

## Unfathomable 301

### Chapter 301

“The hero summoning can be performed? What a wondrous occasion!”

“It hasn’t been performed in many generations.”

“We might really be free of the demon lords and take back our lost lands!”

The people cheered while Zhang Dong on the other hand was to the side listening. It sounded like the people here would be performing some kind of ‘Hero Summoning’. If he went by the knowledge from his more nerdy days he kind of knew what this would bring.

‘Will they really summon people from outside? Could they be from my original world?’

He was the only one here that really understood from where these ‘heroes’ were coming from. Just like him before they might be clicking on a strange email and getting transported. There could be other ways of them being transported here but one thing was clear.

‘If they can summon people into this castle then one of the cubes must be close by... probably right under it...’

With this reveal came the good news. With a fully functional nucleus, he might be able to boost his chances of getting home. There were a few problems with this though.

‘I don’t think this king will just let me dig under his castle, the cube might even be in the summoning chamber directly.’

Zhang Dong was just a summoned spirit, he couldn’t just take the castle apart to find the item that he needed. The king was stronger than him in his current form, getting the girls to aid him against their own monarch would probably not be possible. There was also another problem with his plan, mainly these new heroes.

What would happen if he took the thing that brought them here with him. After absorbing it, the cube would lose all of its teleporting capabilities. The people being brought over here would be stuck here forever.

‘But is there even a way back home? I’ll have to observe and decide later...’

There was a possibility of just swiping the cube and running for it. That wasn’t really his style though, his morals kept him from betraying Beatrice and the people that he was helping here.

“We will be performing the summoning ritual soon, please everyone gather in the hall outside!”

The person that looked like a high-class Butler proclaimed while the nobles shuffled outside. Apparently, the ritual wouldn’t be taking place in any chamber but somewhere out of the castle.

When everyone stepped outside they could see a cleared-out space. It was clear that there was something like a large garden or a hedge maze here before but it had been cleared out.

Instead, there were five large pillars that were connected by a magic circle. Inside of it was a large podium that was surrounded by a pentagram. After reading all of the books he was sure that this was akin to a teleportation formation. He even tried to recall the one that he saw back in his own world, the one under the spot that he appeared in.

‘It is similar...the cube might be below this area or somewhere in the general vicinity.’

He wasn’t sure about the range these teleportation spots had. In his world, it was directly under the open field he appeared in but it was buried several kilometers below ground. If he didn’t have his system map he would have never found it in the first place.

‘The range is still too small...’

When the people were gathering he started to move around with his map out. There were no dark spots on it even when he was standing outside with the others. There was nothing more that he wanted to do but dig underground but he had to wait till this ceremony was over. First, he needed to see this so-called summoning ritual being performed.

‘Bob, record everything that will be happening. Maybe if you get more data on this teleportation circle we can use it to get me home faster.’

The problem of getting home was the route. Only after escaping this world would he be able to triangulate the world where his wife and kids were. But now when this grand summoning ritual was taking place there was a chance of getting more data. He might be even able to tell where these ‘heroes’ were summoned from.

“Isn’t it great Mr. Leigong, I would have never dreamed about being able to witness a hero summoning.”

Beatrice said while standing to the left of Zhang Dong.

“This is truly a joyous occasion.”

Isabella commented while she was on the right along with some other nobles from her friend circle. There was a lot of space here so everyone could look at this ritual.

“Hm, is it?”

He replied while rubbing his chin. From his perspective being summoned to another world was a traumatic experience. Now if he was dropped off here with many strange noblemen and noble ladies looking at him he would be even more traumatized.

There were guards and wizards all over the place. It looked like they were expecting a demonic being to appear there and not a hero. What would happen to the people that were forcibly brought over here?

It looked like this king wouldn’t take a no for an answer. The heroes would probably start out fairly weak which would not help Zhang Dong with his situation. There was also a possibility that they would come with some kind of cheats included. This could hasten the process of them heading to the demon continent and getting the DemonKing.

“Is there something wrong Mr. Leigong, you look troubled?”

Beatrice turned to Zhang Dong, the white-haired man was intently looking at the summoning circle while everything was being prepared. Apparently thanks to the stars aligning in the right way this very moment it would be possible to summon these people. He himself knew that this was probably a lie and somewhere a cube was going to power this teleportation function.

“Ah, it’s nothing.”

It was finally time to start the ceremony. Many mages in blue robes gathered around this summoning circle and there was a large number of mana stones gathered as well. These stones were similar to spirit stones but Zhang Dong wasn’t able to absorb their energy as he could with the ones from his own world.

The king was just looking at everything from afar without even coming out from the castle. He was up on a large balcony and just sitting on a large chair. There were other people with him with various hair colors. It was clear that this guy had multiple spouses and children, Zhang Dong could spot at least 10 youths of various ages along with four women there. The king couldn’t hold a candle to Zhang Jin but probably for this type of world, he was in that ballpark.

Soon the chanting commenced, the magical circle lit up in deep blue and started shining. The sun had already set so it was quite the mythical show. Tiny blue lights danced around while forming the spell formation.

‘World rift detected.’

Bob sounded the alarm while Zhang Dong looked up to the sky. The clouds were opening up as rays of blue light descended to this magic pentagram. With his enhanced vision he could see something in that hole in the sky. The image was flickering about but he could somewhat see into that world.

‘Are those cars? ... what country is that... ’

It was clearly a similar world that he came from, if it was the same was unknown. He couldn’t make out too much as the portal was opening from above the clouds so he could only see skyscrapers and cars that looked like small ants.

‘I think I have seen that tower somewhere, wait... could it be?’

“Now everyone, the stars will align, pour all of your mana into the summoning circle!”

The main court mage shouted out while everyone focused. The magical pentagram started shining brightly and a column of light shot up into the sky above. It was really bright and even caused some of the nobles to avert their eyes. Zhang Dong on the other hand was staring at the whole display with much interest.

‘Bob, try to find the nuclei, it will probably give off some kind of energy signal when this summoning spell is activated... Also, what are my probabilities of survival if I jump through that hole in the sky right now?’

‘Calculating... data inconclusive...’

‘I figured...’

He could try jumping through this gate to another world but if he would be able to go through it was another thing. Then if he ended up in that world would he even be able to survive? What if it was his old mundane world and he would lose access to his system altogether? Then returning to his new home would be impossible.

In the end, he decided against diving into the large hole in the sky. It was more probable to gather to just gather more cube energy here and draw up a teleportation circle himself.

Soon more and more light burst through the sky and covered the entire area in warm light. Zhang Dong could feel someone slipping through the opening and being transported to this place.

‘One... two... four people?’

Even before the light stopped shining he could tell that there was more than one person present. The light began to fade and the opening in the clouds vanished from this world entirely.

‘Bob, did you get it?’

‘Affirmative, the location is 12....’

His trusty AI started listing him the geographical location of where the signal originated from. To his dismay, it wasn’t directly under this summoning circle but a bit to the side, which would put it directly under the castle. It was also quite far beneath the ground, further than the one that he spotted in his own world.

‘Damn, that puts me out of range of Beatrice and Isabella...’

If he ever wanted to go down there he would need to at least take Beatrice with him. How to explain the plan of digging down beneath the castle was something that he would need to come up with.

“It’s the heroes!”

“It really worked, the legendary heroes have arrived!”

Some of the younger nobles cheered while looking at the platform where the people were summoned to. Everything was quite loud and the youths out on the platform looked quite confused.

“Koko wa doko?”

“Hm?”

Zhang Dong listened to one of the summoned heroes speak up in a different language. This was a language that he was familiar with due to watching certain animated movies back in his old shut-in days.

What he saw was a group of dark-haired Asians. There was one youth of about fifteen or sixteen years of age and around him were three young girls. The group of girls varied in age, size, and demeanor.

