skeleton warriors.

In such a narrow area, it was difficult to dodge the arrows.

'Clang! Clang!'

The scorpion warrior, who was engaged in a fierce battle, was directly hit. But the bone arrows could not break through the scorpion's defense.

The hard bone armor on his body became a strong protective layer, which directly repelled the arrows.

Although it was not injured, the scorpion warrior was also burning with anger.

These trash skeletons dared to hurt them?

It charged forward fiercely and waved its giant pincers to kill the skeleton warriors which blocked the way.

The undead soldiers saw that the enemy had long-range attackers, so they did not hold back anymore. The undead soldier threw out in great power the tomahawk in his hand.

'Kacha!'

The bodies of the skeleton warriors which blocked the front exploded. Seven or eight of them became candied haws.

Just as the tomahawk's power was about to be exhausted, the undead soldier suddenly pulled out the chains in its hands, and a new wave of power immediately surged into the tomahawk.

'Kacha! Kacha!'

The bodies of the skeletons on the left and right sides shattered, and white bones flew everywhere like a whip that hit the egg.

The skeleton archers at the back were not any better. As the sure-kill targets, five undead soldiers released a tomahawk storm.

Seven or eight small teams of skeleton warriors were all turned into bone fragments after a few rounds.

The enemies had already been annihilated when Richard arrived with his massive team.

When he saw this, he immediately let the troops at the front explore the path to only 20 meters away.

This way, when they encountered enemies, they would have a certain buffer space. And they would also be able to provide timely counterattacks.

The battle just now had attracted the attention of the enemies in the depths of the tunnel.

Skeleton warriors continuously appeared in front of the scorpion warriors which launched attacks on them.

However, they were only one or two small squads and were quickly annihilated. They did not pose a threat to them.

Twenty minutes later, after they went around a corner, the initial dim light suddenly became bright.

An oval-shaped wide space appeared in Richard's line of sight.

It was about 100 meters long and 50 meters wide.

On the other end of the space was a passage. Obviously, this was not the end.

Dozens of torchlight monsters hung around and illuminated the entire space.

Richard carefully observed. More than three squadrons of skeleton warriors were in this underground space. The defense was tight.

Five squadrons of skeleton archers waited in the back.

In the end, three squadrons of skeleton mages held white bone staffs.

The Trinity, the simplified version of the Iron Triangle.

When Richard saw this scene, he made a judgment in his heart.

“There shouldn’t be any ghost cities here. There’s a higher probability that it’s a map similar to a temple...”

If there truly was a ghost city, as long as the enemy’s lord wasn’t stupid, he wouldn’t have made such an arrangement.

Couldn’t they concentrate their troops on defense?

Wouldn’t it be a little bit to deliver vegetables...?

As his thoughts raced, Richard waved his hand and decisively gave the order.

Since it was not a ghost city, there was no need for him to be so conservative.

“Close the troop. Scorpion warriors will launch an attack and tear through the enemy’s defense line as fast as possible!

“The undead soldiers will finish the skeleton mages at the rear. We must not allow them to attack!

“Once the skeleton mages cast their spells, cursed pharaohs will immediately counter cast their spells to interrupt them!”

No matter what the situation was, the consistent truth was to prioritize the mages in a battle.

The moment the order was given, all the scorpion warriors roared and charged forward.

The combat style of this unit was brutal and wild.

The scorpion warriors tore apart all the skeleton warriors that dared to block them as the two giant pincers waved.

The curved scorpion’s tail was like a precise spear. Every time they launched an attack, they would surely obtain a great result.

The ferocious undead soldiers carried the power of lightning and struck everything.

‘Crack!’

The skeletons shattered into pieces.

Starlight City's attack immediately caused the ghosts to counterattack.

The skeleton warriors rushed forward. They did not know what fear was at all.

The skeleton archers also pulled their bows and arrows at the same time.

The number of five small teams was enough to form a rain of arrows.

Under the illumination of the torchlight monsters around them, the sharp sound of the bone arrows that pierced through the air made one's hair stand on end.

'Clang! Clang!'

The scorpion warrior continuously waved its two giant pincers which blocked most of the bone arrows. Even if a small number of them were hit, it would not be a problem.

"...\*%#@\*%..."

While the Starlight City troop crazily tore apart the defensive line, the skeleton mage suddenly waved its white bone staff.

A fireball that emitted a cold aura condensed out of thin air.

Ghostly Fireball is the signature skill of the necromancer.

Unlike the high-temperature damage of ordinary fireballs, Ghostly Fireball dealt negative damage and could attack the soul.

A total of 30 ghostly blue fireballs tore through the sky with a long flame tail.

'Bang!'

The scorpion warrior who was in the middle of a fierce battle wanted to dodge, but the skeletons had already pressed down on it layer by layer, and there was nowhere to hide.

'Bang!'

The Ghostly Fireball exploded, and blue flames instantly enveloped the scorpion warrior.

The surrounding temperature suddenly dropped as if a refrigerator had been opened.

**Chapter 66: Massive Experience Gain, Quick Level Up By 1**

'Bang!'

The dark and cold negative energy of the Ghostly Fireball engulfed the surroundings.

It enveloped the scorpion warrior and the surrounding skeletons.

The soul fire of the skeleton warrior shook for a moment. It could not withstand the damage of the Ghostly Fireball, and the cold aura immediately extinguished it.

There was no rule of immunity from teammate damage in this world.

The scorpion warrior, on the other hand, took the damage head-on. The spell that swept over did not damage their appearance, but their aura was pronouncedly much weaker...

"Cursed pharaohs, control the situation. Undead soldiers, kill the skeleton mages!"

