

The World 71

Chapter 71: Birth of A-Rank Hero

Although Richard thought that a treasure that could recruit an A-rank hero would be very precious, he had not expected it to be so valuable.

The giant desert dragon he had seen in the one-way teleportation portal, whose attributes could be conspicuous, was only level 15.

Even the high and mighty god was only level 30.

A level 25 hero was the first-class existence in the entire plane of the game “Shining Era.”

With mixed feelings, Richard allowed the Axe of the Dead to hold the mummy’s heart and gradually climbed up the mountain of bones.

He placed it into the sacrifice coffin.

Soon, the dim light seeped out of the coffin and seemed to have poured gasoline into the flames.

The light was bright.

The distorted light was like a devil from hell was about to crawl out.

Richard fixed his gaze on this scene.

He could pronouncedly feel that the coffin was about to give birth to a powerful aura...

The dim light became increasingly profound and began to spread out.

The distorted light enveloped the mountain of bones in a few breaths.

The coffin absorbed countless cold energy.

The bones began to darken, and countless cracks appeared.

When Richard saw this, he immediately ordered the Axe of the Dead to retreat below.

After a few breaths, the dark light began to spread through the entire underground space along the mountain of bones.

The last of the energy swallowed the layers of white bones.

The white bones all over the ground turned into black bones.

This visual impact had greatly moved Richard.

“This underground space was set up for this sacrifice coffin, right?”

He did not know who arranged all this, but it all belonged to him now.

Adamant anticipation rose in his heart.

Richard waited for the birth of Twilight City’s second A-rank hero...

The dim light gradually faded after ten minutes or more. And the coffin on the mountain of bones became dim...

[Ding~ Sacrifice completed. You have obtained a new hero unit.]

When the system notification sounded, a white-bandaged arm suddenly extended out from the sacrifice coffin.

Then, a cursed pharaoh, who wore a crown on its head and had two colorful ribbons that floated beside its ears, slowly climbed out of the black coffin.

The soul fire in the cursed pharaoh's empty eyes was burning.

And below the coffin, there were countless black skeletons.

This scene was similar to some religious murals where evil spirits were born.

It was indescribably terrifying.

The cursed pharaoh gradually walked down the mountain of bones. With every step, the bones under its feet would shatter.

This appearance was invigorating.

The cursed pharaoh slowly walked in front of Richard and knelt on the ground humbly.

"Lord Richard, Gray will listen to your orders."

The voice seemed to have formed by the vibration of the air without any human emotions.

The corners of Richard's mouth curled up. The joy in his heart at this moment was no less than the first time he discussed the true meaning of life with his girlfriend.

"No need for formalities."

As he spoke, he could not hold back the emotions in his heart and immediately opened the other party's attribute panel.

[Gray]

[Hero Unit]

[Level: Level 5 (Elite) –Magic damage increases by 30%.]

[Potential: A-rank]

[Job: Curse Mage (Elite) — Casting effect increases by 15%.]

[Mana: 500 points (Recovers 5 points per second).]

[Skills: Curse Mage (A-rank) — Curse power increases by 70%, and can consume doubled magic power, directly releasing skills while on cooldown.]

[Soul Command (A-rank) — Forcefully controls the enemy's soul. Command the enemy to make a move. When the command is not given, the enemy will break free from control after 5 seconds. Cooldown time: 30 minutes. Consumes 100 power magic.]

[Curse Body (B-rank) — Immune to poison, plague, curses, and Soul Execution skills. Upon contact with the enemy's body, the enemy will be cursed. Every minute, the enemy's attributes will be reduced by 10%, with the highest being 60%. Lasts for 30 minutes.]

[Pharaoh's Curse (B-rank) — Able to cast curses on enemies within a 10 * 10-meter radius. Upon casting, the enemy will fall into a weakened state. All attributes will be reduced by 30%. Lasts for 5 minutes. Cooldown time: 3 minutes. Consumes 50 mana points.]

[Curse Language (B-rank) — Able to force a single enemy or an enemy within a 10 * 10-meter radius to fall into a state of mental confusion. Movement will be halted. Enemies within the area will last for 5 seconds. A single enemy will last for 8 seconds. Cooldown time: 2 minutes. Consumes 50 mana points.]

[Desertification-Sand Transformation (C-rank)]

[Characteristics: Increases all mummies' curse effects by 50% when commanding the mummies.]

[Race Talent: Increases injuries and power magic recovery speed by 50% when fighting in the desert.]

[Fetter-Mummy: When using curse-type spells and skills increases magic damage and effects by 50%.]

[Description: A hero who specializes in curses. No one is willing to be targeted by it.]

After Richard gazed at Gray's attributes a few times, excitement filled his heart.

Was this a battle-type A-rank hero?!

Two A-rank skills, three B-rank skills...

Powerful!

Incomparably powerful!

The hero stacked its combat strength to an exaggerated degree coupled with its characteristics and fetters.

The corners of Richard's mouth curled up.

Gray had not only inherited the cursed pharaoh's skill. It had also upgraded it into an Area-of-Effect skill, which had an exaggerated increase in power.

Not to mention those two powerful A-rank skills, its attributes were truly insane.

[Curse Mage — using doubled power magic, directly releasing the skill that was on cooldown.]

If it kept releasing curse words to control the enemy...

Wouldn't the enemy not be able to move and be controlled to death?

And the Soul Control skill was even more exaggerated. It could control the enemy to make a move...

Could it make the enemy slit its throat?

Or at the crucial moment of the battle, it could control the enemy to give up on defense and reveal its weakness...

It felt this skill would have a powerful effect against those powerful lords.

Moreover, Gray's heroic characteristic—commanding the mummified troop would increase the casting effect of the army by 50%.

It was also so powerful that it was explosive.

In the future, Richard could starkly hand over the mummified troop to the other party's commander.

He could even use Gray as the core to form a mummified troop suitable for him to command.

Heroes were essential helpers of a lord.

They had intelligence that was not inferior to or even greater than a lord's. They could lead a troop to battle, build a territory, and do all the things a lord could do.

If a soldier was a saber, then the hero unit was the hand that held it.

Adele was in charge of the empowerment job. And her help to Twilight City could only be manifested by investing vast resources.

Gray, on the other hand, would be able to play an immense role immediately.

'Kacha!'

A clear sound interrupted the excited Richard. He subconsciously turned his head to look.

At this time, countless cracks appeared on the sacrifice coffin. And it gradually collapsed.

'Rumble!'

After the coffin shattered, the mountain of the bones also collapsed with a loud bang that splashed high dust.

Richard felt a bit of a pity. Twilight City could be abolished in one wave if this thing were permanent...

'Crack!'

Before the dust settled, they heard a sound to a greater degree of a loud crack.

Richard was startled in his heart. He raised his head and looked at the dome of the underground space.

He saw that there were cracks on it as well.

This scene made his scalp go numb.

He couldn't care about anything else. He led all the troops and rushed into the tunnel with a wave of his hand.

He would be dead if the collapse swallowed him.

'Rumble!'

While he was only a hundred meters away from the tunnel, it eventually collapsed.

Countless grains of sand smashed down with the rocks.

"Sand Transformation!"

Richard roared and immediately activated his most powerful life-saving skill.

Fortunately, the troop had refreshed the Sand Transformation skill when they leveled up during the last battle.

'Rumble!'

No one was able to dodge when the huge rocks smashed down. And their bodies directly collapsed.

After the tunnel collapsed, the fine sand poured down from the top of their heads and filled the gaps between the rocks.

At this moment, the fine sand became a life-saving straw.

Like a fish swam the waters, Richard led the army through the yellow sand and moved toward the ground.

After a long time.

'Puchi!'

The yellow sand on the surface began to bulge. An arm stretched out of the desert, supported on the sand, and forced the entire body out.

After Richard starkly left the desert, he took a few deep breaths. The air underground was extremely thin, almost suffocated him to death.

As expected, the Sand Transformation skill was most suitable for undead creatures.

At this time, the sky outside was completely dark. A bright moon as big as a millstone hung in the sky above his head. And a mercury-like cold light shrouded the entire desert.

It made the hot yellow sand during the day cool down.

“Huh!”

He let out a long breath, and the excitement in his heart calmed down a little.

He turned around and waited. Soon, the scorpion warriors, undead soldiers, and Gray climbed out.

After Richard checked the troop inventory, he confirmed no casualties.

He laughed out loud.

It was a real narrow escape from death.

If not for the Sand Transformation, he would have died here today.

And the rewards from this adventure were enough to make anyone envious.

He obtained an A-rank hero...

A-rank!!

Hahaha!!!

Chapter 72: The Tyranny of A-Rank Hero

Richard stood up and looked ahead. He saw the entire desert sink and formed a wide valley.

Pronouncedly, the collapse just now had caused great damage.

Fortunately, this was a desert. It didn't matter even if it pierced through the sky.

After Richard led the troop out of depression from the sunken desert area, he saw Gray beside him, and his mood improved again.

Although he had encountered such a thrilling scene today, his gains were also heaven-defying.

First of all, the Poisonous Scorpion Warriors and the Axe of the Dead had both been promoted to level 6. This activated the additional characteristics of an elite soldier that greatly increased their strength.

Secondly, under the prompt of the Black Gold System, Richard had obtained a superb helper hero—Gray, the cursed mage.

The attributes of an A-rank hero could only be described as amazing. Just this hero alone had earned him ten or a hundred times more from this expedition.