There was the young sister type with twin tail hairs. There was the busty older sister with quite the chest. Then to end it there was the one in the middle that more or less was a combination of the two. The young man on the other hand looked quite average, he wasn’t that tall or muscular, just normal in all sense of it.

“Is... Is that a harem protagonist?”

## Chapter 302

What Zhang Dong was looking at was a group of high school kids. They were wearing matching school uniforms and even carrying bags. It was clear that the summoning ritual forcefully pulled them over here.

This was different from how he got here. After filling up that strange email his mind was transported into the body of Zhang Dong. His previous persona of Matt was slowly being faded away through all these years.

In his mind, he would always go back to his core beliefs but it was clear that he was slowly changing with time. Killing enemies and defending his loved ones was the biggest reason for that. Now he was a leader, one that needed to make hard decisions and prioritize the many over the few.

Now, these four were put in a similar situation but instead of leading others, they were here to kill demons. Those creatures didn't pose a threat to someone as powerful as he was but to non-combatants as these, it would probably be hard to stomach.

He also robbed them of a few encounters by taking out three of these archdemons during his travels. Thus he might have saved them from actually having to participate.

‘Were these children supposed to arrive here at this time?’

Zhang Dong started thinking, he wasn't here for long. Only about a month had passed since his arrival. If these youths came at this very moment the demons back in the academy wouldn't have even shown themselves.

If he took this as a generic plot to a movie or novel then the kids here would be the protagonists. They would go through their training phase slowly fighting progressively more powerful demons till finally taking out one of the demon lords. The ones he fought were of similar power but they got progressively stronger with each iteration.

‘I wonder if they also have some kind of system like me...’

He turned to Bob, his Ai companion. He wasn't visible to anyone besides him here as he resided in his soul world and reacted to inner voice commands.

‘Scanning... scanning... affirmative, signs of similarities to the user's system detected.’

After nodding he continued to look at the quartet. The kids sure looked confused with so many people staring at them. Even more, considering they were of a different race and from a different world. He didn't notice it before but black hair was rarer here than blond or even the other exotic colors like green and blue.

‘Interesting... now what will this King do with these kids....’

“The heroes are here but the language they are speaking is foreign to us, mages!”

The butler-looking person called out to the group of mages. They quickly moved in to deliver some kind of accessories which they then tried giving to the scared kids. They looked to be earrings, probably they would convert the sound and let the youths hear this place's language.

There was a slight problem that these people miscalculated. These adolescent youths weren't that trusting of the people gathered here. Everyone was looking at them as if they were zoo animals. The smallest girl quickly went behind the oldest while the only male from the group tried going forward to block the approaching mages with his body.

'Hm, at least he isn't a coward... though I can see that he is quite afraid himself...'

Zhang Dong could tell that the boy was sweating, his eyes were darting all around. It was clear that he was under a lot of stress but the mages continued pushing forward with outstretched hands, some of them even stepped forward while trying to put one of the earrings on one of the girls.

"Hey, get away from me you weirdo!"

The girl delivered a swift kick to the middle age mage that was going towards her. The man was clearly not expecting this as he fell on his butt while grasping his stomach. This girl looked like the more sporty type that was prone to anger, the look on her face was quite dejected.

"Is everything okay... the heroes look scared..."

Beatrice commented from the side while everyone looked at the scene playing itself out. It was clear that these kids weren't prepared for the summoning. The people here were quite mistaken in thinking that the heroes would just accept this sudden turn of events.

Zhang Dong on the other hand knew very well how they felt. He also was scared when he first arrived in a strange new world. There were monsters lurking in every corner but he was lucky enough to have an iron body to protect himself. He wasn't sure if these youths started out with enhanced capabilities. Their form of world travel was different than his so probably not.

"Don't worry, let me handle this..."

The King that was hanging out in the back looked progressively angrier. If he didn't do anything about this, there could be consequences for these rowdy high schoolers.

Thanks to him being quite of a weeb in his old days he had sat through many anime shows alike. Now with his enhanced intelligence, he was able to piece the language together that he once heard. The people here couldn't understand what these scared youths were saying but he on the other hand could.

"Wait, what is that spirit doing..."

The king wasn't alone in his booth, he was there with his current queen as well as with his concubines. His children and current crown prince were also here. This young man was in his early twenties and had a similar stern look like his father.

"Interesting... let us see what that spirit does..."

The king proclaimed which made everyone in this booth quiet down. Anyone besides the crown prince was afraid to utter a word, even he went silent the moment his father spoke up.

Down on the ground Zhang Dong had arrived at the scene of the summoning. Even before speaking to the high schoolers, he had Bob perform more scans on this area.

“Calm down, no one is going to hurt you.”

He proclaimed in Japanese while looking at the group of four. The girl that kicked the mage managed to get herself his staff and was now swinging it around against the others. The young man on the other hand was shielding the other two girls with concern in his eyes.

“W-what is this place, who are you people?”

“This is going to take a while to explain but let me ask you this first, are you really from Japan?”

The four looked at each other and then back to the somewhat imposing Zhang Dong. He was much larger than the kids and also looked out of place even among these mages. It was normal for them to also fear him but he was the only one that could speak their language.

“Y-yes, but where are we?”

Zhang Dong wanted to ask them about things concerning his old world. Things like the president from a popular country or what year it was. These youths could be from an Earth similar to his but not from the actual one that he came from. First, he had to talk them down and accept those earrings though, without them they wouldn't be able to communicate.

“Well, this is another world. These people have summoned you to be their heroes. A somewhat selfish reason if I might add.”

“Another world?”

The boy asked while his eyes got big.

“Yes, I bet you saw many shows or read some books, it should have been a very popular genre in fiction...”

“How can this be another world? Take us back home!”

The sporty girl shouted out while pointing at him with the stolen mage staff.

“I wish I could but I'm not the one that summoned you here, it was the people from this world.”

“From this world? You speak as if you don't belong here...”

The one that spoke out now was the oldest girl with the largest assets that was hugging the youngest girl against them. Zhang Dong wanted to not disclose the information about him coming from a different world. He didn't really know the character of these four, telling them all of his secrets could bite him in the behind down the line.

Yet he felt a kinship with them. They were as he was, tossed into another world without any notice. The only real difference was that they weren't alone when coming here but they also weren't quite as strong. He could tell from just looking, they were just regular untrained humans. There was a certain potential behind them though, probably attributed to a similar system that he had.

“You’re quite observant, yes I’m also like you, a person from another world, though my origins are a bit different than yours...”

The four looked at him while he tried to smile. Being soft-spoken and kind-looking wasn’t really his forte. Mostly what he did was look mysterious or be a reliable teacher. He was still working on the reliable part though.

“What are they talking about, shouldn’t we stop them? How does it know the language of the heroes? Was it a hero before?”

People at the sidelines continued to watch as the summoned Spirit that belonged to Beatrice conversed with the Heroes. There were a lot of rumors about him, maybe now they would think that he was some kind of born-again legendary hero.

“Enough, tell them to accept the magical devices.”

A rumble was heard from behind as the King finally spoke out. His voice wasn’t loud but thanks to the infusion of mana it could be heard by everyone here. The group of high school kids trembled for a second as the voice and mana that was carried with it washed over them. It was something that their bodies weren’t used to so they instantly dropped down to their knees while panting.

“This guy has no tact...”

Zhang Dong waved his hand which caused the mana that was pushed out by the King to vanish. It looked like the man was trying to assert some dominance over these kids here. Regretfully if it came down to a fight, in his current state Zhang Dong would be on the losing end.

“We don’t have much time, listen here. Don’t trust the King and the people here, they just want to use you but for now, you will have to follow their instructions. The earrings that they offered you will allow you to understand their language. You probably aren’t aware of it yet but you have certain capabilities that will let you grow strong in a short amount of time. Use this time well but with some luck, you won’t need to act.”