Richard immediately gave the order as he watched the battle from behind.

They could not let the enemy cast their spells.

The scorpion warriors immediately charged forward at all costs and forcefully tore open a gap.

Undead soldiers followed closely behind and stepped into a distance of 30 meters.

The tomahawks in their hands flew out.

At this time, the cursed pharaohs released offensive incantations.

A dark light flashed in the air, and most of the skeleton mages stopped in their tracks.

'Kacha!'

The violently powered tomahawk ultimately pierced through a series of skeleton warriors and skeleton archers. They ruthlessly slashed the bodies of the skeleton mages at the back.

A massive power erupted.

'Crack!'

It directly shattered the fragile white bones of the opponent, and its body scattered on the ground.

When the tomahawk was exhausted, the undead soldiers swung its chains fiercely. It injected power into the tomahawk once again.

The deadly weapon that flashed with a cold light was like a lawnmower. It slashed horizontally at the skeleton mage.

'Crack! Crack!'

The crisp sound of bones breaking could be heard continuously.

Richard's troops slaughtered nearly two teams of skeleton mages.

At this time, the scorpion warriors had also recovered from the Ghostly Fireball attack.

These furious warriors charged at the skeleton archers who still shot arrows.

They vented their anger!

Scorpion warriors dismantled the skeleton archers from up to five squads to skeletons after two charges.

Many skeleton warriors wanted to attack Richard and the cursed pharaohs at the back along the way, but the undead soldiers killed them all.

After the scorpion warriors eliminated the skeleton mages and skeleton archers who could deal damage to themselves, a quiet number of remaining skeleton warriors quickly dropped to zero after the scorpion warriors and the undead soldiers finished them.

[Ding~ Your troop has annihilated a group of ghosts and won a small-scale battle. You have gained 1,200 experience points.]

Richard was delighted when he heard the system notification.

He had annihilated almost a massive group of ghosts from the spirit of the iron mine to now.

“I might be able to reach level 5 today... In the “Shining Era” level 5 is the beginning of the game.”

This kind of exploration of unknown gains made him excited.

Richard continued to move towards the tunnel behind him after he tidied up and ensured no threats of explosive equipment or treasures.

The skeleton warriors’ attacks on the road had never stopped. But the massive advantage in number of the ghosts could not be brought into full play in the narrow terrain.

No matter how hard the ghosts tried, they could not get past the scorpion warriors.

Richard stepped into the second underground space not long after.

However, the monsters stationed here were no longer skeleton warriors, but another undead tribe — zombies.

[Zombies]

[Level: 3]

[Potential: Elite 1-star]

[Skills: Zombie Body (E-rank) — Defense increases by 70%. Agility decreases by 50%. Immune to poison and pestilence.]

[Infection (E-rank) — Body is infected with pestilence. After being scratched, all attributes will be reduced by 2% every minute, up to a maximum of 30%.]

[Race Talent: Able to absorb the aura of death to recover from injuries.]

[Fetter-Zombie: When the number of zombies is greater than 10, defense increases by 15%. When the number of zombies is greater than 30, defense increases by 30% (activated).]

[Description: A branch of the undead race. They have a decent defense.

There were two squadrons of zombies.

Behind the zombies, there were five squadrons of skeleton mages.

“The scorpion warriors have broken through the zombies’ blockade. The Axe of the Dead has teamed up with the Poisonous Scorpion Warrior to hunt down the skeleton mages!”

“The Cursed Pharaoh has teamed up with the Poisonous Scorpion Warrior to fight for space for them!”

The thick-skinned zombies were pronouncedly not as easy to deal with as the skeleton warriors.

However, the only ones who could pose a threat to Twilight City’s troops were the skeleton mages at the back.

Richard’s pupils constricted when he saw the skeleton mages at the back had started to cast spells.

“Scorpion warrior, pay attention to dodging. If you can’t handle it, immediately activate Sand Transformation!”

Sand Transformation was not immune to magic damage, but it could greatly heal injuries. It was equivalent to a Quick Healing skill.

As soon as his voice fell, the zombies in front of him rushed in front of the scorpion warriors. These ferocious-looking undead creatures with stiff movements gave off a disgusting stench.

The upgraded scorpion warriors to rare-level were even fiercer than the zombies.

'Whoosh!'

The iron pincers waved and gave off an ear-piercing sonic boom.

'Crack!'

The front end of the closed pincers had an extremely sharp iron hook that was nailed firmly into the zombie's body.

The scorpion warrior pulled hard.

'Crack!'

The dry and hard body was directly torn apart.

The strong defense was nothing in front of the scorpion warriors' unique method of breaking through defense.

However, the number of two squadrons was enough to hold off the scorpion warriors for a long time.

'Whoosh!'

The Ghostly Fireballs in the hands of the skeleton mages shot out.

The skeleton mages from five squadrons launched their attacks at the same time this created a huge commotion.

The entire space was lit up.

Dozens of Ghostly Fireballs flew around and enveloped the entire space.

“Scorpion warriors, use the zombies to cover yourselves! Don’t resist!”

The scorpion warriors heard the order and charged forward.

They squeezed together with them and ignored the zombies that swarmed over.

‘Bang!’

Dozens of Ghostly Fireballs struck down, and a huge wave of air exploded.

The cold negative energy swept around like a storm.

The Ghostly Fireballs enveloped the entire area. The zombies close to it felt like their minds were hammered by a treasure. And their bodies suddenly became stiff.

They were unable to regain their mobility for a long time.

At this moment, the cursed pharaohs forcefully controlled the zombies around the scorpion warrior. This caused them to stop in their tracks.