In a delighted emotional state, Richard immediately returned to Twilight City with his troop.

The desert at night was not a safe place.

Richard was not interested in taking the risk of scanning the map at night. He followed the system map and proceeded forward.

However, Richard felt that something was not right after he had walked for less than ten minutes.

“Alert!”

When his voice fell, the surroundings became silent.

It seemed his caution was superfluous.

But Richard still did not relax at all. His eyes were as sharp as the falcon. In less than a minute, rustles incessantly sounded.

The sound of footsteps was gradually heard from a dune.

In a moment, pairs of green eyes appeared from the darkness.

Wild wolves about the size of bison could be seen under the moonlight.

However, these wolves were different from the desert wolves that Richard had met before.

Their auras were countless times stronger, and their appearance was extremely hostile. Richard's troops felt a strong sense of oppression as the unknown enemies watched.

[Desert Warg]

[Level: 5 (Elite soldier, strength increases by 15%.)]

[Potential: Rare 1-star]

[Skills: Encirclement (C-rank) — Able to encircle and kill prey with tacit understanding, movement speed increases by 30%, strength increases by 30%.]

[Pounce (C-rank) — Strength increases by 50% when attacking prey.]

[Sharp Claws and Teeth (C-rank) — Sharpness of claws and teeth increases by 50%, able to cause armor-piercing damage to light armor targets.]

[Ferocity (C-rank)— Not afraid of death, once aimed at a target, it will not rest until death. The more serious the damage received, the fiercer the explosive attack.]

[Race Talent: When in group battles, strength increases by 30%, agility increases by 30%.

[Fetter-Wolf Pack: When the number of desert wargs is greater than 10, strength increases by 10%, agility increases by 10%.]

[When the number of desert wargs is greater than 30, strength increases by 20%, agility increases by 20% (activated).]

[When the number of desert wargs is greater than 50, strength increases by 30% and agility increases by 30%.]

[Description: A predator roaming in the desert.]

Richard could not help but squint his eyes after he looked at the other party's attributes.

[Level 5, Rare 1-star...]

And there were as many as three teams.

This was going to be troublesome.

If he hadn't used his Sand Transformation just now, he was starkly confident that these wild wolves could have devoured him.

However, his strongest life-saving skill had already been used when he tried to avoid the collapse of the tunnel.

His Sand Transformation cooldown was one hour, while his troop's cooldown was two hours.

It was simply impossible to wait for the cooldown of his skill to refresh.

Moreover, the terrain here was vast. He couldn't make use of the terrain to fight.

"Prepare for battle. The Poisonous Scorpion Warrior will hold the front line. The Axe of the Dead will act as the main force of the hunt!"

"Gray, prepare to cast a spell. Control these desert wargs!"

Richard looked at Gray, and its gaze became serious.

At the same time, the Scorpion Warrior had set up a defensive formation.

“Awoooo!”

The howls of the wild wargs on the dunes spread far and wide in the vast desert.

The horn of attack.

The three teams of wargs were like wild beasts that came out of their cages. In the blink of an eye, their speed soared to the maximum and left a few afterimages in the air.

‘Tata! Tata!’

The sound of footsteps rustled on the sand.

Those green eyes under the moonlight made people feel a chill down their spine.

The scorpion warrior opened its huge pincers, and its poisonous tail glowed a faint blue light.

The undead soldier gripped the tomahawk, and within the ox horn helmet, the flames of the soul in those hollow eyes flickered.

In just a few breaths, those wild wargs charged at lightning speed and had arrived in front of them.

Richard could even clearly see the needle-like fur on the enemies' bodies.

The troops were in great disbelief.

Just as the two sides were about to collide, an obscure incantation was chanted while on Richard's side.

Gray suddenly pointed forward, and a dim light flashed.

The desert wargs charged at high speed and rumbled. A hammer seemed to have hit the spirit sea and their ears buzzed.

They instantly lost control of their bodies, and the strong inertia brought about by their high-speed movement caused them to directly pounce on the ground.

The combat rage sizzled.

The desert wargs fell to the ground and left marks of long scratches on the ground.

[Cursed Words (B-rank) — Enemies within a 10 * 10-meter area will fall into a state of confusion. Movement will be suspended for 5 seconds. Cooldown Time: 2 minutes. Consumes 50 mana points.]

The desert wargs in front were all forcefully controlled. Those at the back saw this and jumped up hurriedly and directly crossed their companions on the ground.

The combat rage continued to sizzle.

A desert warg landed on the ground again. It opened its bloody mouth that could tear thick armor and slaughtered the scorpion warrior.

At this moment, a dark light flashed once again.

The aura of the desert wargs that rushed in front of the scorpion warriors instantly became chaotic. The light in their eyes was dazed and scattered. They lost control of their bodies once again.

[Curse Mage (A-rank) — The power of the curse cast will be increased by 70%. Moreover, it can consume doubled magic power and directly cast the skills that are on cooldown.]

Gray stood in place and directly pressed to the ground these rarely seen troops that moved like the wind as punishment.

The moment the enemy was controlled, the Poisonous Scorpion Warrior and the Axe of the dead exploded with their most ferocious attacks.

The scorpion's iron pincers waved and directly clamped the desert warg's neck as it leave several afterimages. The scorpion warrior further exerted a violent force but the wild warg was in a tremendous state of confusion and did not respond at all.

'Puchi!'

A huge warg's head directly fell onto the ground, and blood splattered all over its body.

'Huhu!'

The tomahawk whistled, and with a crack, it severed the warg's body. A crisp sound of branches breaking rang out when the tomahawk slashed the bones.

The wild desert warg's strength lay in its terrifying speed and powerful attack that could easily tear steel apart.

However, Gray forcefully suppressed these two aspects.

"Roar!"

The rich smell of blood crazily stimulated the desert warg's nerves. The first batch of desert wargs that fell to the ground suddenly raised their heads.

They immediately burned with anger when they saw their companions beside them in a miserable state. The muscles on their bodies were like spring treasures pressed down to the extreme and violently exploded.

No enemy could imagine what kind of terrifying attack it would encounter once the desert warg got close to them.

'Boom!'

But just as the desert warg was about to launch, the hammer in its mind exploded once again.

Its body stiffened on the spot.

Five thousand mana points were enough for Gray to forcefully cast curse words five times.

Before the magic power was completely consumed, these rare-level powerful lifeforms could not even think about moving.

Chapter 73: The Great Harvest

The Poisonous Scorpion Warrior and the Axe of the Dead charged forward furiously while Gray forcefully controlled these desert wargs, which were not known for their defensive capabilities.

The undead soldier could still rely on its powerful strength to subdue the opponent when it encountered a rare-level soldier, even if the probability of triggering the Soul Execution was not high.

And the Scorpion warrior was even more so.

They were Rare 3-stars and level 6. Its two vast pincers were almost more terrifying than a cleaver.

'Kacha! Kacha!'

A desert warg's head would be chopped-off every time the pincers close.

The desert wargs had three teams, while the scorpion warriors had two, plus one and a half of the undead soldiers.

Almost one to one and a few more.

After Gray cast the curse word for the fourth time, the undead soldier of the Axe of the Dead chopped off the last desert warg's head.

Throughout the entire process, other than the first two desert wargs that lost control and collided with the scorpion warriors, the troops of Twilight City did not suffer any damage.

Even these rare-level soldiers were pressed to the ground and unable to get up before they could display their strength.

[Elite Hero: Casting effect increases by 15%.]

[Curse Mage: A casting curse power increased by 70%.]

[Fetters: Curse-type spells and skills are used. Magic damage and effects increased by 50%.]

Richard re-checked Gray's stats panel again.

Gray had three attributes that increased the power of his spells and the duration of curse words by a large margin of 5 seconds.

These wild desert wargs can get up halfway because they were a rare-level breed and possessed great strength.

If they were a rare species, they would not even be able to move.

Richard was in a great spirit of disposition.

Fortunately, he had the mummy's heart provided by the [Where's Your F*cking Italian Cannon]. Otherwise, he would have missed this A-rank hero.

It seemed that Richard would have to contact this lucky guy from time to time in the future. He loved to make friends the most...

[Ding~ The troop army you led annihilated a group of wild desert wargs and obtained victory in a miniature battle. You have earned 600 experience points.]

Richard gazed at the corpses of the wargs on the ground, and his face showed a bright smile.

It was another vast harvest.

“Throw on the side poisonous warg corpses that were just stung.”

In a battle, it was naturally impossible to think so much.

The Poisonous Scorpion Warrior troop lair did not have the characteristic of a Cursed Pharaoh that could draw out a curse. But those who were stung and poisoned could only give up.

After they cleaned up, it was fortunate that only three were stung.

The remaining 27 became Richard’s war trophy.

While he gazed at the size of a bison warg lying on the ground, the corner of his mouth quilled.

“We can upgrade Cursed Pharaoh’s troop lair to rare-level today. This requires 50,000 units of resources.

“As for the Axe of the Dead’s troop lair, we can upgrade to rare-level tomorrow. It requires...500,000 units of resources.”

When Richard pondered, it seemed that even if he sold all the corpses of these wargs, it would not be enough to upgrade the Axe of the Dead troop lair.

The corner of his mouth spasmodically moved.

He thought that he had made a whirlwind fortune, but he did not expect that there would still be a gap.

“There is not much food left in the warehouse. I can spare two of these to fill up the warehouse.