Zhang Dong quickly told them the bare bones of what they needed to know. The most important fact was not to trust the people here. They would probably try to pull them to their side and use them as disposable pawns in their fight against the demons. What would happen to them after that was done was up to debate.

“I’ll try to visit you later, for now just listen to what they tell you but be careful and best to keep our conversation for yourself.”

He picked up an earring that had fallen down and handed it to the male of the group before heading out. While leaving he looked at the king that was glaring in his direction.

‘Ah, he has such a punchable face...’

After groaning inwardly he decided to go back to Beatrice and the group she was in. The heroes finally decided to put on the earrings and the ceremony continued, now without his involvement.

‘I wonder if I could dig up that cube... Well, not like it’s going anywhere. I can focus on the demons, for now. Then come back and dig it up later...’



He thought to himself while moving back to his summoner, the day as not yet over so he would take his time to keep an eye on these new world travelers.

### **Chapter 303**

“Sato-kun are you sure we can trust that person...”

“I don’t know...”

“I don’t like that king, he had a condescending look!”

The group of youngsters were talking while gathered in one room. This was already the following day after the summoning occurred.

All of them were on the way to school while they were trapped in the summoning ritual. The male youth of the party was called Sato Takeshi. He was just a regular average boy at the age of sixteen. The only thing that caught a person’s eye when looking at him was how average he was.

Then there was his class mate Takagi Ami. She was the one that kicked the mage when he was offering them the earrings. She and Takeshi were childhood friends and had known each other since they were small.

Lastly, there were two sisters, Sakura that was the youngest at 13, and Yua Yamamoto was the oldest at 17. They were his neighbors and all of them always met up on the same street while going to school. This time on the other hand they were blasted into a foreign land and greeted by magical beings.

“The king was scary but the prince was...”

Sakura blushed a bit while happily munching on some sweets that were given to them by the castle maids. All of them were being treated quite well, given new fashionable clothes and interesting food that they had never tasted before.

“Which one? There were like... five of them?”

“Hm... the one with green hair!”

Sakura replied after Ami asked her this question. The girl tried remembering which one that was but there were two that fit the bill. The shades of hair colors in this world were quite confusing.

“What about that white-haired man? They called him Leidong? Do you think he is more trustworthy?”

Yua asked Sato again while the other two girls were eating the sweets. It looked like those two weren’t taking things as seriously as the rest.

“I think it was Leibong. He did speak our language but I’m not sure we can trust him either, he might be hiding something from us”

“That guy? Are you sure you aren’t jealous of his looks Takeshi?”

Ami smirked at the youth while he frowned at the question. It was true that he couldn’t compare in any shape or form to that Leigong character but that wasn’t the problem. This person was apparently like

them, from another world. He also placed a seed of doubt in them by telling them not to trust the king or the people here.

“That person wasn’t wrong, the people here are strange... they are letting us have all these things but we aren’t allowed to leave this room without an escort...”

Ami said while finishing up some food. It might have seemed like they were being wined and dined but there was a restriction placed on them. They were unable to go out, they needed to ask for permission. Even now there were armored guards outside this very door and they were placed here to wait for further instructions.

“What do you think big sis?”

Yua thought for a moment before smiling and clapping her hands together.

“I think we can trust that person, he seemed genuine.”

“If big sis says we can trust him, then we can trust him!”

The youngest girl with the twin tails commented while moving both her hands up into the air.

“I’m very happy that I am so trusted!”

A manly voice resounded through this room and the youngsters jumped up the moment they heard it. It was clearly the voice of the man they spoke to previously. The group wasn’t wearing the translation earrings at this moment and speaking in their native language. The white-haired man was the only one that could understand them here.

“C-cute...”

The first to notice him was the youngest girl. Zhang Dong had squeezed in through the closed window as a mass of magic particles and reformed his body into his small form. He was now a rather cute version of himself at a whole eleven inches of height.

“By the way... It’s Leigong, not Leidong...”

He had decided to pay them a visit. After he was done with his talk he was unable to converse with the kids anymore. They were moved over to meet up with the king, there a long-winded speech ensued about needing their help to save the world. They were clearly trying to somehow bring them over to their side. It was clear to him that they only saw these kids as a potential war asset.

The visit with the king wasn’t the only thing that they went through. They were also clued in about their versions of the system. Previously Zhang Dong had figured that there was no such thing as that in this world but that was only for the regular people living here. These youths on the other hand were different.

They were able to access a game-like interface that closely resembled an RPG game system. They apparently had things like strength, agility, intelligence, and other attributes that they could see themselves. It was somehow similar to his own system but he could only measure people by cultivation levels. This system that the kids had was a bit different and more akin to a game than his own.

Only these high schoolers had access to it just like him. After the activation, they were taught to use some skills like identification. They just needed to concentrate a bit on the desired item or person and think about it. They would then have a description of it in their status. The description depended on the intelligence stat and the skill level and also on the level difference.

If they tried to examine Zhang Dong they would only get question marks. This was also what most of them were doing. The question marks along with the red color proved that he was way out of their league.

“You won’t be able to see my statistics, even if you strain your eyes that much, little missy...”

Sakura the youngest one was not good at hiding her attempts at scanning.

“Who are you calling little? You’re shorter than me!”

“Hah, this form is only temporary. You on the other hand are probably past your growth spurt.”

Sakura was quite short compared to the rest of the young people here, even for her age she would be considered quite meager. He wanted to laugh as the young girl started going red in the cheeks and pouting. The other youths in the room weren’t that relaxed though and he couldn’t fault them for it.

“Getting used to the new world? I see they have you under lock.”

He floated around in his small form which made the kids realize that this was really a different world filled with magic.

“Don’t be concerned, I just wanted to discuss a few things with you. If everything goes as planned you will be able to return back home without even facing any demon or monster.”

The small group had heard about the battle against the demons that the people were having but there wasn’t anything specific. They were to train with some knights and get used to the equipment. Each and every one of them had some specialized skills along with a corresponding Hero class.

Takeshi had the ‘Sword Hero’ class, Yua had the ‘Healing Hero’ Class, Sakura was a ‘Mage Hero’ and Ami was a ‘Fist Hero’. Two close-range fighters and two supports looked to be your generic setup, the thing they lacked was a thief or an archer.

From the class names, it was painfully obvious what archetype everyone was given. The only male in the group had the popular sword as the main weapon. It seemed like he would be the main character while the girls acted more as supporters.

Even now Zhang Dong could feel like there was something off here. After further examination and with the help of Bob he figured out why. Takeshi was apparently the only one with a full system while his friends had only some pseudo ones that were connected to his own. It was clear that he was the protagonist of this story just like Matt as Zhang Dong was of his own.

“Why should we trust you?”

Takeshi stepped forward while looking down at the smaller Zhang Dong.

“Would you rather trust that King? Or did you fall for one of the princesses already?”

He was on the sidelines during the introduction but the King of this country didn't act very welcoming. He just sat there on his throne while not saying much. He had one of the princes use his charm on the girls while a pink-haired princess was all over Takeshi. The youth acted similar to him when he had his first experience and was probably still shaken up to this very moment.

"He is right, you had a dirty look on your face Takeshi... animal!"

Ami commented while the three girls looked at the boy. They were clearly judging his performance from the day ago.

"Don't worry I'm not judging you but you have to hold back those hormones. You girls weren't better off, I saw you looking at that princes..."

Moss' head was quick to strike in trying to get into the good graces of Ami here. One of the older brothers on the other hand moved into court the other young ladies. They were all good-looking young men and women, these kids here stood no chance to their allure.

"What, I was not looking..."

"Oh my..."