The zombies at the back were unable to cross these zombies to attack the scorpion warrior which gave them precious time to recover.

After the scorpion warrior recovered from the soul impact, it fiercely swung its iron pincers to wipe out the slow zombies around it.

It forcefully opened a gap.

The undead soldier also threw out its tomahawk for the third time.

In an instant, a cold light flashed.

'Kacha!'

The ten zombies behind him did not have time to dodge, and their bodies exploded.

Blood splattered all over the ground.

The undead soldier seized the opportunity and swung the iron chain.

The undead soldier used the chain to block the approaching zombies.

The zombies were slow and had no way of dodging.

A few undead soldiers joined hands and forcefully used the chains to open up a path to the skeleton mage.

The scorpion warriors seized the opportunity and charged forward.

'Boom!

The second wave of Ghostly Fireballs lit up the sky again. The skeleton mage wanted to directly kill the scorpion warrior.

However, the prepared scorpion warriors were slightly faster. Only three of them were enveloped. These three warriors decisively activated Sand Transformation and took a wave of damage.

The remaining scorpion warriors charged in front of the skeleton mages.

The scorpion warriors finished these spellcasters who did not have close combat abilities when they got close to them.

The Axe of the Dead saw that the situation had stabilized. They began to raise their tomahawks and slaughtered the slow-moving zombies in front of them.

No matter how fleshy the zombies were, they did not have the half-metal giant flesh full defense.

The Axe of the Dead butchered the enemies with great pleasure.

Five minutes later.

[Ding~ The army you led destroyed a group of undead troops and won a small-scale battle. You have gained 1,500 experience points.]

The experience on Richard's status panel soared again.

[Level: 4 (9835/10,000)]

Only a little more than 100 experience points were needed to reach level 5.

The point of Level 5 was the beginning of a qualitative change in the "Shining Era". It was the beginning of becoming stronger.

After one reached level 5, one could officially enter this world. The prerequisite for rank change and learning skills were all level 5.

“This is what I call leveling up. Before this, I scanned through maps as if I played in the house...”

In a delighted aura, Richard immediately stepped into the third passage.

Unexpectedly, this time, the scorpion warriors who scouted ahead were not attacked by the skeleton warriors. The journey was peaceful.

However, this made Richard raise his vigilance to the highest level.

After he moved forward for 20 minutes, the scorpion warriors in front of him who scouted the path reported back and discovered a new situation.

Richard lowered his footsteps and followed the warriors.

His narrow and dim vision rudely awakened after he bent through an arc-shaped passage.

The scene in front of him made his heart tremble.

**Chapter 67: Mysterious Coffin, Lord's Talent Promotion**

A huge oval-shaped underground space appeared in his line of sight.

It was more than 50 meters tall, and its diameter was more than a kilometer.

This underground space had a thick layer of white bones as if millions of people were buried there.

Countless skeleton warriors, zombies, ghosts, skeleton archers, and skeleton mages were on the ground of the white bones.

But the most surprising thing was the center.

There was a mountain peak made of countless white bones.

A black coffin was on the top of the mountain peak.

Mysterious, dark, and terrifying.

All the negative adjectives could not describe the visual impact of this scene.

Richard, who was greatly shocked, suddenly narrowed his eyes.

But when he came back to his senses, an uncontrollable excitement immediately rose in his heart.

What a good fellow, he had discovered a great treasure.

He took two deep breaths before he suppressed the excitement in his heart.

His thoughts whirled.

“There are probably more than three large teams of skeleton warriors stationed here. There is also at least one large team of zombies and ghosts. There are also four to five squadrons of skeleton archers and two to three squadrons of skeleton mages...”

Richard’s gaze turned solemn after he carefully sized them up.

The number of these undead tribes was simply ridiculous.

He would have to first annihilate this troop of thousands of undead tribes if he wanted to obtain that coffin...

At this moment, he noticed a new undead unit from the corner of his eye.

Under the mountain of white bones, the white bone knights riding on undead horses stood like statues.

These undead creatures were made entirely of white bones, and they carried a long white bone knight spear.

There were as many as five teams.

One of the squads even had a bone crown on its head.

Its aura was filled with pressure.

Richard subconsciously opened the opponent's stats panel.

[Bone Knight Commander]

[Level: 5 (Elite soldier: Strength increases by 15%)]

[Potential: Rare 2-stars]

[Skills: Body of Bones (C-rank) — Immune to poison, curses, plague, and strength increases by 70%.]

[Charge (C-rank) — Drives the undead horse to charge at the enemy, and speed increases by 60%. Impact increases by 50%.]

[Combo (C-rank) — Attacks five times in a row in a very short period.]

[Heavy Slash (C-rank) — After charging up, uses the undead horse's strength to launch a fatal attack, able to unleash 300% of its strength.]

[Race Talent: Running speed increases by 30%, impact increases by 30%.]

[Entrapment Charge: When the charge distance is greater than 30 meters, collision force increases by 20%. When the charge distance is greater than 50 meters, collision force increases by 40%. When the charge distance is greater than 100 meters, the collision force increases by 60%. It can also cause a 5-second stun.]

[Description: The cavalry of the dead, it is best not to stand on their charge path.]

“Damn, all their skills are rare-level C-rank soldiers!”

Richard's eyes narrowed.

All the skills of the Bone Knight Commander buffed speed and impact.

The characteristics of the cavalry were brought to the extreme.

It would be fatal if the opponent run.

His expression turned serious, and he looked at the skeletal knights who did not wear the crown of bones.

[Level: 4 (Rare potential)]

The skills were starkly the same, but their attributes were much lower than the Bone Knight Commander.

Fortunately, no heroic units were found.