“We can sell the rest.”

Richard opened the [Trading Market] beamingly. He initially had no thoughts of selling them but went to understand the market first.

In the past few days, the price of food had dropped a bit. It was no longer as high as before.

A warg could sell 20 units of resources per unit, and each weighed around 600 to 700 units.

He deliberately went to find the undead's reward to understand the market.

The undead could summon skeletons, so there should be a lot of demand for corpses.

To his surprise, the demand for the undead's corpses was low. It was even less than one-tenth of the price of food.

This made him lose the desire to sell to the undead corpses. These poor people were not worthy of buying his wargs.

He intentionally hung them on the market.

It didn't take ten minutes to hang up this attracted a lot of attention.

[What the hell?! That dead pervert Qingqiu just sold rare-level beasts—desert wargs!!! Is he still a human being???! Those are rare-level!!!]

[Am I fucking blind?! Why is it that in less than half a month, someone has taken out rare-level beasts?!]

[Ordinary, elite, rare, advanced... I only had my first elite-level yesterday. Where is justice???!]

[This guy must be an internal beta player of "Shining Era"!!! Otherwise, he must be the mastermind of the "Shining Era" company!!!]

[Boss Qingqiu is astounding!! Hahaha. Who said Qingqiu was trash before? Since you guys are so hung up, why don't you go and get rid of those rare-level troops? Go, I'll wait for you guys to slap your faces!]

[If you don't have the ability, don't doubt other people's strengths. What you guys can't do, other people can't do as well?? I was thinking back to those sand sculptures who jumped out just because Boss Qingqiu was not on the territory-level ranking leaderboard two days ago. I found it funny. How is it? Now, Boss Qingqiu has just wiped out rare-level troops. Do you feel your swollen faces?]

The lord players who had spoken out against Richard a few days ago were now bereft of speech.

Twenty-five rare-level desert wargs, not just one! One head might be luck. How could this luck explain 25 heads?!

They wouldn't be in such a humiliating state if this thing was easy to deal with.

Even if they wanted to pick a fight, they wouldn't have anything to say in the end...

'This damn pervert, how could he be so strong???'

The first thing that [Where'sYour F*cking Italian Cannon] did was send a message to his sister when he saw this news.

[Sister! Have you seen that? Twenty-five rare-level wild wargs! Big Brother Qingqiu's nose is like a bull's nose in the sky! Hahaha!]

The stronger the opponent was, the more accurate his judgment was!

[Where'sYour F*cking Italian Cannon] had high hopes for Richard and could not wait to cling to him.

[Night Rain Flower Falls: Qingqiu is indeed not ordinary. He is more powerful than I thought.]

[The combat strength of a rare-level troop is exceedingly terrifying. Yesterday, I only encountered two teams. And the troops almost collapsed...]

[Where'sYour F*cking Italian Cannon] smiled smugly.

[Where's Your F*cking Italian Cannon: Right now, Big Bother Qingqiu has a close relationship with us. In the future, we might even have to rely on him more...]

[Night Rain Flower Falls: You can get in touch with him more. It's never wrong to have more friends. You'd better get stronger quickly. The earlier we explore the 2-star dungeon, the better.]

[Where'sYour F*cking Italian Cannon: Sis, there's no need to be in such a rush. If we wait a little longer, we'll surely be able to explore that dungeon.]

[Night Rain Flower Falls: If we delay for another two months, we'll lose our lead. Are the precious items now still precious after two months?]

[Where'sYour F*cking Italian Cannon: Alright, just wait and see!]

[Night Rain Flower Falls: There's still half a month before the dungeon opens. No matter what, you have to enter the one million players! There mustn't be any mistakes!!]

[This dungeon will be a clash among the top lords of the "Shining Era". The rewards will surely make people jealous.]

[Where's Your F*cking Italian Cannon: Sis, don't underestimate me. Isn't it just 1,000,000 players? It's a piece of cake. I'll enter the dungeon and kill as many as I want this time!!]

Chapter 74: Ninety Points of Morale Support

Richard thought about it and sold the three poisoned warwolves. However, the system had marked them as inedible. Perhaps, some would be interested in the undead.

He ordered the Axe of the Dead to carry the two wargs after dealing with everything.

They returned to Twilight City under the moonlight.

The desert in the wilderness was no longer as hot as it was during the day. And the air was somewhat moist.

The vast desert could not be seen clearly under the shining moon. And the beholder could perceive a special kind of hazy beauty in it.

The journey was not starkly peaceful. After more than two hours of travel, they encountered more than a dozen assault troops from the wilderness.

However, they never encountered an enemy as powerful as the desert wargs.

They were overturned by the curse before they could make any waves under Gray's control.

After a few battles, Richard had a direct understanding of the strength of this A-rank hero.

Although it didn't have any damage skills, its exaggerated control made it impossible for its enemies to resist it.

It was simply outrageous with the combination of the Axe of the Dead and the Poisonous Scorpion Warrior troop's strong attackers.

At 9 p.m., Richard, who had wiped through a field of wild monsters, finally returned to his territory.

The Axe of the dead had more than twenty prey. Richard didn't even waste the soldiers' corpses harvested and sold all of the undead to the market.

Although the price was not high, it was still an additional income.

After he returned to his territory in a good mood, he initially thought that the residents had gone to rest, but the scene before his eyes stunned him.

On the empty land, there were a few torches that were half-lit.

Under the dim light, a crowd of people seated on the ground fell asleep.

Many people still had uneasiness and worry on their faces. From time to time, they would turn their heads to look outside the territory as if they were waiting for someone to come.

A resident about to go to the toilet was slightly stunned when he saw Richard come in from the side. Then, he shouted excitedly.

“Lord Richard is back!”

The loud voice woke up the residents under the dim light. One by one, they turned their heads to look at Richard behind them.

When they saw the familiar figure, the worry on their faces disappeared and they revealed brilliant smiles.

“His lordship is fine...”

“Praise the gods! His lordship is back!”

“Hahaha, I dare to bet that this is the best news I’ve heard!”

“His lordship...”

Everyone showed a joyous gaze.

The scene that had been silent a moment ago immediately became lively. All of them cheered as if something great had happened.

They...all waited for him?

When Richard saw this scene, his heart rose with a warm feeling.

He looked at Karu who walked through the crowd excitedly.

He did not wait for the white-haired old man to bow, Richard frowned.

“Karu, were you the one who ordered them to wait here?”

When Karu saw that Richard was fine, he waved his hands as if he was relieved of a heavy burden.

“Lord Richard, after dinner, we didn’t see you come back. So, we spontaneously waited for you outside...”

The first resident who noticed Richard’s return also spoke.

“Lord, we were worried that you didn’t come back...”

Richard turned his head to look at the smiling faces from the bottom of his heart, and a certain part of his heart was touched.

At this moment, he felt extremely close to this world.

There was no longer any sense of strangeness.

He took a deep breath and nodded slowly.

His voice resounded in everyone’s ears.

“I think you’re just looking for an excuse to sleep in tomorrow...”

The crowd laughed softly.

After he finished speaking, he looked at the crowd and pointed at a resident as he shouted.

“Deke! You’re also a person who has received the bronze medal of Twilight City. Why don’t you set an example? Starting tomorrow, you’ll be in charge of the territory’s daily routine. Don’t let such a situation happen again.”

After Richard said that, he called out several names in a row and shouted.

“You, soldiers, take the lead and go back to rest. Twilight City is still here. If you are still here, I will be fine. We will deal with the prey tomorrow morning. What are you all standing still for? Get the hell out of here!”

After he said that, he did not wait for the residents to leave. He asked the troops to place the prey beside the well and returned to the Lord’s mansion.

No one made a move when Richard passed by the crowd.

Only when his figure disappeared did the residents start to make a ruckus.

The few people whose names had just been called were so excited that their eyes were red.

They felt exceptional glory.

“Lord Richard still remembers our names! The lord still remembers our names!”

“Gods above, did the lord just call my name? I-I was sincerely remembered by the lord...”

“Those who were called were all awarded the collective bronze medal... I’m so envious. If I had known earlier, I would have participated in the last mission!!”

Everyone in the crowd was overjoyed.

The others were especially touched.

They, the lowly commoners, experienced exceptional respect in this city.

A few young people suddenly thought of something and shouted.

“Didn’t you notice just now? The lord’s troops have lost a lot of soldiers!”

“Yeah, there were more than ten mummies with crowns this morning, and only one came back just now...”

“Go and take a look. There are two wild wargs by the well. I’ve seen those monsters before, and even dozens of soldiers couldn’t stop them...”

The crowd that had discussed the matter suddenly quieted down.

After many people looked at the two wild wargs by the well, their emotions began to ferment.

“No wonder the lord came back so late tonight. It must be very difficult for him to meet powerful enemies...”

“Lord...”

“Those soldiers died fighting for us...”

They were at a loss for words.

They could already imagine how Richard had risked his life just to protect his territory.

It was their honor to have such a great lord...

When they returned to the Lord’s mansion, Richard, who had just been eating, suddenly heard a system notification.

[Ding~ Twilight City’s residents’ morale has reached 90. The territory has acquired a special characteristic—Live and Work in Peace.]

[Live and Work in Peace: When the residents' morale reaches 90, they will live and work in peace within the territory. They will treat you with the utmost respect. All the policies you have formulated will be 100% implemented by everyone. They will also publicize your greatness to the new residents.]