Ami denied it all while Yua just grasped her cheeks and blushed. He wasn't really blaming them for acting like this as this was clearly done to keep them in check. Every hero would probably have a member of the royal family assigned to them like this. They were all beautiful in their own way and looked exotic to these youths.

"Well, I could teach you a skill to clear your mind and not be affected by your hormones if you let me but first we need to discuss some things."

Zhang Dong had sneaked in here before the youths could be led out to train. Thanks to Isabella's water spirit that could camouflage herself quite well he was able to gather some information.

They were planning to train the heroes up while also not allowing him to move as freely anymore. The king had ordered Isabella and Beatrice to remain in the city for now and also they were to help the heroes progress. They would be assigned to be their party members which meant that they would have to wait for them to grow enough.

He wouldn't just sit there twiddling his thumbs around, he had to figure out a way to get out of here sooner. The king was blocking him from moving forward into the demonic continent where the other demon lords resided. Taking him out was not an option as this would make Beatrice and Isabella an enemy of the whole kingdom.

The only way out was to make these kids progress faster and for that, he needed to know how their system worked. By knowing the ins and outs he was thinking of doing some good old-fashioned power leveling.

Luckily apparently below this very castle, there was some strange dungeon that only opened up when the heroes were summoned. It appeared to be the training spot for them, maybe there he could raise their levels to the stratosphere.

"Let us start with how I got here and then I can explain my plan to you..."

## Chapter 304

“Um...Leigong-san are you sure this is the best way to do this?”

“What do you mean? Of course, it is, now stab it through the eye... though I think you could also do it through the ear, just be sure to hit the brain.”

Takeshi, dressed in light armor and with a steel sword in his hand was looking at Zhang Dong who was holding something. It was a large orc looking monster, it was the type of orc that was more pig like but also had green skin.

“You must land the last hit to get the experience you’ll get even more if it’s a critical hit, aim for the eye!”

The youth with the sword wasn’t alone here, with him was the whole party of girls. They were all looking from the sidelines. Some of them were covering their eyes while others were peeking from between their fingertips.

“O-okay...”

Takeshi took off running and activated one of the basic skill called ‘Sword Thrust’. His steel sword started glowing in blue before increasing in speed and penetrative power. The Orc was subdued and stationary so it was quite easy to land the critical hit through the eye socket.

“UuRGhhh...”

The orc cried out for a moment before succumbing to the deadly injury. Soon its body disintegrated into many tiny particles. These small glowing dots formed a torrent of energy and headed towards Takeshi and entered his body. Soon the youth watched as his status screen popped out before his face signaling him that he gained a couple of levels.

“See that wasn’t that hard!”

“Y-yeah...”

Zhang Dong looked at the people gathered here. They were in a special dungeon that was opened up right after the Heroes received their classes and unlocked their class system. He was sure it had something to do with this world’s scenario as this place was clearly a tutorial stage that helped these kids earn levels easily.

This dungeon had many levels and was situated directly under the capitol castle. It reminded him of the smaller version of Cthulhu that he fought. It also was right at the spot that he appeared on and was corrupting weaker monsters that he could train against. It was his first real obstacle that let him achieve a small breakthrough in his own demeanor. Only after defeating that monster did he start to gain confidence.

Now these youths were in a similar situation. Thanks to Isabella’s and Beatrice’s positions they were able to wiggle into a spot at the heroes party. There was actually quite a large number of people here. Just like he thought the members of the royal family were trying to weasel their way into the hearts of these heroes.

There were princes in costly shiny armor here along with the cute princes that was adept at buffing magic. She was constantly staying close to Takeshi and batting her long eyelashes at him. Even though Zhang Dong had told him to not trust them the young man was not good at listening.

The youth was constantly blushing and sneaking in peeks at the pink haired princess. It was clear that this was the first time that a beauty of this caliber had given him so much attention. There was no way of him not falling for her, he was barely sixteen with no experience at all. This all felt similar to his first real experience that he had so long ago with that one vixen.

‘I wonder if she is still at the sect...’

His thoughts trailed off to his home again. He had been trapped here for over a month now and time was ticking down. After defeating the three demon lords there was no new news about the other ones.

The first Demon lord of Pain he had forced out into the open. The second one was an established Archdemon with his own little territory that people knew about already. The monster was kept under wraps but no one could fully get rid of it till he came along. The last one had freshly descended into the human domain through a ritual and was also now gone.

Zhang Dong was out of options as he had already gone around the known continent and tried to find more demons. After his little eradication spree they were now in full hiding mode. The only place one of them could be in was one of the buried dwarven countries or somewhere on the island of the elves.

The former was unlikely as the long ears had a vast array of protective magic along with detection spells to counter any evil beings. Though the Principal was also an elf and she had a demon working for her as a maid. Thus there could be a high ringing demon hiding there but it was also possible that there were no more Demon Lords on this side.

It was possible that the two last Archdemons were waiting for them behind the huge barrier between continents. News of three of their generals being killed had probably reached their ears. It would be stupid of them to not be cautious and just continue invading in the same way as they did before.

“Oh my, Lord Takeshi let me bring you some water, you must be parched...”

“Ah, thank you Princess Delilah.”

While thinking about how to get the other two corrupt gems from the Demon Lords he was reminded why he came here. The Princess was all smiles and cheering on Takeshi while her handsome male counterparts were talking it up with the female heroes.

“But I didn’t really do much... Leigong-san held it in place.”

‘I thought this would be a harem route... but everyone is getting their own prince or princess to play around with...’

The same princess looked at him after Takeshi mentioned his name. He could tell that under those girly smiles there was anger and resentment. Due to his involvement these royal family members were having a hard time kissing up to the heroic party.

What he did was to examine their versions of the system. He needed to figure out how it worked and how to increase their fighting power further. Without these heroes getting to a certain point the King would not allow them to leave this place or go to the demon country.

To actually begin the invasion they would need the three great races to open up the barrier surrounding the continent. Zhang Dong had actually examined this barrier and could tell that without reaching at least the early realm of nascent soul he would have no way of going through it.

Attempting something like that would probably drain his human batteries which were Beatrice and Isabella. Even if he got the barrier open he would probably not have any energy left to contend with any of the demon lords for at least a day. The demonic army would probably just not sit idly by after the barrier was gone though. That approach could just doom the entire human race and all the others.

The system was a bit similar to his old one with mostly a switch in genre. Instead of cultivation realms, the high schoolers were shown classes and levels. They had one main hero class which was static while the subclasses could be advanced further.

Takeshi for instance was a Hero : Sword User, After reaching level ten he was able to change his class into Hero : Swordsman he was now at level fourteen and which also indicated that higher classes had more requirements for further evolution. The girls had the same options like changing from a Hero : Healer to a Hero : Cleric and so on.

How they gained experience and levels was very RPG like. They only needed to kill monsters and they would absorb the energy as experience which was then converted to levels. Zhang Dong also noticed that there wasn't much loss of anything after killing, almost all of the energy was quickly absorbed into their bodies. It was as if their bodies were perfectly created to get this energy.

Their skills would level up a bit differently. They received separate points that could then be spent to level up skills that they deemed worthy. There was also the possibility of leveling them up by using them and training. Just like with the Ork now, when Takeshi landed the killing hit while using his skill. He would get a lot more points to spend in his build like this than by training the skill himself repeatably by himself.

Thus he came up with the fastest way of giving the kids a boost by power leveling them. There was no loss in experience if he helped them, the person that scored the last hit would get most of the points. What he would do was to subdue the more powerful monsters and hold them in place with his overwhelming aura. Then one of the heroes would deliver a few blows to critical areas.

The biggest problem at first was their cleric, the shapely big sister was unable to deliver any kind of punishment to even the weakest monster. Luckily for them her magic had the holy attribute to it and there were some undead creatures in this maze like dungeon. He only needed to find a particular monster that each of these youths was good against.