This was surely the best news.

To have a heroic commander and to not have a heroic commander were two completely different concepts.

With a heroic unit, they might not even be able to enter...

'Roar!'

Suddenly, a roar sounded, and all the undead units in the underground world turned their heads to look at the entrance of the tunnel.

Enemy!

The skeleton warriors and zombies, who had wandered, suddenly swarmed over like sharks that had seen blood!

The entire underground world was in an uproar.

Richard's face turned cold.

"Everyone, retreat into the tunnel and use the terrain of the tunnel to fight!

"Scorpion warriors, take the front!

"Don't fight, retreat while fighting!"

Richard gave a series of decisive orders, and the army immediately had a target.

The group retreated into the depths of the tunnel and prepared to fight.

After a few breaths.

Countless skeleton warriors poured into the underground tunnel like a tide.

In the middle, there were still a large number of zombies and ghosts.

A small team of Poisonous Scorpion Warriors simply could not stop so many enemies.

Richard immediately gave the order.

“Leave five of the Axe of the Dead. The rest of you, fight with the Poisonous Scorpion Warriors!”

They did not have enough manpower because Richard ordered a small team of Poisonous Scorpion Warriors to guard the outside to prevent the back roads from disruption.

If the front row could not stop the enemies, it would be useless even if there were too many people at the back.

Two small teams of soldiers blocked the passage and suppressed the crazy undead zombies, ghosts, and skeletons.

Richard turned to look at the Cursed Pharaoh and said, “Get the scorpion warriors stationed outside to come in and help immediately!”

“Yes, Lord!”

There were many good things hidden in this mysterious land of the undead, especially the coffin on the mountain of bones. They could not miss it.

They could not care less now. They had to concentrate their strength.

For the first time, Richard experienced the overbearing tyranny of skeleton tactics.

The enemy's strength wasn't strong, but it was a scene where one couldn't see the end of the line and didn't know when it would stop. It would create a huge psychological pressure on the enemy.

Richard commanded the army to fight and retreat at the same time. He used the terrain advantage to devour the number of undead.

Fortunately, this was a narrow underground area. If he were to be placed on the ground, he would probably be drowned by the enemy in an instant.

The Axe of the Dead, the Poisonous Scorpion Warrior, and the Cursed Pharaoh were three in one. They forcefully repelled wave after wave of attacks.

Not long after.

[Ding~ Your level has risen to level 5. You can freely change ranks.]

[Ding~ Your talent, Desert Lord, has been promoted. You have comprehended more desert power.]

The moment Richard heard the system notification, a huge amount of energy surged out of his body. Every cell in his body was filled with power.

And deep in his bloodline, some kind of ability rapidly awakened.

Finally, he had reached level 5...

He took a deep breath and suppressed the surprise in his heart.

This was not the time to be idle.

There was no place for him to change ranks and learn skills.

He braced himself and continued to command the battle. He was the brain of the troop. He was indispensable.

Ten minutes, twenty minutes...

Richard did not even know how many skeletons and zombies his troops had killed when he commanded them to retreat to the second underground space to hunt the zombies.

The enemy's numbers did not even seem to have slowed down at all.

The auras of several troops had already dropped to the freezing point. The Cursed Pharaoh had long been exhausted.

The situation was precarious.

The system notification rang at this moment.

[Ding~ Axe of the Dead, Poisonous Scorpion Warrior, Cursed Pharaoh. These three units have gained a massive amount of experience through battle. Their levels have been promoted to level 5.]

Richard, who was under immense pressure, laughed out loud. He had gritted his teeth and persevered for so long just for this moment.

The level up would not be of much help to the current situation.

However, the troop was different.

In the next moment, the auras of all the soldiers rose rapidly. And within a few breaths, they had recovered to their peak.

The cooldown time of their skills had also been refreshed.

Their auras were obviously much stronger than before.

Not only that, all three of the teams received the unique attribute bonuses of an elite soldier after they had reached level 5.

[Poisonous Scorpion Warrior: Level 5 (Elite Soldier: Strength increased by 15%)]

[Axe of the Dead: Level 5 (Elite Soldier: Strength increased by 15%)]

[Curse Pharaoh: Level 5 (Elite Soldier: Magic damage increased by 15%)]

Richard perked up.

He wanted that coffin, for sure.

### **Chapter 68: 6,000 Experience Points, Powerful Talent**

The situation immediately changed after the troops returned to their peak conditions.

Just a moment ago, they were on the verge of collapse. Now, they had become a rock wall that forcibly blocked enemies' waves of attacks.

They stood still.

At this time, the scorpion warriors stationed at the front of the tunnel had finally arrived at the battlefield.

These scorpion warriors who had not participated in the battle were still at level 4. Richard immediately had them take the frontline.

With the addition of a small team of soldiers, the onslaught of the undead zombies, ghosts, and skeletons could no longer shake the defensive line.

The Axe of the Dead also returned to its normal position. Such a dense crowd of enemies was simply the best target.

The tomahawks whistled.

Countless bones shattered.

The battle went on for a full two hours after the troops had leveled up.

When the scorpion warriors who had just arrived reached level 5, the undead zombies, ghosts, and skeletons in front of them started to become sparse.

In the end, there was no sign of them at all.

[Ding~ You blocked a large number of undead attacks and won a medium-sized battle. You have gained 6,000 experience points.]

[Current Level: 5(6,000/50,000)]

Richard took a deep breath.

'It's not easy...'

After he read the notification once more, he smiled.

Six thousand experience points. This was simply too rich.

Although this round was a bit tiring, the rewards were also good. It was not a loss.