[The residents will not be incited by the enemy. When they discover suspicious outsiders who have infiltrated the territory, they will report to you immediately.]

[The appeal of Twilight City to refugees has increased by 50%. There is a higher probability that it will attract high-level talents or intermediate heroes who will take the initiative to seek refuge. The charm of the city has greatly increased.]

Chapter 75: Three Hives of Desert Bees

Wow, the people's morale has indeed reached 90 points?

Richard was a little surprised.

He immediately smiled after he saw the upgraded feature twice.

Although this special characteristic wasn't a battle-type feature, it could greatly reduce the difficulty of management and increase the territory's foundation.

The larger the territory and the longer time was, the more obvious the effects would be over time.

Pronouncedly, his policy towards the residents during this time had paid off quite a bit.

'I wonder what kind of characteristic would it be after 100 points? Flying on the spot? Becoming a god on the spot?'

This extra harvest made him feel cosmic. Richard even ate two extra bowls of food.

After a good sleep, he woke up the next day and saw the excited Karu.

"Lord, the desert bees have already divided their hives..."

Richard enthusiastically went to the Russian olive forest when he heard the old man's information.

At this time, the Russian olive forest's flowering time was at its most prosperous period.

The rainbow-colored flowers were especially bright and heart-captivating in the desert.

The bees' chirps, which symbolized vitality, made people captives of nature's glamour.

"Those bees that divided their hives took the initiative to enter the beehives that we placed around them. They're very obedient."

Richard smelled the enslaving scent of the flowers and entered the Russian olive forest with Karu.

At this time, countless bees flew in the area where the hives were placed.

The two new hives already had bees whose legs were covered with pollen that crawled back and forth.

When they saw Richard arrive, the bees immediately buzzed and danced around him.

The scene was quite light-hearted.

Richard opened the attributes panel of the new hive.

[Desert Bees Lair]

[Level: Special]

[Queen Bee (Ordinary) — Auxiliary queen, can not be upgraded, but can produce honey at the main hive level.]

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

[Number of Bees: Small (Fixed small, unable to expand)]

[Quantity: A fixed output of 10 units of medium-grade honey per week.]

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

[Unable to level up. Moreover, the number of bees is fixed, and the output is also fixed...]

The corner of Richard's mouth grimaced slightly.

Can the reproduction and growth of desert bees only rely on the main hive?

He could not upgrade other queen bees. This undoubtedly limited his idea of the rapid growth of desert honey.

However, it seemed usual. If it was so easy to reproduce, desert bees would not have such an evaluation of extreme rarity.

An elite queen bee could have two subsidiary hives.

Then, could an advanced queen bee have four subsidiary hives?

Richard's eyebrows slowly relaxed.

He opened the [Trading Market].

His private mailbox received a bunch of private messages. He opened them and saw that the 25 unpoisoned and the three poisoned wargs had all been sold.

He had a total of 340,000 units of resources. With the original resources, he had a total of 360,000 units.

This was indeed a huge sum of money.

But it wasn't enough for what he wanted to do.

Richard opened the troop lair panel.

The Cursed Pyramid that had recruited the Cursed Pharaoh could be upgraded to rare.

The Axe of the Dead's wooden house could be upgraded to rare.

The desert bee could also be upgraded to an advanced queen bee.

In this way, he needed 600,000 units of resources to meet the upgrade requirement.

“The landlord family is really poor this time...”

Richard felt helpless with hundreds of thousands of units of resources in his hands.

His rate of earning resources could even be said to be among the top 20 billion lords.

However, his earnings wouldn't be long before the landlord's wealth fell into a state of extreme thirst for resources when compared to expenditures.

“The battle axe wooden house needs 500,000 units of resources... We can wait for a while.

“Let's level up the desert bees and the Cursed Pharaoh first.”

The earlier the bees leveled up, the greater the benefits would be. There was no need to delay.

Richard spent 100,000 units of resources and bought 200 troop lairs.

One hundred were insect troop lairs, and 100 were desert camp troop lairs.

He came to the main hive of the desert honey.

He used up all 100 troop lairs.

After a moment, the attributes of the honeycomb had changed.

[Desert Beehive]

[Level: Special]

[Queen Bee: Advanced (When upgraded to special-level, the hive produces better quality, special desert honey.)]

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

[Number of Bees: Medium]

[Sub-hive: 2 (Can have two elite-level sub-queens. Each sub-queen can have two ordinary-level queens.)]

[Quantity: A minimum of 15 units of high-quality honey per week (Current available reserves: 15 units)]

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

[When the main hive was upgraded to advanced, two sub-queens could be upgraded to elite, and they could have their sub-queens.]

As a result, the number of desert bees did not increase by two more hives as Richard had imagined. Instead, they directly increased by four nests.

As long as the bees could reproduce, he could have seven hives of bees.

If he upgraded to special-level, wouldn't his performance increase by eight hives of bees?

Moreover, the secondary queens did not need him to upgrade their levels. They would automatically upgrade over time.

In a month at most, he would be able to see the appearance of several other hives of bees.

Richard laughed. So this was the expansion method of desert bees.

His mood improved a bit.

His beekeeping career could be considered on the right track.

He walked out of the Russian olive forest and called over a few staff members.

“The honey from the main hive is ready. Get your equipment and follow me.”

“Yes, Lord.”

They took the honey-gathering equipment they had prepared in advance to the spring and washed it clean. Then, they followed Richard to the front of the hive.

“There are more than ten units of honey in the main hive. You open the bottom of the box and take out the honey.”

After the upgrade, the desert bees were all very smart. Their movements were not stung by the bees.

The hive was made of wood and placed on a wooden shelf. The bottom of the shelf could be opened by pushing and pulling.

When the bottom plate was pulled open, one could see pieces of honeycomb molasses. The sweet smell burst instantly.

The honeycomb molasses were now of elite quality. It was a grade higher than the ordinary honey from last time.

Although Richard hadn't tasted it yet, his saliva secreted uncontrollably.

Who could resist this kind of aroma...

After he took three pieces of sealed honeycomb molasses, the available reserves of desert honey dropped to zero.

Richard deliberately took a few more glances. These desirable honeycomb molasses were separated by a certain distance from the old nests of desert bees. And there was a clear distinction between them.

Pronouncedly, the bees had built them here on purpose.

He nodded in admiration. These bees were really smart.

He turned his head to look at the staff behind him.

“Today is May 12. From now on, every week, you will come and take the honey. Just like today, take the hive honey from the side and don’t touch the bees’ old nest. On the 19th, the next two beehives can also produce new honey. Take it out in the same way. In addition, pack the prepared honeycombs in advance, and the bees will divide their hives later...”

“Yes, Lord.”

After Richard gave instructions, he looked at the honeycombs in the special wooden barrel and could not help but reach out to break a piece.

He stared at it carefully through the sunlight mottled by the leaves.

The honey had been sealed with a thin layer of beeswax on them.

Normally, bees would use this method to preserve the honey after it was brewed.

He pulled out a few filaments of golden honey in the crystal after he took a big bite off a corner.

A sweeter and richer than the ordinary honey exploded in his mouth.

Richard swallowed and was full of praise.

“I feel that the reputation I made up about the Desert Crown Honey is bad. This should be the god’s grace bestowed to the human world...”

This thing surely had to take the highest route.

“I hope Onyx won’t let me down. The Desert Crown Honey will surely become the pearl of Twilight City.”

At this moment, he could already see large amounts of resources flowing into his pocket.

The landowners were desperate for resources.

Chapter 76: Three Days Later, The Troop Refreshed

After the nest honey was taken out, it could be dried or special tools could be used to take out the honey.

Of course, he didn't need to do these tasks.

As the ruler of the territory, the only thing Richard had to do was to give orders and make good use of the resources of the territory to complete his will.

After Richard dealt with the desert bees, he went to the fire dragon rabbit breeding area next to it.

The breeding base had already taken shape. A two-meter-high wooden fence was built on the outermost perimeter. Inside were a one-meter-tall and two-meter-wide wisteria and thorns.

A small team of bandaged mummies guarded around.

The wisteria and thorns were already lush and full of vitality because of the vast amount of water irrigation.

The sharp thorns that grew seven to 8 centimeters long were enough to make warriors even in thick armor feel nervous.

At this time, the desert gnomes were setting up another purple vine and thorns outside the fence. It seemed like they wanted to completely lock the surrounding area.

Richard was quite appreciative of this.

If the fire dragon rabbit fur could be expanded, the benefits they could produce would not be worse than the desert honey.

The blanket made of the fire dragon rabbit's fur, which could automatically control the temperature, made him deeply understand what Onyx had said. In the Ice and Snow Empire, only the royal family and nobles were qualified to use the products of the fire dragon rabbit.

"Oh, Great Lord Richard, your humble servant greets you."

The thin and weak person in charge of the breeding base, Green Tooth, immediately ran over to greet Richard when he saw him.

Richard marveled about whether to laugh or cry with Green Tooth's flattering look.

The life of a gnome was truly bewildering.

"How are the fire dragon rabbits?"

Green Tooth patted his toothpick-like chest and said excitedly, "Lord, those fire dragon rabbits are very healthy now. I inspect them every day. I never allow them to eat!"

Other things were raised for fear they will not eat but the fire dragon rabbits were raised for fear they will eat.

It was also quite interesting.

"Where are the fire dragon rabbits' cubs?"

"They are growing very fast. It is estimated that they will reach maturity at the end of the month. Next month, they will shed their fur and enter the breeding period."