Monsters weak to magic were pitted up against Sakura who was a mage. Ones that were weak to blunt attacks had to suffer under Ami's fists and kicks. While Takeshi took out mostly regular creatures that could be pierced by his sword or could have their head severed. He was the easiest to level up from the whole bunch and also had the highest stats. It was clear that he was the main protagonist of the story.

"Mr. Leigong do you need any help?"

Beatrice called out from the side while dressed in some battle gear. She was wearing a nice summoner robe that boosted her magic power. Next to her was a bored Isabella who was looking with disgust at a certain green haired prince.

“Not really, you both can relax and do some breathing exercises. These monsters are quite weak, if an Archdemon doesn’t pop up we should be fine.”

With the excuse of Hero protection he was assigned to this party along with his summoner. Lucky for them the King wasn’t that impressed with him for some reason. He wasn’t sure why but maybe he thought that he didn’t have anything to fear from a summoned spirit.

This was probably true as he was quite limited by his summoner. Zhang Dong feared that Beatrice’s life would be in danger if he ever got out of line. That didn’t mean that he wouldn’t act if the king got out of line. He was already thinking of a couple of bluffing tactics that he could use.

“Okay listen up kids, there is a boss chamber ahead of us! Here is the plan...”

Everyone perked up as due to Zhang Dong the whole adventure part of this trip was being called into question.

“I’ll hold it down and you’ll whack it. We’ll have to be sure that everyone gets enough whacks in to spread the experience out equally!”

The people narrowed their eyes and just continued forward. This type of fighting was easy but also quite boring.

“Now let us head out!”

## **Chapter 305**

A set of large doors were opened and a man dressed in a colorful tunic walked through them. He had his head lowered and quickly dropped down to one knee. Silence filled the room only when he heard the order did he reply.

“Speak.”

“Yes my King, we have news concerning the dungeon.”

“Mmm, how far have they gotten? Don’t tell me that they weren’t able to even get to the 10th floor?”

“No my King, actually...”

The man that came with the news stopped himself before speaking out as if scared to utter the next sentence.

“Get on with it!”

A malicious magical aura filled the room and brought the man down to both his knees.

“T-they completed the dungeon all the way to the 99th level and the heroes managed to find all of the holy weapons!”



The man was quick to reply and felt the weight be removed the moment he finished the sentence. He managed to peek up and noticed that the King had an unusual facial expression. Most of the time he looked mad and grumpy but this time around he seemed to be confused.

“It’s only been two weeks, how is this possible. The heroes of old were said to have spent many months before being able to complete it.”

“W-well my king... actually...”

“What is it now!”

The king smashed his hand into his large chair which made people flinch.

“They had apparently reached the 98th level within a week...”

The messenger painted a picture for the king. From what they knew the spirit that belonged to Beatrice was helping the youths gain levels at an increased pace. He would disable monsters for them and they would only deliver finishing blows.

The dungeon was a magical place built by an old sage from days past. No one really knew how it worked but it activated when the heroes arrived. The creatures inside would somehow miraculously regenerate themselves after a while and give the heroes power after they were slain.

This place was used to get the heroes up in strength to face the demon lords. It was there to put them on a somewhat equal footing or so said the legends.

Due to Leigong’s involvement what should have been a tiresome process of combat changed to a small expedition. The man reported that this spirit bulldozed through the lower levels not even giving the heroes a chance to level up. Only at about the middle level did he start letting them perform attacks.

Unbeknownst to the king and his aides, Zhang Dong was just performing a basic power leveling tactic. There didn’t seem to be any restrictions so he chose the strongest monsters available for the heroes to kill.

This was just basic mathematics. Why let the heroes fight monsters that gave 10 experience at a time when he could just let them deliver a critical blow to one that gave 1000 experience points. Holding them down didn’t seem to work against him, it was as if the system didn’t see his involvement as anything out of the ordinary.

The dungeon would end after the last boss was defeated so after arriving at the 98th floor he took the chance to level the kids up as far as they could. Only after the monsters started giving meager rewards did they move up to the final boss.

“It seems that the last floor was actually completed by the heroes without the spirit’s involvement...”

The king had retainers keeping an eye on everything happening in the dungeon. They did allow Beatrice and Isabella to participate thanks to their spirit. The king wanted to keep an eye on them and there was nothing better than examining how the spirit does against the dungeon monsters.

He had no way of knowing that they would finish it in about two weeks. The people that he sent inside weren't even able to send consistent reports. Everything was happening too fast as the whole hero party steamrolled through the monsters inside the dungeon.

The magical devices that they had to communicate with the outside were apparently also not working correctly. There was always static and it was hard to make out anything. Also due to the fast pace, there wasn't that much time to make a proper report. Even less when the scary Lightning Emperor was looking over their shoulders.

"So they managed to complete the secret dungeon?"

"Yes, my Liege!"

The man replied after being finished with the report. The dungeon went down and the party had food to last them for a month but no one expected for something like this to happen. The king thought that he would have half a year to slowly work on the heroes.

When they were weak and gullible it was the perfect time to place a seed of doubt in them. He was afraid that if they got too powerful they could turn against him. This was also why he was using his offsprings for courting.

He hoped that they would control the people from the other world through their emotions. The king even encouraged his kids to have sexual relations as a baby would tie the heroes to the royal family. Only with strong bonds like those would he be able to relax.

"It's that blasted spirit isn't it? No... could it be..."

Before continuing with his train of thought the king waved his hand to indicate that the messenger was allowed to leave. The man just bowed and quickly removed himself from the throne room glad that he could finally go rest.

"Bernard."

"Yes, your Majesty?"

The man that looked like a high-class butler appeared from the side and bowed before the king.

"What do our spies say at the Hohenberg house? Did they start moving?"

"Our people haven't been able to find anything out of place, it would seem that the Duke isn't involved."

"Impossible! Damn incompetent fools, tell them to get more information!"

The king started to rage while also causing his throne armrest to splinter into tiny chunks with his fist. The man called Bernard remained standing while being able to hold his composure. It was as if he was used to these outbursts.

Others could feel the castle rumbling as the King continued to let his emotions out. In time he managed to calm himself and sat back down on his destroyed throne.

"The Hohenbergs might still be holding a grudge since 'that' incident. This spirit might be just the beginning, prepare the men, make sure that everyone is on alert, and increase the guards. Be sure to

question the members that were with the hero party, we need to know if those Hohenberg's are plotting anything!"

Since Leigong showed up the King couldn't stop worrying. The spirit outmatched him in strength, the magical soul attacks were unable to harm it in any way. He was quite certain that if he struck fast he could take out the summoners before this spirit could act. The king was a very cautious man, there were far too many unknown factors here.

There were situations where a spirit went berserk the moment their summoner was slain. It could function for a couple of minutes which could be enough to deliver a deathly blow. This was mostly the reason why he hadn't done anything, fearing that this overpowered spirit could kill him after he crippled its summoner.

There was also the whole predicament with Duke Hohenberg. The man had a large territory and army of flying dragons. The man could also come asking for trouble or even go to another kingdom for aid. There was too much risk in acting for now but something had to be done as the heroes had progressed away from schedule and before he could prepare more contingencies.

Before a new plan of action could be thought through the whole castle started to rumble. It started off slowly but soon transformed into a giant earthquake that caused the marble floors to crack.

"What is this? Is the Demon King attacking?"

The magical king spread his senses to try to find the cause of these tremors. But even when he looked far and wide he couldn't spot any demonic energies or any foreign attackers coming from outside. His attention was then moved towards the lower regions and he noticed something.

"The secret dungeon is crumbling?"

He could feel that the many tunnels that were below the castle started to cave in. It wasn't an attack from outside, nor did any monsters pour from within the premises. The dungeon that was under the castle for many generations started to crumble.