However, after they reached level 5, the experience required to level up increased by ten times. It would not be so fast to level up next.

Richard turned his head to look at the weakened troop. He ordered everyone to rest on the spot.

Only then did he have the time to open the system panel to check his newly promoted talent.

[Talent: Desert Lord (Special Growth Talent — Current Level B): You are the master of the desert. You can predict the arrival of the sandstorm, and the sandstorm will avoid your territory. You have also mastered the ability to Desertification-Sand Transformation.]

[Sand: (B-rank) — Causes the body to Sand Transformation, reduces 99% of physical damage received, reduces 30% of magic damage received, and can devour the sand to quickly recover from injuries. Lasts for 15 minutes. Cooldown time: 1 hour.]

[You can bestow your strength to the troops you recruit. After you had bestowed, your subordinates will receive the C-rank skill — Desertification-Sand Transformation.]

[Desertification-Sand Transformation: (C-rank) — Reduces 99% of physical damage received. Can devour sand to recover from injuries. Lasts for 10 minutes. Cooldown time: 2 hours.]

“Hiss!”

So strong!

A hint of surprise flashed in Richard’s eyes.

He did not expect that his talent would have such a massive increase in attributes after leveling up.

One of the things that made him feel even better was that the sandstorm would avoid his territory...

His talent could even avoid natural disasters. This was a bit bizarre...

But it didn't matter. He had a strong taste, so he could accept more.

He looked at the army beside him out of the corner of his eye and suddenly had a thought.

'I wonder if I can increase the level of the Sand Transformation skill that I gave to the soldiers?'

As he had deeper thoughts, he slowly extended his right hand, and the power in the depths of his bloodline began to surge.

A yellow sand-like light surged in his palm and instantly enveloped all the soldiers.

After a few breaths, all the troops suddenly felt indescribably majestic energy that gushed out from their bodies.

[Ding~ Under your bestowment, your troops have grasped more desert power. Sand Transformation skill has been upgraded. Current level — C-rank.]

[Sand Transformation: (C-rank) — Sand Transformation of the body, reduces physical attacks by 99%. It can devour yellow sand to recover from injuries. Lasts for 10 minutes. Cooldown time: 2 hours.]

When Richard heard the system notification, he was immediately overwhelmed by a huge surprise.

This talent was simply heaven-defying.

But growth, these three words were indeed the true gods of the world.

After the troops' Sand Transformation had been upgraded from D-rank to C-rank, the duration had been increased from 5 minutes to 10 minutes.

The additional 5 minutes gave him more room to operate.

Of course, his B-rank Sand Transformation was even more unusual. Not only did it last for 15 minutes, but it could also be immune to 30% of magic damage.

If Richard continued to level up, would he truly become immune to 99% of all physical and magic skills?

The future was bright.

Richard, who was in a good mood, waited for the troops to recover to their peak conditions and immediately gave the order to attack.

White bones and zombie bodies were everywhere. He could not count how many of them had been killed.

When he saw the terrifying land of white bones again, more than half of the previously crowded space had been cleared.

At this time, only three squadrons of skeleton archers, two squadrons of skeleton mages, four squadrons of skeleton knights, and one squadron of Bone Knight Commander were left.

This troop did not move. They guarded the mountain of bones with all their might.

Richard's gaze swept past the undead below. He looked at the black coffin on the top of the mountain of bones.

With so many soldiers that protected it, what kind of treasure might be hidden inside?!

The Bone Knight Commander's empty eyes immediately stared at him the moment he appeared.

The undead horse on the ground shook its hooves and uneasily shook its head as if it was ready to charge at any moment.

At this moment.

The soul flames of the skeleton archers and skeleton mages lit up one by one.

They turned their heads together with the skeletal knights.

Richard's eyes narrowed.

“The rear troops will retreat to the passage, the Poisonous Scorpion Warriors will lure the enemy...”

However, as soon as the order was given, there was no need to lure them. The skeleton archers and skeleton mages directly attacked them.

‘Whoosh!’

The ghostly blue fireball and the white bone arrows whistled through the sky. It formed a death zone.

However, because the range was not enough, they could not deal any damage to them.

The scene was slightly awkward.

Richard did not let down his guard.

“Retreat to the tunnel and continue to use the terrain to kill the enemy.”

The skeleton archers and the skeleton mages pressed down on them at this time.

Although there were no front rows, the battle line formed by the two rear rows was particularly strong.

The attacks were continuous.

However, after they returned to the tunnel, the damage caused by the enemy's concentrated fire was immediately reduced by several times.

The pressure was greatly reduced.

Richard led the troop to guard at a v-shaped corner.

Fifteen undead soldiers stood about twenty-five meters away from the tunnel. Once the skeleton archers and skeleton mages turned the corner, the tomahawks in their hands were immediately thrown out.

[Swing (D-rank) — After throwing the tomahawks, you can use the chains wrapped around your arms to pull the tomahawk and carry out continuous attacks.]

With the ability to control the tomahawks from afar, the undead soldiers did not even need to summon the tomahawks.

The skinny skeleton archers and skeleton mages simply could not withstand a single attack.

This terrain advantage was perfect against these brittle soldiers who did not have a hero to command them and did not know how to adapt.

The battle lasted for more than ten minutes, and there were no more enemies around the corner.

Richard immediately returned to the underground space with his troop.

At this time, there was only a squadron of skeleton mages and five small teams of Bone Knight Commander in the vast land of bones.

However, this time, no matter how the scorpion warriors in front of them provoked them, the other party remained unmoved.

They only watched them warily.

Obviously, the main responsibility of these two troops was to guard the coffins on the mountain of bones.

Richard's gaze was cold.