This good guy was really fast.

"Take good care of them. If you have any problems, come and find me."

"Yes, Lord!"

The fire dragon rabbits were basking in the sun all day and there was nothing to see. Richard returned to the territory after a few words of reminders.

When Richard entered the Lord's mansion, he first used the 100 troop lairs he had just bought to upgrade the cursed pyramid to rare.

With that, he now had three rare troop lairs—the cursed pyramid, the scorpion warrior nest, and the battle axe wooden house.

However, what he desired the most was to upgrade the battle axe wooden house to rare first.

“I still have 260,000 units of resources... To buy 1,000 troop lairs requires 500,000 units. That’s not a small number. However, if I encounter a group of wild desert wargs in the wilderness, these problems will be solved.”

While Richard had some thoughts, he seemed to have remembered something. He took out the building blueprint he obtained when he conquered the gold mine from the system space—food workshop.

He had been so busy these past few days that he almost forgot about this matter.

[Food Workshop Blueprint]

[Level: Normal]

[Characteristics: Food workshop can be built for research, production, and processing of food.]

[Construction Resources: 5,000 gold coins, 10,000 units of wood, and 10,000 units of stone]

[Construction Time: 7 days]

[Number of People Needed: When the number of people is less than the standard number, the construction time will increase, but when it is greater, the time will decrease.]

[Occupation: 10 spaces]

[Description: Your territory can taste more delicious food.]

“Food, clothing, shelter, and travel, the potential of the food workshop is limitless. As long as it is done well, there is no need to worry about not earning resources...”

Richard took the blueprint and came to the space near the well.

He was ready to build here.

There were 60 more squares of open spaces and exactly 10 squares in this area after the territory was upgraded.

The water well was located southwest of the Lord’s mansion, next to the residential area in the west.

He reached out his hand to call a resident over and asked him to call Karu over.

A moment later, fully white-haired but exceptionally energetic Karu arrived.

“Lord Richard.”

Richard motioned to Karu with the blueprint in his hand and told him the general attributes and construction requirements.

“Immediately find 30 workers and build the food workshop. I have a feeling that this building might be particularly important to Twilight City.”

As long as they could produce enough delicious food, there would be a market for 20 billion players and the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce in the sales channel. There would surely be no worries about sales.

Of course, the exact situation would only be known after the food workshop was completed.

After Richard had assigned the task, he left enough resources to fill up the surrounding space.

Then, he ignored everything else and prepared to continue hunting with the troop.

Before the other industries in Twilight City developed, they still had to focus on hunting.

But he believed that with his nurturing, it wouldn't be long before Twilight City would have its industry.

At that time, Twilight City would usher in a period of rapid development.

Richard's goal this time was to make up for the shortfall of over 200,000 resources needed to upgrade the Axe of the Dead before the troop lairs are refreshed on Monday, May 15.

However, this was not a small amount.

To increase efficiency, he thought about it and transferred the five teams of bandaged mummies stationed in the territory to Gray's hands.

He asked the A-rank hero to lead the team to scan the map in another direction.

The hero unit had super high intelligence and was no worse than lords in leading the troops.

Gray happened to be a mummy hero and had an additional attribute bonus to the mummy troop.

The bandaged mummies were put to good use in his hands.

The safety of Twilight City was guarded by nine teams of elite guardian mummies. It was enough for the time being.

From noon until the sky turned dark, Richard returned with his prey.

At the same time, Gray was not inferior, and he also gained a lot.

The bandaged mummies did not lose any members after a whole day of battle, which made Richard feel relieved. His trust in Gray increased again.

On May 13, 14, and 15, for three consecutive days, Richard and Gray left early and returned late every day to scan the map.

But the field battles were not always smooth sailing. Gray was attacked and badly injured by a group of rare field troops at noon on May 15.

The bandaged mummy lost one team, leaving only four teams in total.

But the harvest that day was more than Richard's previous hunts.

When he returned, almost every bandaged mummy carried a prey or two on its back.

On the night of May 15, Richard returned and brought Gray back to his territory.

Looking at the pile of prey, he was in a good mood.

He left a huge part for the warehouse to fill up but sold the rest out.

The result of the three-day hunt was a large number of resources were accounted for. He had accumulated enough for the upgrade of the Axe of the Dead troop.

He looked at the data on his status panel that soared and he was in high spirits.

[Gold: 200,000 pieces]

[Wood: 150,000 units]

[Stone: 150,000 units]

[Iron ore: 130,000 units]

What made Richard excited was not only the abundance of resources, but also the fact that it was Monday, and the refresh period of the troop's lair was about to begin.

His troop was about to expand once again.

The opening of the large-scale dungeon at the end of the month was getting increasingly closer.

The more troops he had, the more Richard would have the confidence to clash with the other lords.

Chapter 77: Twilight City's First Rare-Level Soldier

Eight o'clock in the evening, sharp.

A system notification sounded in Richard's ear on time.

[Ding~ This week is timber resources week. The output of the logging field has increased by 1000 units per day. Lords, please arrange the production.]

[Ding~ The output of all the troop lairs has been refreshed. Lords, please recruit on your own.]

It finally came.

Richard was in a lively emotional state.

"Timber resources week... Unfortunately, Twilight City only occupies one small logging site. If it occupies 120, the harvest in a week would be considerable. The desert is indeed a worthy place where resources are exhausted. The density of refreshed resource points is much less than other terrains."

These few days, Richard had deliberately learned about it on the forum.

If it was a plain or normal land, the resource points would refresh very densely. One could even see one in ten minutes.

On the contrary, after Richard scanned around Twilight City for so long, he discovered five resource points.

He hadn't felt it before. He thought that all the lords were like this. But after a thorough understanding, he discovered it.

The desert's resources were simply indescribable compared to other places.

"I still have to develop myself and continue farming. If I rely on the resources of the outside territories to survive, Twilight City won't be able to develop at all."

Only when there was comparison would there be harm...

As Richard shook his head, he collected scattered thoughts and opened the troop lair to check.

As expected, it had already been refreshed.

[Lair: Guardian's Land (Elite 3-stars, 3 seats) Troop Type: Guardian Mummy, Number of Recruits: 30]

[Lair: Great Pyramid (Elite 3-stars, 3 seats) Troop Type: Bandaged Mummy, Number of Recruits: 21]

[Lair: Scorpion's Nest (Rare 3-stars, 1 seat) Troop Type: Poisonous Scorpion Warrior, Number of Recruits: 7]

[Lair: Cursed Pyramid (Rare 3-stars, 1 seat) Troop Type: Cursed Pharaoh, Number of Recruits: 5]

[Lair: Battle Axe Wooden House (Rare 3-stars, 1 seat) Troop Type: Axe of the Dead, Number of Recruits: 5]

In addition to the Axe of the Dead, he used more than 20,000 resources to recruit all the soldiers.

The strength in his hands soared again.

The current number of troops in Twilight City:

[Guardian Mummy: 120 (Elite 3-stars)]

[Bandaged Mummy: 61(Elite 3-stars)]

[Poisonous Scorpion Warrior: 27 (Rare 3-stars)]

[Cursed Pharaoh: 5 (Rare 3-stars)]

[Axe of the Dead: 15 (Rare 3-stars)]

The total number of soldiers reached 228.

The current population of Twilight City was less than 400.

This power could already be described as substantial.

What made Richard even more excited was that Twilight City's first rare-level troop lair was about to rise.

After he glanced at the still abundant resources, he did not hesitate and directly purchased 1,000 desert camp troop lairs.

He spent this amount of resources extremely blissful.

After the purchase, he only had 110,000 units of resources left out of 610,000 units.

Richard came to the front of the battle axe wooden house full of anticipation.

This was the first time he had upgraded troop lair to rare-level.

He was quite excited.

The Temple Guard that he felt untouchable half a month ago was only at a rare level.

[Battle Axe Wooden House (Rare 3-stars) — After consuming 10 rare-level desert camp troop lair cores, it can be upgraded to Rare-3 stars. 1,000 ordinary-level troop lairs have been detected to meet the upgrade requirements. Do you want to upgrade?]

Richard did not think much and confirmed directly.

The next second.

Majestic energy gushed out of the battle axe wooden house, and its height increased from 4 to 5 meters.

The thousands of tomahawks hanging on the outer wall of the wooden house glowed faint golden light.

A few minutes later, the light faded away.

The battle axe wooden house became increasingly exquisite. The thousands of tomahawks shone brightly. At a glance, one could tell that these were surely not ordinary items.

[Upgrade successful. Current Level: Rare 3-stars.]

[Battle Axe Wooden House (Rare 3-stars) — Consume 10 rare level desert camp troop lair cores and you can upgrade it to brilliant 3-stars.]

After the Black Gold System notification sounded, Richard laughed out loud.

His heart was filled with a sense of accomplishment as he watched the strength in his hand grow stronger bit by bit. It was an incredible, indescribable feeling.

[Battle Axe Wooden House]

[Level: Rare 3-stars]

[Recruit Type: Axe of the Dead (Rare 3-stars)]

[Recruit Quantity: 5]

[Weekly Output: 5]

[Recruitment Requirements: 4,000 gold coins, 4,000 units of stone materials, 4,000 units of iron ore]

[Description: Able to recruit undead soldiers with decent battle strength.]

After leveling up, the resources required to recruit the Axe of the Dead increase by 10 times.