"How could this be, the legends never said anything about this?"

The man looked to his retainers that were running around like headless chickens. The castle was shaking violently while slowly sinking down. This wasn't the first time that a hero summoning had been done. The dungeon was used by previous generations and even after the last boss was slain nothing like this was written down in the texts of old.

During the chaos, he also felt something, a massive surge of power coming from below. His eyes went wide as this strange power even overshadowed his own. Soon the person to whom this power belonged appeared.

He was hard to distinguish due to the large golden bubble of light surrounding him and his companions.

'It's that damn spirit again... how could he be this powerful?'

The large sphere of holy energy burst through the ground and was now floating above the whole castle. It continued to shake and sink down into the ground for a good couple of minutes before about one-third of it was below ground. At that point, the shaking finally subsided.

Soon the inside of the sphere was revealed to have people inside. Beatrice, Isabella, and the heroes were all there. So were the people that the king had sent along on the expedition, all royal family members included.

Beatrice and Isabella were holding hands while channeling their power thus allowing Zhang Dong to reach his powered-up state. This state had gone up slightly since the start of the trip and was above the King in power.

“What is the meaning of this!”

The same king wasn’t amused after spotting Zhang Dong and the others. It was clear to him that they were somehow responsible for this disaster. In a fit of rage, he gathered his magical energies and flew towards this large bubble of power. Heading straight on a collision course for the group.

But as soon as he was near he saw the spirit called Leigong look at him. His eyes were glowing and he had a strange otherworldly aura of holy energies covering his body.

“An Emperor doesn’t take orders from a King, begone human!”

Leigong’s eyes glowed in a fierce hue before a massive surge of energy descended on the King of humans. He tried to protect himself but was unable to fight against this massive aura that this spirit gave out.

For the first time in his life, he was forced to retreat and this was done by his enemies’ aura attack that overtook his own magical energies. Other people looked on from the sides as they saw their king fall down like a wet noodle and leave behind a small crater on the ground.

What was left was an astonished group that finally floated down from the sky. Leigong’s face remained without emotions as he looked at the human king that wasn’t able to contend with his power.

‘Hm, did I overdo it? Think he did receive the message though...’

Zhang Dong could see a glint of fear in this man’s eyes. Which was what he was aiming for. The expedition was more fruitful than he anticipated and he also received a nice reward at the end.

In his hand was what looked like a square box. This cube soon crumbled into dust and faded into the scenery.

‘This brings me closer to my goal... Don’t worry, I’ll be back soon.’

## **Chapter 306**

Zhang Dong hovered above the partially sunken castle. It was still the tallest building in this city even though a third of it was now below ground. With him were all of the hero party members and also Beatrice and Isabella. Everyone was looking down with mixed expressions after he had sent the king blasting away to the ground.

“... D-did you have to do that?”

“He was asking for it!”

He replied to Beatrice while shrugging.

“I could take him out if you want, just lend me some of that power.”

A big grin appeared on his face while the two girls waved their heads to indicate a refusal to this option. They were already powering down so Zhang Dong was running on fumes but he was sure to give the King a little scare. From what he could tell, this stunt had worked and he had successfully planted some doubt in this magical king's heart.

“No, please don't do that...”

Finally, the group started to descend down into a mostly undestroyed area outside of the castle. Everyone was still baffled by how far it sunk down to where the dungeon they were previously in was.

Zhang Dong started to recall what transpired down below and how this predicament came to be. It was mostly what the spies reported to the king. They all moved quite fast while he disabled the monsters for the heroes to defeat. For some reason he could function better the further down they descended and he attributed it to the cube that he had found below.

The last chamber on the 99th floor had a giant hydra monster with many heads lurking. It was supposed to be the hero's final test which they succeeded in doing even without his help.

After taking time to overlevel them to the fullest the boss monster was easy to beat. It had a rather easy-to-read fight pattern which the four youths could counteract with their skills. Due to their increased stats, the monster was unable to hit them or even deal much damage. When it did the healer of the party could just bring everyone back to full health without losing many mana points.

While the fight was underway Zhang Dong activated his map while making sure that no one would die. There he realized that there was a large black spot that he couldn't examine and it was right past this chamber.

After the Hydra was slain it disintegrated into tiny particles of mana. These went into the heroes but some were carried down into a certain chamber. In there they found the legendary weapons that were meant for the heroes.

Sword for the sword hero, gauntlets for the fist hero, and so on. They all looked like ancient artifacts with cool designs. In Zhang Dong's eyes, they weren't all that great and about the level of high earth grade treasures. If he had had the materials he could fashion a half step heaven grade weapon.

This treasure room wasn't all, he soon discovered a nearby wall that followed a similar pattern to the one he saw in his own world. He was scanned like before and allowed to enter the chamber inside.

It was a carbon copy of the cube room that he saw back then. He didn't just snatch it like a greedy madman. He had Bob do a few scans and answer a few questions. The biggest problem he had was leaving these kids here out to dry.

When he took this item he would sentence the youths to a long life here. They already had superpowers but would not be strong enough to go against nations. He couldn't just leave them here without being sure that they wouldn't get in trouble.

They might be like him and actually, like the new world they live in but they were a lot younger than he was when this happened. While he was an adult that had taken a bad turn in his life and the new world

was a chance to start anew. These youths weren't even in their twenties, they never even had a chance to spread their wings at home.

Luckily after some scans, Bob informed him that it would be possible to triangulate the world that the youths came from with this cube. He would need to use up some of the stored power but there would be some left for him to use.

This was an acceptable resolution to the problem. After defeating the demon king and the rest of the demons he would be able to send the kids back home by himself. He wouldn't even need to come back here as the schematics for the teleportation formation were already in his head.

The only problem was the moment he decided to reach for this cube. Bob had forgotten to tell him that the whole dungeon would collapse when he did that. This was new to him as no such thing happened back in his own world. Here on the other hand the moment he absorbed the energy the whole place began to shake.

Everyone started panicking and he quickly returned outside. The whole place was collapsing onto itself and the whole group of people was trapped 99 levels underground. It was all up to him to save everyone, with the help of Isabella and Beatrice he powered up and protected everyone with his barrier.

The rest was history, now he was looking at a somewhat slanted sunken castle and a surprised King. He was sure to raise his chin up to look quite lofty, just like an Emperor would act. He needed to sell his superiority and that he wasn't afraid of this man in any sense or form.

In reality, he would probably be downed by one punch if this guy decided to attack him now. His power level was still at the lower end of core formation even absorbing the cube didn't really help him with that.

"Father!"

"Daddy!"

The members of the royal family could see their father slowly getting up from the rubble. His hair was messy and his royal robe was also dusty. This was the first time they had ever seen him taking a loss like this. They were still afraid of his might so they didn't comment much about it.

Before they could move towards him the king moved his hand up to stop them. All of them soon parted to the side while the King looked to the white-haired spirit and the heroes behind him.

The King continued to stare for a moment, the people here gulped as they could see sparks flying between the two older men. Soon the royal guards arrived at the scene to back up the king, the moment they arrived the old man gave out a snort and turned around.

Soon he started flying away while his own kids began to chase after him. Zhang Dong turned around as well, he wanted to compliment himself on his poker face skills that were now almost perfected.

"Mr. Leigong was that really necessary?"

"Of course it was."

Beatrice asked and slumped her shoulders forward after Zhang Dong was quick to reply. The four heroes behind them started to laugh as after the journey in the dungeon they started to open up.

It was clear to them now that Zhang Dong was a person from their own world. At least from one that was quite similar. They had the same politicians and countries as well as continents.

The date was also really close, the time in his original world seemed to be moving slower as it looked that only about a month had passed since his disappearance. For him, it was already years, if he returned he could probably just say that he went through a midlife crisis and return to his old life.