Since they could not lure the undead creatures, then they would eat them all!

"Everyone, attack! After the skeleton knights charge, immediately activate Sand Transformation. Ignore them, kill the skeleton mages first!"

The skeleton knights were strong, but they were all physical damage dealers.

After leveling up, the Sand Transformation skill had a full 10 minutes. It could completely eat the skeleton mages first and then turn around to deal with the Bone Knight Commander.

The extra 5 minutes after the Sand Transformation level up gave Richard the confidence to deal with it calmly.

After he entered the ground of the bones, his feet crushed the bones under his feet and made crisp cracking sounds.

As the army gradually approached, the soul fire of the Bone Knight Commander gradually rose.

The horse's hooves kept stomping on the ground. They appeared to be increasingly patient.

When the scorpion warriors approached two hundred meters away from the Bone Knight Commander, they completely infuriated the skeleton knights.

Four small squads of the rare breed — the white skeleton knights, under the leadership of a small squad of the rare breed — the white Bone Knight Commander.

They held the reins tightly and held the sharp skeleton spears.

They charged at the troops of Twilight City.

'Thump! Thump!'

The hooves of the horses splashed the broken bones on the ground.

The charge of the five squads was like the charge of a thousand cavalry.

It came with a terrifying momentum like a landslide and tsunami.

### **Chapter 69: Post-War Harvest Time**

All the soldiers in Twilight City started to turn into sands when the skeleton knights launched their attack.

Richard also began to circulate the power in his body.

His body instantly turned into a state composed of countless grains of sand. It was very magical.

“Attack!”

With an order, the scorpion warriors in front immediately launched a counter-charge at the skeleton knights.

'Ta! Ta!'

'Ta! Ta!'

The longer the charge distance of the skeleton knight was, the more terrifying its momentum would be.

After more than ten breaths, the scorpion warriors at the front collided with the skeleton knights.

'Bang!'

The scorpion warrior swung iron pincers, and the skeleton knight directly smashed them into pieces. And his entire body was even scattered into the gravel on the ground.

'Bang! Bang! Bang!'

Horse hooves stomped on thousands of soldiers.

On the path of the skeleton knight's charge, the body of the scorpion warrior exploded one after another.

The undead soldier, who held a tomahawk in its hand, took advantage of this opportunity and whistled out.

Both sides moved toward each other, and their speed was too fast.

During the charge, the skeleton knight did not have the time to dodge and was directly struck by the tomahawk.

'Kacha!'

The tomahawk pierced through the ribs and firmly embedded into the body.

The speed of a few skeleton knights was too fast and directly passed by the undead soldiers.

In an instant, the limit distance of the tomahawk chain was reached.

The undead soldier pulled hard, and the chains suddenly straightened.

Under the huge inertia, the skeleton knights pulled off their horses, and they crashed into the white bones, splashing up the bone fragments on the ground.

Two undead soldiers who threw tomahawks triggered the Soul Execution.

They directly extinguished the soul fire of the skeleton knights and their horses.

'Whoosh!'

The soul fire of the skeleton knight exploded.

The long spear whistled out, and the undead soldier could not avoid it even if it wanted to.

Its body exploded, and sand flew everywhere.

The troops of Twilight City were unable to stop the terrifying skeleton knights.

Their bodies were crushed like sand balls.

But in the blink of an eye, their broken bodies quickly recovered.

After a round of charge, the skeletal knights paid the price of several casualties and murdered troops of Twilight City.

However, under the 99% immunity to physical damage, the troops of Twilight City did not die in battle.

Under the charge of the skeletal knights, Richard also experienced the magical feeling of quick recovery after he was smashed into pieces.

After the two sides crossed paths, the troops of Twilight City pounced on the skeleton mages who cast spells behind the skeletal knights.

There were too many of these mages. If they were to cast spells without restraint, troops of Starlight City would not be able to hold on even if they activated Sand Transformation.

Before they got close, hundreds of Ghostly Fireballs covered the sky.

'Whoosh! Whoosh!'

They crashed down like a meteor shower.

'Bang!'

The moment they exploded, the surrounding area burst into cold flames.

Fortunately, the enemy did not focus their fire on a few targets.

It covered the entire area, and the lethality was greatly reduced.

The Poisonous Scorpion Warrior and the Axe of the Dead that could quickly recover blood charged into the skeleton mage's team which withstood the damage caused by the Ghostly Fireball.

Without the buffer in the front row, the skeleton mage's heaven-defying abilities could not be displayed.

The troop that attacked with anger immediately made these skeletons taste what true death meant.

'Ta! Ta!'

At this moment, the skeleton knights charged back with their spears and they wanted to stop the scorpion warriors and the undead soldiers.

However, the troop that had activated the Sand Transformation completely ignored the skeleton knights.

The only ones who could pose a threat to them were the skeleton mages.

"Cursed pharaoh, use your body to stop the skeleton knights!"

Richard ordered coldly.

The skeleton knights were immune to curses. A cursed pharaoh would not be effective even if it cast a spell at this moment. It would be better to use its body to block it.

With the sand, they would not die.

The cursed pharaoh immediately charged at the skeletal knights.

'Bang!'

They exploded into gravel under the terrifying impact...

Then, their bodies quickly condensed...

This suicidal attack bought precious time for the troop.

Under the frenzied attacks of the undead soldiers and the scorpion warriors, the skeletal mages were quickly annihilated...

When the only threat on the ground was eliminated, the troop immediately turned around and pointed their spears at the tough skeleton knights.

They charged forward.

The rare-level skeleton knights were still easy to deal with, but the rare-level Bone Knight Commander made Richard suffer a lot.