The cost of recruiting high-level soldiers was not cheap.

Richard felt both pain and pleasure in his heart when he saw this...

He directly recruited all five soldiers of the Axe of the Dead with a wave of his hand.

In an instant, countless dark energy gathered in the battle axe wooden house.

Gray light shook after a few breaths.

The undead soldier from Axe of the Dead lair was 2.2 meters tall and wore full-body armor with mandala patterns. A horned helmet appeared in his line of sight. This powerful soldier walked out of the wooden house step by step.

After it stepped out of the door, it reached out and took a tomahawk that glowed faint golden light from the wall.

'Kacha! Kacha!'

The moment the undead soldier picked up the tomahawk, countless chains gathered on its wrist.

A genuine undead soldier of the Axe of the Dead appeared.

Richard opened the soldier's stats panel impatiently.

[Axe of the Dead]

[Level: 5 (Elite soldier, strength increased by 15%.)]

[Potential: Rare 3-stars]

[Skills: Tomahawk Slash (B-rank) — Can throw a tomahawk within 40 meters to attack the enemy. The tomahawk can be retrieved through the chain on the arm and cause a massive amount of magic damage to the enemy.]

[Skills: Body of the Dead (C-rank) — Immune to poisons and plagues. Defense increases by 70%. The heart will not die if it is not destroyed.]

[Roar (C-rank) — Attack power increases by 70% after roaring.]

[Swing (C-rank) — After throwing the tomahawk, can use the chain wrapped around the arm to pull the tomahawk to carry out attacks continuously. It has more exquisite control over the tomahawk.]

[Tomahawk Smash (C-rank) — After throwing the tomahawk, it will explode and shatter, causing a huge amount of magic damage to enemies within a 10-meter radius.]

[Race Talent: After the tomahawk is broken, it can be used to gather energy again.]

[Fetter-Tomahawk: When the tomahawk is thrown from 1 to 10 meters away, the damage increases by 20%.]

[When the tomahawk is thrown from 11 to 20 meters away, the damage dealt increases by 40%.]

[When the tomahawk is thrown from 21 to 30 meters away, the damage dealt increases by 60%.]

[Moreover, there is a 30% chance of triggering the Instant Death Skill (Soul Execution). It can directly kill the enemy. The stronger the enemy, the lower the chance of triggering the skill.]

[Description: Little darling, close your eyes. I'm going to throw the axe.]

After Richard looked at it a few times, he felt an intense excitement rose in his heart.

Damn, the initial level of the Axe of the Dead recruited from the troop lair had reached level 5!

It directly received the attribute bonus of an elite soldier.

Furthermore, not only was the skill upgraded by one level. Its attributes had greatly improved.

It also acquired a powerful skill—Tomahawk Smash.

It allowed the already overbearing undead soldier possess the Group Attack skill!

This wave was simply a god-like enhancement!

More importantly, the Axe of the Dead's trump card—Tomahawk Throw—had its range increased from 30 meters to 40 meters.

And the Instant Death skill (Soul Execution) also increased its range from 21 meters to 30 meters to 21 meters to 40 meters.

Increased by 10 meters!

This additional short 10 meters doubled the operability of the Axe of the Dead.

This was a true killing weapon!

Hahahahahaha...

Chapter 78: Successful Scientific Research and Development, Fortifying Mummy

After Richard had recruited the five undead soldiers of the Axe of the Dead troop, he immediately bestowed the Sand Transformation skill to all his troops.

This godly skill, which made countless contributions, had become the standard of Twilight City.

Looking at the powerful troop before him, he was in a joyous state of mind.

He looked at the other 15 undead soldiers. He could also upgrade to rare with the troop's lair's improvement.

However, after he looked at the attributes panel, he suddenly had a bizarre expression.

The resources needed to upgrade the troop were the same resources needed to recruit troops. There was no discount at all.

It would cost 60,000 gold coins, 60,000 units of wood, and 60,000 units of iron ore for 15 undead soldiers of Axe of the Dead troop to reach the rare-level upgrade.

It was 180,000 gold coins in total... It was simply a killer upgrade.

"So poor."

Richard looked up to the sky and sighed.

He has already exerted extra effort in the speed of earning resources, but in the end, it was still not enough.

The troop lairs were bottomless pits. If one wanted to cultivate them, the investment was endless.

“This is only a troop lair. I still have Poisonous Scorpion Warrior and Cursed Pharaoh... In the future, the troop cultivating speed may not be so fast. No, it seemed we still have to train some elites and rare-level troops to match. Only high-level troops. This consumption is too terrifying. We still have to think of other ways to get resources. To rely on hunting alone, how many troops will we have to hunt to reach a high level? Trade, trade...”

It was rare to reach the glorious level and required 10,000 unit lairs. It was five million units of resources.

It would take more than a month to do so without considering other expenses with the current speed of accumulation... It was not something solved in a short period.

After Richard sorted out his thoughts, his gaze gradually returned to calmness.

“From the looks of it, I can first upgrade the Bandaged Mummy to rare-level. Three troop lairs only consume 150,000 units of resources. After the lair upgrade, I can also upgrade six small teams’ troop lairs to a rare level. I can have a squadron of rare soldiers with this. I can surely raid that one-star dungeon...”

He had thought about that one-way portal for a long time.

However, the Black Gold System had mentioned that the average strength of the soldiers inside was rare.

At this time, as long as he upgrades the Bandaged Mummy, there would be the rare-level Axe of the Dead and Gray, the insanely powerful A-rank hero.

The strength in his hands was enough to conquer that instance dungeon.

Richard, who was vastly mobile and with a plan in mind, immediately began to carry out his plan.

In the early morning of May 16, he and Gray led their respective troops out to hunt.

Even so, he still felt that the resource collection speed was too slow.

That night, Richard and Gray began to hunt around Twilight City.

Although the danger level of hunting in the wild had increased a lot, the harvest had also increased significantly under the high intensity of the battle.

On the night of May 18, he had accumulated enough resources for the Bandaged Mummy and 15 Axe of the Dead troops to level up.

To upgrade three Great Pyramids required 150,000 resources...

To upgrade 61 elite bandaged mummies to rare required 80,000 units of resources...

To upgrade 15 Axe of the Dead required 180,000 resources...

Four hundred ten thousand resources in total...

[Great Pyramid (Elite 3-stars) — Using 10 elite-level desert camp troop lair cores, you can upgrade to Rare 3-stars. Do you want to upgrade?]

“Confirmed.”

[Axe of the Dead (Rare 3-stars) — Using 4,000 gold coins, 4,000 units of wood, and 4,000 units of iron ore to Rare 3-stars. Do you want to upgrade?]

The Black Gold System lights up when an upgrade was successful.

The resources Richard had accumulated over the past few days had bottomed out again.

But the strength in his hands had also become intense because of his hard work.

[Bandaged Mummy: 61 (Rare 3-stars)]

[Poisonous Scorpion Warrior: 27 (Rare 3-stars)]

[Cursed Pharaoh: 5 (Rare 3-stars)]

[Axe of the Dead: 20 (Rare 3-stars)]

Nine squads of rare soldiers and two squads of rare soldiers!

The total troop strength was 113 people.

Richard looked at the mighty troop in the front yard of the Lord's mansion and felt excited.

This was the troop that he forged. It was more than ten times stronger compared to half a month ago!

He felt a great sense of accomplishment.

[Ding~ The bandaged mummy's basic attack research is successful. It has solidified into the territory characteristic. You can go to the blacksmith shop and freely increase the basic attack of the bandaged mummy.]

Richard was a little surprised when he heard the system's notification.

'Did Adele successfully research and develop it?'

“Hahahaha... Damn, this is truly good news!”

He immediately brought the bandaged mummy to the blacksmith’s shop.

Just as he walked to the door, Adele pushed the door open with a long copper hammer on her back.

When she saw him, the exhausted girl immediately perked up and said excitedly, “Lord Richard! I’ve already figured out how to strengthen the bandaged mummy’s attack!”

“Praise the god of blacksmiths. The gods have inspired me!”

Richard laughed loudly.

“Adele, I believe more that it’s because of your intelligence... It’s been hard on you during this period. I’ll give you a few days of a long vacation. Come back to work when you’ve rested.”

Adele shook her head like a rattle-drum.

“No, my Lord. I like this job. I don’t want to rest for so long. I can work tomorrow. I’ve tested on the mummy you gave me before...”

As Adele spoke, she ordered the apprentice in the blacksmith shop to bring out the bandaged mummy she had studied for the past few days.

At this moment, the bandaged mummy hadn't leveled up yet. It was still an elite-level mummy. However, one of the skills on its body had changed quite a bit.

[Enhanced Sharp Claw Tear (E-rank) — Finger sharpness increases by 50%, sturdiness increases by 50%.]

Richard opened the rare-level bandaged mummy's attributes.

[Sharp Claw Tear (D-rank) — Finger sharpness increases by 40%, sturdiness increases by 40%.]

'Damn it, after the enhancement, the attributes of E-rank skills were even higher than D-rank skills.'

He purposely had the two bandaged mummies stretch out their shriveled palms to compare.

The bandaged mummies' arms seemed to have been fused with steel, that gave off a metallic luster. Even if one had not tried it before, one could feel its sturdiness.

The five fingers of the palms were even more different. After they have been irrigated with metal, they were as sharp as daggers. And their appearance was extremely ferocious.