This was not something that he wanted to do. Why return to a dead-end job when he was a respectable Patriarch? The only thing that his old world had going for it was the internet and video games. Now after spending time as a powerful cultivator such things as video games lost their appeal. Though there were a few things that he missed, arguing on the internet while being anonymous was one of them.

“Are you sure you should be doing that?”

Takeshi asked while holding his large sword over his shoulder. The youth was now fitted in a shiny new armor along with a brand new sword. His companions had also found ‘legendary’ items that somehow all fit their frames perfectly. Though the caster girls were wearing robes one black and the other white.

Zhang Dong turned his head to the group of youngsters. He wasn’t sure why but Takeshi looked a lot manlier now than just two weeks ago. It could be due to the stats increase which somehow also affected his stature. Gone was a mostly skinny boy and now he was looking at a toned strapping young lad.

His tone had also changed and he sounded a lot more confident in himself. He mostly went through a week’s worth of monster-killing but this was apparently enough to make his character shift. The only thing that could have done this so fast was his system, it had somehow boosted the youth’s confidence.

‘I wonder if it was affecting me as well before that...’

His mind went back in time to his own journey forward. He had used system points to buy the Tranquil Mind skill which then made him a lot calmer. Since then he had his head in the game but he could say that this was the system’s effect and not him growing as a person himself.

‘As long as I wrap this up within this month they should be fine when they return home...’

Bob didn’t confirm anything as he didn’t have any data but he wasn’t sure what would happen to this system once it was through with the user. When sending the boy back would this system remain with him or would it vanish?

He knew that there was someone working in the background making these systems but for what reason he had no idea. There was a certain risk in sending the boy and the girls home with an intact system.

Would they be safe and sound, or would they explode when passing through to their original world? Bob continued to tell him that he doesn’t have enough data but after absorbing some more nuclei he could formulate an answer. Zhang Dong would need to wait until after he took out the demon king.

“Don’t worry, that King might be overbearing but he isn’t stupid. He won’t act unless he is 100% sure that he will be victorious. Why do you think he never attacked any of the demon lords?”

He answered while the group reorganized themselves. It was time to rest before asking for the construction of an attack force. If everything went well, they would be finally organizing an attack against the demonic beings.

## **Chapter 307**

The word that the Heroes had been summoned reached the masses. The kingdom was unable to hide this fact after the large castle sunk down into the ground. They had to somehow appease the commoners that thought that their capital had been attacked by the demonic beings.

Soon the heroes with their brand spanking new legendary weapons were getting paraded around the city. Since leveling up Takeshi started to change, both in his looks and demeanor. He started acting cocky and was clearly enjoying how everyone looked at him with a twinkle in their eyes.

Zhang Dong was examining everything from the background. Ever since they got back from the castle things were being prepared. There was no reason for them to wait anymore but it would take some time to rally the troops.

Due to Zhang Dong's power leveling, the youths levels had skyrocketed. They had probably reached a level that was above what they normally should after that dungeon. Instead of slowly fighting their way through normal enemies and then taking out a boss monster they were grinding on those very boss monsters instead.

The amount of experience had no cap which allowed them to reach a power level at the core formation level. With the weapons and armor and considering that there were four heroes, it could be possible for them to take out a demon lord. That is if their teamwork was satisfactory but there wasn't really time for something like that to occur.

Easy kills thanks to Zhang Dong had made these kids powerful in general stats but that didn't mean that they had good battle sense. An experienced opponent with lower stats and worse skills could be able to defeat them.

'I wonder if it's the system's fault... I made him reach close to his maximum potential. The nascent soul early stage is probably as far as anyone can go in this world.'

Zhang Dong could only speculate as his own system was somehow damaged when he almost died against the early stage nascent soul pride demon. But after Takeshi entered the core formation level of strength there was a shift in how he behaved.

He started looking forward to the battles even taking on monsters and demons alone. Even without Zhang Dong's help, he started to be able to mow down his enemies. The difference in stats and skills was apparent.

There was a certain skill that allowed the kid to look at the world in slow motion while also being able to think fast. Due to it, he was almost able to react to anything coming his way. Zhang Dong started seeing him transitioning from a scared young man to a daredevil. The three other girls weren't as bad but they also seemed to grow to like the battling.

'Could the system affect someone's psyche? Or was this something that was always in them from the start?'



“Hey Bob, can you access Takeshi’s system if I pull him into my soul dimension?”

“Not enough data...possibility of the task at 27%”

“I thought so...”

“Accessing user Takeshi’s system may prove fatal to user Matthew. Current user’s location could be discovered by an Overseer, caution is advised.”

“An Overseer?”

Zhang Dong recalled that this was how he was seen by the scanning AI in the place he found this or the previous cube in. From the naming sense, these Overseers sounded like some mods in a forum or chat. It also sounded like there was someone above them, an admin. This being could very well be the person that created this strange system and game-like worlds.

“Hm, won’t they become aware if I send the kids back to their own world not through the previously setup teleportation formation?”

After hearing the Overseers be mentioned he started to worry. Would they know that something went wrong if the heroes that were supposed to be here for years returned back in a month’s time? There could also be some kind of tracker or alarm system the moment the space between worlds was opened.

“User’s current system isn’t connected to the mainframe, tracking from outside isn’t improbable.”

“If you say so...”

He would have to take his AI’s word for now. There was no way for him to know if this would come biting him back. He needed to get out of there and send the children home, if an Overseer noticed him going around worlds was something that he couldn’t control. Bob here at least thought it was a bad idea to get involved with these world moderators.

“Is everything alright Mr. Leigong, you’re looking a lot more grumpy than usual?”

Beatrice brought him back to reality. While the party of heroes was being shown off to the masses on a large flying ship they were trailing behind on a smaller boat. Even though the size was a third of the one the heroes were riding on, it was still very lavish. It belonged to Isabella who was to the side sipping from a fruity drink. It was quite similar to the one he had made her at the tiki bar. Since then the blond with the drill hair had started loving these bubbly drinks.

“Just thinking about some things, I think we should go to the other kingdoms.”

“What’s the rush? The demons won’t go anywhere.”

Beatrice stretched out while also drinking some sweet alcoholic drinks. From her and Isabella’s perspective, there was no reason to rush things. They would even like it if he took things slowly, mostly so that they could train and become better at their combination technique.

“You sure about that? Think they will just let us have as much time as we want?”

From his point of view, these demons should be doing something in the background. There was no way that they wouldn't prepare anything after three of their strongest fighters were dead. Would they just twiddle their thumbs and await for the nations together with their forces only to then get attacked?

They could also think that the people of the races would never actually try to get rid of the barrier. This was something that would open the flood gates to an all-out war between everyone. Though from what he knew the whole barrier wouldn't be broken, they would just fly in through a small opening.

It sounded all like the last map from an RPG where you go attack the demon castle. The heroes would remain inside while the normal people defended the small opening from lesser demons. Keeping it open for when the heroes needed to retreat.

'I wouldn't be surprised if they close the barrier behind us the moment we enter through it...'

"You're worrying too much Mr. Leigong. I haven't heard of a spirit that worried this much. Look at Undyne, she isn't worrying."

Zhang Dong looked to the side to spot the water nymph that Isabella still had. This spirit hadn't been able to do much besides spying. It was just wiggling around while looking down at the people from the flying ship. It was even smiling and waving to them.

"Don't compare me to her!"

He wasn't actually a spirit that wasn't able to think much. This water nymph had the intelligence of a six-year-old. Beatrice just chuckled while Zhang Dong thought about the ways to spice up the dream training.

The parade continued for a bit, it ended with Takeshi lifting up his holy sword and making a beam shoot up into the sky. The people cheered as their faith in the kingdom was restored. Some of them also glanced his way but were more interested in the two blond girls which were now official members of the hero party.