Every time the skeleton knights charged forward, they would cause a huge amount of damage to the scorpion warriors in the front row. When they thrust their spears forward, the enemies' bodies would explode.

The scorpion warriors could not block at all under the terrifying speed and impact.

It was even more tragic when trampled by a horse. They could be kicked seven to eight meters away.

The scene of their bodies shattered into fine sand could be seen from time to time.

Fortunately, the Sand Transformation skill had been greatly strengthened before the battle. This was the first case of death while Sand Transformation is turned on.

Richard had high hopes for the Axe of the Dead. Their great killing weapon — Soul Execution.

The chance that this Soul Execution skill is triggered on the skeletal knight had also decreased a lot.

In the end, they had no choice but to mobilize the cursed pharaoh and the scorpion warrior to use their bodies to restrict the charge of the skeletal knights.

Under the concentrated attacks of the Axe of the Dead, this rare troop of 10 was finally killed by the horse.

During the entire process, the scorpion warriors were sent flying on average seven or eight times.

If not for the sandstorm, three lives would not have been enough to kill them.

When the last skeleton knight fell, Richard looked at the troop that had less than a minute left in the sandstorm and let out a long sigh.

This battle that lasted less than ten minutes was much more difficult than clearing out a few large groups of skeleton soldiers.

If it was someone else, even if the troop was several times more powerful than him, they might not be able to take down those skeleton knight commanders.

The rare troop was too powerful.

Sand Transformation, the eternal god.

[Ding~ The army you led has eliminated a group of undead units and obtained victory in a mini battle. You have obtained 1,000 experience points.]

[Ding~ Curse Pharaoh, Poisonous Scorpion Warrior, Axe of the Dead. After a lot of battles, their levels have increased. Current Level: 6]

Richard looked at the troop that had all their skills refreshed after they leveled up and their aura had returned to their peak states.

He was in a great mood.

After Richard came out, the troop had already leveled up twice in a row. And their strength had increased by a large margin.

He was elated.

He looked at the black coffin on the bone hill.

His heart palpitated.

This undead force was surely the most difficult enemy he had ever fought. If he dragged them out to the sandy ground to fight a tough battle, he would have no choice but to retreat.

Even with the advantage of geography, he had to fight for several hours before he could win this war.

The fruits of their hard work became especially sweet at this moment.

To protect this with so many soldiers, what was hidden in this coffin?

The bones were piled up on a mountain, and the black coffin was engraved with countless dark skull patterns. Against such a background, it was scary but also extremely noble.

Richard was in high spirits., He opened his status panel with full anticipation after he led the army to a certain distance.

But what surprised him was that the attribute panel didn't show anything.

It was as if the coffin was just an ordinary stone and gravel.

Something must have gone wrong.

He didn't rush forward. With a wave of his hand, he asked a cursed pharaoh to explore.

'Crack! Crack!'

The cursed pharaoh stepped on the white bones and went to the top of the mountain.

"Open the coffin!"

This cursed pharaoh carried a withered wooden scepter and wore a colorful crown on its head. Two ribbons hung from its ears to its neck.

It stretched out its shriveled hand and slowly opened the coffin but did not succeed during the first attempt because it was too heavy.

Then, it bent down and inserted the withered wooden scepter into the gap between the bandages on its waist. It used its two hands to exert force.

'Kacha!'

The stone coffin made a series of sounds and was slowly moved away.

'Shua!'

An extremely dark light burst out from the coffin as if there was a bottomless abyss hidden inside.

In an instant, the dark light condensed into countless twisted hands and pulled the cursed pharaoh directly into the coffin.

'Bang!'

The stone lid of the coffin let out a muffled sound of collision and returned to its initial position.

It was as if nothing had happened.

Everything happened too quickly. The troop, who stood dozens of meters away and kept a watch, had no time to react at all.

Richard's heart skipped a beat when he witnessed this scene.

"What's inside the coffin? Is there a living thing?"

## Chapter 70: Heart of a Level 25 Hero

This unexpected scene left Richard bewildered.

Richard was unwilling to give up and opened his stats panel again. But this time, the details of the coffin appeared.

[Sacrifice Coffin]

[Level: Special]

[Characteristics: Can sacrifice a similar type of soldier to obtain a hero unit. The stronger the sacrificial soldier, the stronger the hero unit born.]

[Current Soldier Sacrificed — Curse Pharaoh (Level 6, Elite 3-stars) Current Hero Potential: E-rank.]

[Description: Special item, can only be used once.]

'Sacrifice coffin?'

'The stronger the soldier sacrificed, the stronger the hero unit born?'

After he had read the information a few times, fearless excitement rose in Richard's heart.

Good stuff, good stuff!!

As expected of the great efforts he had put in.

He could spend resources to recruit troops again if they were gone. However, hero units were unique, and one could find them by chance.

Using more than ten troops to exchange for a hero, blood money...

Richard turned his head to look at the cursed pharaoh behind him. He waved his hand and ordered them to head to the mountain of bones.

The undead creatures did not know fear and starkly carried out Richard's orders. They immediately stepped on the mountain of bones and reached the top.

After the second cursed pharaoh opened the coffin, the dark light appeared again. Countless twisted hands suddenly pulled all the cursed pharaohs around them and dragged them into the coffin... This scene made people's scalps go numb.

After more than ten cursed pharaohs were pulled into the coffin, the coffin was no longer covered.

It still emitted the dark light as if connected to hell and the abyss.

When Richard saw that the situation had stabilized, he opened his stats panel.

[Sacrifice Coffin]

[Level: Special]

[Characteristics: Can sacrifice a similar type of soldier and obtain a hero unit. The stronger the sacrificial soldier, the stronger the hero unit born.]