Those that had not been strengthened were pronouncedly inferior, and their sharpness had indeed decreased.

Richard was in a blissful frame of mind.

“Adele, apart from you, is there anyone else who can strengthen the bandaged mummy’s attack?”

“I’ve already taught all the skills in this to the apprentices in the blacksmith’s shop. Everyone can...”

“How long does it take to strengthen a bandaged mummy?”

“Twenty minutes to half an hour. It depends on the blacksmith’s proficiency.”

“Okay, you go back and rest first. Ask the others to strengthen all the bandaged mummies for me tonight.

“Tomorrow, I’m going out to conquer a powerful gathering place for the field troop!”

“I’m not tired. I’ll stay here and supervise...”

“Adele, obey the order!”

“Lord, I...”

“Um?”

“Yes, Lord...”

After Richard chased the exhausted girl back to rest, he couldn't wait to go to the forging area.

He watched the blacksmiths strengthen the mummies.

The blacksmiths melted the pots of steel and cooled them at different times. Then, they added some of its dark metal materials and mixed them.

After the blacksmiths did the red molten iron, they let the bandaged mummy go over and placed its arms on the operating table.

They poured the molten iron down gradually.

The substance sizzled.

A stinky smell evaporated that made Richard feel extremely nauseous.

However, under his gaze, the molten iron not only did not burn the bandaged mummy.

Instead, it fused with their arms and gradually reflected the luster of the metal.

The entire process was meticulous, and it seemed to be full of fantasy. It was not scientific at all.

Only dead creatures could do this. They could have collapsed due to the intense pain if they were humans.

Richard immediately opened its attributes panel when they fortified the first bandaged mummy.

[Bandaged Mummy]

[Level: 5 (Elite soldier, strength increases by 15%.)]

[Potential: Rare 3-stars]

[Skills: Body of Death (D-rank) — Strength increased by 50%. No fear of pain, no fear of death, and immune to poison and plague.]

[Corpse Bandage (D-rank) — Reduces physical damage by 40%. The bandage carries plague. The infected person will enter a weakened state, and all stats will be reduced by 30%. If not treated, they will gradually die.]

[Sharp Claw Tearing (D-rank) — Finger sharpness increased by 70%. Sturdiness increased by 70%.]

[Desertification-Sand Transformation: (C-rank) — It reduces 99% of physical damage. It can devour yellow sand to recover from injuries. It can last for 5 minutes. (Cooldown Time: 2 hours).]

[Race Talent: When fighting in the desert, stamina and recovery speed of injuries will be increased by 50%.]

[Fetter-Mummy: When the number of mummies is greater than 10, the strength of all mummies will be increased by 10%.]

[When the number of mummies is greater than 30, strength will be increased by 20%.]

[When the number of mummies is greater than 50, the strength will be increased by 30%.]

[Furthermore, the infection rate of the plague will increase by 30%. The negative effects of the mummies will increase by 30%.]

Gray had brought the bandaged mummies out to hunt these past few days and raised their levels to 5.

The fortification has improved the skill attribute of Sharp Claws Tearing. These attributes increased the sharpness and sturdiness of the mummy's fingers from 40% to 70%.

It was stronger than ever!

The sharp claws that reflected the cold light constantly reminded outsiders that they were not easy to trifle with.

Richard laughed out loud as he gazed at the mummy's razor-sharp claws.

'Was this the true value of Adele?

'A-rank heroes were indeed extraordinary... And this was only the beginning. If she continued to strengthen them... When the bandaged mummy has the elite, rare, advanced, or even special-level attack... How powerful would it be? And how terrifying bonuses can other troops get?'

Chapter 79: Demon Hero

Early in the morning of May 19.

The mummies of the six squads had all been fortified.

After Richard instructed Karu, he replenished his supplies and left Twilight City with his troop.

The territory had 120 guardian mummies protecting it, so he was not afraid of making any incautiousness.

This time, his goal was also very clear—the one-way portal.

He had thought about this 1-star dungeon for a long time.

Two hours later, Richard stood in front of the five-meter-tall one-way teleportation portal, which looked like a rippling wave in the middle.

His gaze was sharp.

“At first, I said that I would come after I have gathered a squadron of rare soldiers. Now, I have achieved my goal.”

After he said this, Richard subconsciously looked up at the sky.

He did not forget that he had seen a level 15 giant dragon nearby.

That ferocious appearance left a deep impression on him.

“Everything will come... We can raid dungeons, and the dragon will be captured and used as a mount!”

As Richard retracted his thoughts, he looked at the sparkling one-way portal.

“Bandaged mummies, go, scout the way! Scorpion warriors, follow. Gray, bring the undead soldiers and enter last.”

The son of a thousand gold did not sit in danger.

Naturally, there was no need for him to take the lead when it came to scouting the way.

The order was given, and six teams of bandaged mummies immediately stepped into the portal.

With a flash of light, they disappeared within.

The scorpion warriors followed closely behind. Gray waited for a moment before it entered with the undead soldiers.

After Richard waited for another five minutes, he entered with five cursed pharaohs.

The moment he passed through the portal, he felt as if he had passed through a layer of gauzes. The touch was soft.

With just one step, his line of sight suddenly widened.

He appeared in a forest that had been burned by the fire.

The air was filled with a special burnt smell, which was very pungent.

All he could see were dried and pitch-black tree branches. The ground was also covered in black ash. Just from the thick ash on the ground, one could tell how violent the fire was.

There were no sparks or thick smoke in the tree branches. It was obvious that the fire had burnt for some time.

At this moment, Gray led the troops to stand guard nearby. There was no battle.

Everything was safe.

[Ding~ You have entered a time fragment — Burning Village (1-star dungeon)]

[Main Mission Triggered: Protect White Tower Town and allow it to remain in the flames of war. Please explore the other sub-missions on your own.]

[Note 1: The time fragment is not in the same timeline as the main plane. Time fragment 10 days = 1 day in the main plane.]

[Note 2: In the time fragment, you can not open the Lord's Forum Chat.]

[Note 3: After completing the main mission or failing the main mission, you can leave the time fragment.]

The moment the system notification sounded, Richard turned his head to look behind him. At this time, there was no longer the shadow of the teleportation door behind him. There was only a burnt forest.

“It seems that there is no loophole in the one-way teleportation door. If I want to get out, I can only clear the dungeon.

“No, even if I fail, I can still go back... that’s interesting. But if I fail, I’m afraid I won’t be able to get any rewards.

“The main mission is to protect White Tower Town? Right now, we need to figure out where it is and how far it is from White Tower Town...”

After Richard thought for a moment, he immediately gave the order.

“Gray, you lead the team. Spread out the bandaged mummies and the scorpion warriors. Scout the surroundings and report back immediately if you encounter any enemies.”

Gray immediately began to make arrangements. He assigned the scorpion warriors to seven teams of bandaged mummies and went out to search as a team.

Richard used this time to read the description of the Black Gold System again.

[Burning Village, Dungeon Level: 1-star]

[Average Strength of Troops: Rare]

[With or Without Heroic Unit: Yes]

[Faction: Demon, Undead, Church, Human]

[Hint: Unable to level up the dungeon]

Demon, undead, church, human...two good factions, two evil factions.

“From the looks of it, this dungeon should be a battle between good and evil.

“Now, I need to figure out the surrounding environment and the specific situation of these factions before I can make a move.”

A 1-star dungeon shouldn't be too difficult.

However, the game “Shining Era” had already become the real world, so it wasn't a big mistake to be careful.

The biggest difference between the real world and the game was that the game had rules and logic, while reality never paid attention to logic. Anything could happen.

More than half an hour later.

Gray returned with a small team of bandaged mummies. The voice of the mummy hero was as empty as ever.

“Lord, we found a group of demons that attacked a human village on the east side of the forest.”

‘The demon and human camps had appeared?’

Richard was somewhat interested.

“What’s the situation now?”

Gray answered in detail.

“The demons are looking for a breakthrough in the human village. They haven’t launched an attack yet. Both sides are in a stalemate.

“There are more than three squadrons of demons. Among them, there are two squadrons of Elite 2-stars soldiers — inferior demons.

“One squadron of Rare 3-star soldiers—fallen demons.

“This troop has demon heroes commanding the battle.

“I’ve left two squadrons of bandaged mummies on guard.”

As expected of a dungeon. There were heroic units right from the start.

A troop led by a hero and a troop without a hero were two completely different concepts.

Not only could heroes command the army to fight, but they could also improve the overall strength of the army. Gray was the best example.

“Consolidate the troops and head to the human village immediately.”

“Yes, Lord!”

More than 20 minutes later, as they stepped on the thick black ash, the troop arrived at a small hill under Gray’s guidance.

Richard saw the village hundreds of meters away.

The village was surrounded by scorched trees, and the place was dead silent.

The structure of the human village was very special. Outside, there were tall houses made of rocks with shooting holes in them.

Hundreds of houses formed a huge oval-shaped building complex, which was no less than a fortress.

Among the houses, there was only one road that led to the inner part of the village.

At this time, several squadrons of demon troops glared at the tightly guarded tunnel.

The two sides were in a stalemate.

Although there were four to five hundred meters between them, the forest in front of them had been burned down by the fire. There was no cover, so Richard could see it clearly.

The thing that attracted his attention the most was naturally the demons.

The most numerous were the inferior demons that were about 1.7 meters tall.

The muscles on their bodies were covered with scars, and they bulge out one by one. They were much stronger than humans.