[Current Sacrificial Soldier Type — 15 cursed pharaohs (Level 6, Elite 3-stars) Current Hero Potential: D-rank.]

[Description: Special item, can only be used once.]

After more than ten mummies, the hero's potential rose from E rank to D rank.

"D-rank, it's a pity I don't have curse pharaohs anymore..."

Richard could not help but feel a little regretful.

If there were a few hundred troops, wouldn't he be able to give birth to a B or even a rank hero?

At this moment, the Black Gold System lit up.

[Sacrifice Coffin — Can sacrifice 100 mummified troop lairs to raise the hero's potential to C-rank. Can sacrifice 1,000 mummified troop lairs to raise the hero's potential to B-rank.]

[Sacrifice a Special Treasure — Mummified heart can raise the potential of the hero recruited to A-rank.]

[Note: The Sacrifice coffin will give birth to a hero in an hour and a half. Please make the sacrifice as soon as possible.]

Hahaha...

As expected of you, Black Gold System!!

This wave was simply crazy!

Richard was emotionally overwhelmed. He immediately opened the [Trading Market]. He searched for the heart of the mummy first.

However, to his regret, it was a complete blank.

A unique treasure that could raise the potential of a mummy to A-rank was pronouncedly something not easy to obtain.

Fortunately, there was a buffer time of one and a half hours.

He immediately posted a message in the reward area — A unique treasure: a mummy's heart.

He put up the remaining 90,000 units of resources, which immediately brought this reward to the forefront.

At this time, the discussions about him on the [Forum Chat] had only subsided for a short while. And many lords had still paid attention to him.

[Good god, Boss Qingqiu has appeared again. Does anyone have a mummy's heart? We can go to Boss Qingqiu and earn a fortune this time.]

[What kind of treasure is the heart of a mummy? Is it so high-level? No one even sells in the forum.]

[Why is it that Qingqiu can obtain 100,000 units of resources quickly and place a bounty on a treasure while I'm in such a miserable state?]

Discussions about him continued.

After Richard placed the bounty, he also searched for traces of the heart of a mummy in the post.

An hour after he looked at how two-thirds of the time had passed, he shook his head with a bitter smile.

There was still nothing. There was no news about the mummy's heart at all.

“Looks like I can only buy 100 troop lairs and raise my potential to C-rank...”

To raise it to B-rank required 1,000 troop lairs, a total of 500,000 units of resources. There was still half an hour left, so he had no choice.

Time slowly passed. Just as Richard was about to withdraw the reward and use resources to purchase troop lairs, a familiar account name suddenly flashed in his private message.

[Where's Your F\*cking Italian Cannon: “Big Brother Qingqiu, I saw your post... Hahaha, What a coincidence. I just happen to have a mummy's heart in my hands.]

Richard was shocked.

[Qingqiu: Really?]

[Where's Your F\*cking Italian Cannon: Of course.]

Richard was ecstatic. This person was his lucky star who always appeared at every critical moment...

[Where's Your F\*cking Italian Cannon: But this mummy's heart in my hands isn't mine, it's my sister's.]

[Did you close your private chat to strangers? My sister couldn't get in touch with you, so she let me trade.]

[Big Brother Qingqiu, my sister honestly has long legs and likes to wear black silk. Hehehe, regret it now.]

Richard couldn't wait to ask.

[Qingqiu: What is her price?]

[Where's Your F\*cking Italian Cannon: Big Brother Qingqiu, my sister said that the heart of the mummy would be for free.]

Richard was wonderstricken. 'Free?'

[Qingqiu: Does she have other conditions?]

[Where's Your F\*cking Italian Cannon: You reminded us about the 2-star dungeon and saved our lives. This time, I would want to return the favor.]

[Big Brother Qingqiu, the mummy's heart is a unique treasure obtained from a 4-star treasure chest! My sister's troop was almost wiped out just to obtain that treasure chest.]

[If you have doubt, you can search for the value of this item. If you don't want it, you can't sell it no matter what.]

Richard's mood became a bit perplexed.

Although this guy was usually a bit funny, his character was not bad, and he could get along well.

After Richard thought for a while, he replied.

[Qingqiu: I owe you favor this time.]

Where's Your F\*cking Italian Cannon immediately became excited.

[Where's Your F\*cking Italian Cannon: What are brothers for? In the future, you will call me brother-in-law, and I'll call you brother. Let's talk about our matters.]

The corner of Richard's mouth twitched. This clown.

[Qingqiu: You can go and direct place reward to buy it. That bit of resources can be some compensation.]

[Where's Your F\*cking Italian Cannon: No, Big Brother Qingqiu, this is to return your favor. These are separate matters.]

[Qingqiu: Your sister's troop has suffered quite a lot of casualties. She surely needs resources to replenish her strength. The large-scale dungeon will open at the end of the month, so don't let this delay you. It's not worth it.]

Where's Your F\*cking Italian Cannon finally agreed when he heard this.

A moment later, the system's upgrade sounded. The other party had accepted the reward.

Richard was excited as he took the mummy's heart from the system space.

In his hand, a fist-sized gray, hard, stone-like item appeared.

[Mummy's Heart]

[Level: Special]

[Characteristics: A heart pulled out from an over level 25 mummy. It has an incredible effect on the mummy. It can directly turn the user into a mummy hero. The potential depends on the mummy's strength.]

[Note: Can only be used on mummies.]

[Description: A unique treasure. It can cause the mummy to go crazy.]

Richard took a deep breath on this heart pulled out from a level 25 mummy hero...

He owed a lot on this favor.