Their backs were bent, and their tails were long and thin. There were two curved horns on their heads, and three fingers were as sharp as daggers. Sharp fangs grew out of their big bloody mouths.

An evil aura gushed out. Perhaps, there was no more standard image of a demon than this.

[Inferior Demon]

[Level: 4]

[Potential: Elite 2-stars]

[Skills: Demon's Body (E-rank) — Defense increases by 30%. Immune to plagues and diseases.]

[Chaotic Nature (E-rank) — When in a frenzy, strength increases by 50%, at the same time, it will attack everyone around it.]

[Sharp Long Claws (E-rank) — Sharpness of sharp claws increases by 30%.]

[Race Talent: Desire to kill. Strength will increase by 50% in battle. However, the longer you battle, the easier it is to fall into chaos.]

[Shackle Demon: When the number of demons exceeds 10, strength will increase by 20%, and chaos will increase by 20%.]

[When the number of demons exceeds 30, strength will increase by 40%, and chaos will increase by 40%.]

[When the number of demons exceeded 50, their strength would increase by 60%, and their chaos would increase by 60% (activated).]

[Description: These chaotic lifeforms can only be accommodated in the abyss.]

The fallen demons were even more terrifying.

They were 1.8 meters tall and had a pair of small wings that could not fly on their backs.

They held a long handle in their hands. The other end of the handle was connected to a metal ball filled with sharp spikes through chains. When they swung the handle, they would emit a metallic friction sound that was unique to metal.

These terrifying evil creatures kept producing creepy sounds, like countless vengeful spirit whispers in one's ear, that could make one's heart tremble.

[Fallen Devil]

[Level: 5 (Elite, strength increased by 15%.)]

[Potential: Rare 3-stars]

[Skills: Fallen into the Abyss (D-rank) — Use the abyss blasphemy to make a terrifying murmur. The person who hears the abyss blasphemy will fall into a trance. If the willpower test fails, the person will completely sink and transform into a new devil.]

[Demon Body (D-rank) — Defense increases by 50%, immune to plagues and diseases.]

[Demon's Fury (D-rank) When the rage is high, the strength will increase by 50%. At the same time, it will cause the demons around to enter a berserk state.]

[Race Talent: The life of a demon affected by the demon's murmur, will listen to their commands for eternity. After death, the soul will belong to the fallen demon.]

[Shackle Evil Demon: When the number of demons exceeds 10, corrosion of the fallen abyss skill increased by 20%.]

[When the number of demons exceeds 10, corrosion of the Fallen into Abyss skill increases by 40%.]

When the number of demons exceeds 10, and corrosion of the Fallen into Abyss skill increases by 60% (activated).]

[Description: Covering your ears can not stop the corrosion of the Fallen into Abyss's blasphemy on the soul.]

After Richard looked at the attributes of the two demons, his eyes focused.

Sure enough, one could not underestimate the enemy.

Although the inferior demons were a little funny, the attributes of the fallen demons were not simple.

While he pondered, he looked at the center of the demons.

One carriage after another was pulled by a small team of inferior demons.

The inferior demons were chained, and they were used as livestock.

A tall demon with a flame whip in his hand sat on the carriage.

He wore black armor, and his face was more ferocious than the other demons.

'Crack!'

The flame whip waved, and the flame tail exploded in the air. A crisp sound mixed with the heat was heard.

The inferior demons and the fallen demons trembled when they heard the sound, and they felt great fear.

Demon hero...

Chapter 80: Jumped Out of Frame

Richard looked at the demon with a unique aura. He curiously opened its stats panel.

[Barossa Bloodthirsty (Flame Demon)]

[Hero Unit]

[Level: 5 (Elite hero, magic damage increases by 30%.)]

[Potential: D-rank]

[Class: Demon Commander (Ordinary, spellcasting effect increases by 5%.)]

[Mana: 200 points (Recovers 2 points per second)]

[Skill: Enslave Demons (D-rank) — Wields the flame whip in hand, forcibly represses the demon troop under one's command.]

[Soul Whip Tap (D-rank) — When lashed with a flame whip, the demon deals direct soul damage and inflicts excruciating pain.]

[Bloodlust (D-rank) — Allows subordinates to thirst for blood and slaughter, increases strength by 30%. Deprives pain perception. Lasts for 3 minutes. Cooldown Time: 5 minutes, consumes 50 mana.]

[Petrified Skin (D-rank) — Makes the subordinates' skin as hard as a rock. Increases defense by 30%. Lasts for 3 minutes. Cooldown Time: 5 minutes, consumes 50 mana points.]

[Hero Characteristic: Increases strength of all demons by 20% when commanding them.]

[Race Talent: The more demons the commander has, the stronger he is.]

[Tie-commander: The commander has more than one company of demon troops. The troops' efficiency in carrying out orders has increased by 20%.]

[The demon troop led by the commander has more than three squadrons, and the troops' efficiency in carrying out orders has increased by 40% (activated).]

[The demon troop led by the commander has more than five squadrons, and the troops' efficiency in carrying out orders has increased by 60%.]

[Description: The demon commander can give orders to the chaotic demons in battle. And it is best not to let them gather vast troops.]

This demon hero not only had two buff spells, but they were also very compatible with the demons.

Using a whip to suppress the chaos of the demons and make them listen to orders was perhaps, a characteristic of the demons.

Common sense could not infer the lives of the chaotic evil faction.

“All inferior demons, listen up! Attack and destroy this village! Devour their souls!”

The roar of the abyssal blasphemy interrupted Richard’s thoughts.

He did not know this kind of evil language, but he understood what the demon commander meant.

It was the characteristic of a high-level language, close to the power of magic.

‘Woo! Woo!’

The demon’s deep horn sounded.

‘Pak!’

The commander’s flame whip waved in the air and exploded into a flame.

The surrounding inferior demons with ferocious expressions trembled, immediately roared, and charged forward.

However, they could not fight in a disciplined manner even with their commander due to the chaotic nature of the battle. Instead, they charged forward.

The demon commander once again waved its long flame whip, and a red light enveloped the dozens of inferior demons who charged at the front.

Petrified Skin!

The inferior demons only felt a powerful force that surged into their bodies, and their bodies became hard.

They immediately fell into excitement.

The tunnel into the village was concave.

Dozens of arrows shot out as the inferior demons got closer.

But with the fortification of their petrified skin, they didn't dodge at all. Instead, they charged at the arrows.

The arrows hit them as if they had hit a thick cotton coat, and their lethality was greatly reduced.

However, the pain did not stop the strong-willed inferior demons. Instead, they went crazy from the intense pain.

At this moment.

“Release!!”

In the depths of the tunnel, five crossbows stood side by side. The cold arrowheads reflected the unique light of metal.

Arrows as thick as an arm flew out after a cold shout.

‘Puchi!’

The inferior demons in front of them strung up like candied haws.

Blood splattered everywhere.

They were unable to block the crossbows even with the Petrified Skin spell.

The smell of fresh blood made inferior demons’ scarlet pupils turn even more violent.

They charged forward and roared furiously. The human soldiers at the back also roared and charged forward at this moment.

Close combat!

The battle instantly turned bloody.

“Quickly pull the crossbows to the second line of defense! Archers, fire with all your might! We must not let these damned demons enter our village!!”

Even the bravest veteran would have a heavy heart fighting against demons in close combat.

Richard could not see the battle in the depths of the tunnel. But the arrows disappeared from the outermost layer of the human body. So he could know just how much pressure the demons had put on them.

“Lord, when do we launch the attack?”

Gray asked in a deep voice.

Richard was about to answer when the system’s notification rang in his ear.

[Ding~ Triggered the side quest—a choice between good and evil.]

[You witnessed a demon attack on a human village.]

[1. You can choose to join the human camp and fight against the demon together.]

[2. You can choose to join the demon camp and invade a human village together.]

[3. You can either stand by and watch or turn around and leave.]

[Note: It is currently in the free exploration mode. The reward of the side quest is unknown. You can make any choice, and every choice you make will affect your next encounter.]

'A choice between good and evil?'

A hint of playfulness flashed in Richard's eyes.

'Sorry, I'm in the neutral camp...'

"The main mission is to protect White Tower Town. There's no reason why the side quest has nothing to do with the main mission."

Richard gave a decisive order.

"Gray, get ready for battle!"

“After the demons throw all their forces into battle, you will lead your troop to attack the demon hero. You must not let him live! After strangling the demons, take over the village. We need to learn more from them. Moreover, this dungeon only has four factions—demons, undead, holy church, and humans. It’s too monotonous. Twilight City doesn’t mind becoming the fifth camp.”

Since Richard could explore freely, he wasn’t willing to complete the mission honestly.

Two things gave him the greatest feeling of jumping out of the framework, from Adele’s hero recruitment mission to the sudden incident at the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce.

He recruited the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce first before he recruited Adele. Also, he honestly didn’t save the Phoenix-Tail Flower Chamber of Commerce from the desert bandits. Instead, he obtained the precious blueprint of the Hero’s Altar, which couldn’t be considered as a reward under normal logic.

This meant that there was not only one path for the mission of the game “Shining Era.”

Moreover, the main task was to protect White Tower Town, but there was no stipulation on how to protect the mission.

When it heard Richard’s words, the faint blue soul fire in Gray’s empty eye sockets burned fiercely.

This mummy hero especially admired and respected the spirit of his lord.

“As you wish, Great Lord!”