In a few days, it was finally time to pack up and leave. The ship that was lent to them by the Duke could still be used. They were even gifted two more with even more people and now also the heroes.

While they were slowly boarding Zhang Dong could see Takeshi walking together with the pink-haired princess. The three girls on the other hand had a prince to contend with. It seemed like the three old friends stopped talking to each other after a while, busy with their new partners.

It was clear that the King's scheme to rope these youths was working. He couldn't control them with strength alone so he switched it up. Since reaching the higher levels the high school kids also became more susceptible to their carnal desires. It was as if they were slowly losing themselves to this power.

"I should probably hurry, the longer we wait the more could happen..."

For now, he was here so he could look over these horny youngsters. He feared that if he left them to their own devices then an accident could happen. If it did it would be a lot harder to take these four back home. With an added family member they would need to remain here.

"First stop the dwarven kingdom, then the elven kingdom and then we will reorganize."

He nodded to himself while talking in his regular form. Beatrice had also progressed thanks to the dungeon and the cultivation techniques that he gave her. She was now able to allow his full-sized form in clothes to freely walk around without a problem.

While they were departing another scene was playing out in the background. A blond-haired gentleman was kneeling down before a familiar-looking grumpy monarch.

“Do you know why I summoned you here, Duke?”

“No your Majesty.”

The man replied instantly while also standing up. His face was without any emotion while he looked at the strongest man in the kingdom.

“Don’t lie to me, you know what this is about. We had this talk, that time it was that old man from your family but this time...”

This was the father of Beatrice. His head turned to the flying ships that were on the horizon, his daughter on one of them.

“The spirit...”

“Yes, you know what I want.”

“What will happen to my daughter?”

“She is free to go, the one I want is the summoner. My people say that your daughter isn’t connected to it, so she may live.”

The man clenched his fist after hearing the response. He waited for a moment before bowing.

“It will be done...”

Soon he removed himself from the throne room and headed over to where his dragon was waiting for him. There he found one of his trusted retainers waiting for him.

“My lord.”

He was an older man with a full beard that was gray. His frame was larger than average and there were many scars on his face.

“Let us depart, we will gather the forces to aid with the hero’s endeavor...”

The man bowed and moved to his wyvern that was standing right next to the Duke’s large dragon. As the man flew away to carry out the order the Duke looked at his summoned beast and gave out a sigh. He knew what must be done and he didn’t like it, just like before he would need to take the life of a family member. All this to protect his own line, to do this an innocent girl had to die.

## **Chapter 308**

“So that’s the world tree huh? Thought It would be bigger...”

Zhang Dong commented while looking at a giant tree that reached up into the clouds. It was majestic and green but from someone used to things being large, this wasn't that spectacular. Back in his own world, he had gone to forests with similar-sized trees already.

"What do you mean, it's huge!"

Next to him, an astonished Sakura bounced around while looking at the large tree in the distance. All of them were on a large flying ship flying towards this very tree.

"If you say so..."

The only thing Zhang Dong could think about was the tree's name Yggdrasil and how it was the same as the tree hugger sect that he bumped heads with. The naming sense from this world and his own was strangely similar. Even this tree's name was a very popular name in fiction and games that was mostly used as the point of origin of elves.

Here as well, this tree was a focal point of their civilization. There was a legend that the first elves were birthed from this very tree. Only afterward would they proliferate throughout the lands the usual way. Even then the birth rates were quite low, many times below the human race. What they lacked in numbers they made up in magical power.

"The mana density around this forest is very high..."

Beatrice commented while also gawking at the large tree.

"So you've noticed, practicing your breathing technique here would boost your development. I'd say double it, at least?"

He replied while Beatrice's eyes started sparkling. This girl had reached the mana capacity of an early-stage foundation establishment person. Isabella had also caught up and with this, it was a lot easier to keep up with the soul binding for the two of them.

Regretfully even with the power boost, he was still unable to tap into his full nascent soul power level. He was inching towards it slowly but it still remained in the half-step region. This mostly made him worry about his upcoming fight with the demon king. Would the monster be above him in terms of strength?

The only thing he could compare it to were the demon lords. They were at about the great circle of core formation, which made them easy targets for his half-step prowess. Through this he expected the demon king to be about at his level. The heroes he pushed through the dungeon weren't all that strong either. He tried to base the maximum strength on the strongest person in this world that he met, which was the human king.

He didn't think that whoever set up this world would let the heroes lose. So the demon king should not be that much off from this king that would never act on his own.

'Though it could be one of this power of love or friendship endings where their power multiplies many times over...'

This was one of the options that he didn't want to be true. If this was the ending it was going for here the demon king could even be at the very top of the nascent soul level. The heroes would have to have

some kind of breakthrough during the fight or would get some aid from their system that would perhaps give them a temporary boost in power.

If something like this happened he would be in a lot of trouble. The demon king would make quick work of him and maybe even Beatrice and Isabella. This could actually push Takeshi and the three girls to get their breakthrough of power.

He was going off script though, so anything could happen at this point. Zhang Dong knew it was risky but he didn't want to wait half a year to train the heroes and his two summoners. There were other ways for him to get power, for that he only needed the cooperation of the races and access to their people.

'I'd have to construct some formations on these ships... I hope the elves give us some of theirs and also give me access to their library...'

They were finally here, the grand elven city. At least right in front of it. There was a large glowing barrier blocking their way forward. This one was much larger than the academy shield he pushed the demon lord against.

This made it clear that the elves' magical knowledge was above the humans. He could tell that this shield was of better quality even after one glance. It would be really hard for any demon to cross to the other side.

He could feel holy energy radiating off this shield. Any demon that came in contact with it would be incinerated by the holy fire it was made off. It was similar to his dao but felt a bit diminished due to the fire part.

Zhang Dong's holy cultivation had been progressing at a steady pace after he came here. This was all thanks to him being able to focus on his soul which was related to this Dao. He expected a boost to his cultivation when he returned home. This soul expansion would cause his nascent soul power to be enhanced further even without reaching the next realm.

"We greet the heroes from the human kingdom and their followers."

After being stopped for a while a group of beautiful golden-haired elves arrived. Their skin color was akin to the jade beauties from his own world. If Zhang Jin was here he would probably be going crazy at this sight before him. He on the other hand preferred the darker skin tone that a dark elf would have so this didn't really get his heart pumping.

Just like before the Heroes were more important than he was. Most people didn't realize that he was the main powerhouse of this journey quite yet. He didn't want to argue with anyone about such a thing so he just left the talking to Takeshi and his party members while he waited in the background.

"Are you feeling well?"

He looked to Beatrice that was glancing at a particular green-haired youth. It was Prince Ludwig that switched from Beatrice to Sakura, the youngest member of the party. He was quite a handsome young lad and had a silver tongue. The young girl was unable to resist his approach.

He wasn't the only royal family member here. Zhang Dong hoped to ditch them during this journey but they came as a package deal with the ships they were getting. He couldn't go to the king and complain without the soul resonance up so he had to let it slide.

"I'm fine..."

It was easy to tell that the girl was still a bit mad at the whole predicament. From Zhang Dong's perspective, this was actually a good thing. Beatrice was hit by reality, people weren't always what they seemed to be. He hoped that she would learn from this event and grow. It was actually good that this happened now and not after she was too attached to that casanova.

"I'm ashamed that I ever considered someone like that as my fiancé! Truly reprehensible!"

Isabella was to the side as well, she looked quite annoyed. It was clear that she wanted to go over there and tell the moss head a few chosen words. She had to restrain herself though, he was still a prince. The girls here were unable to word their disdain due to the barrier in noble ranks.

"Just learn from this experience, I'm sure you'll find yourself a fitting partner in time."

"How about you marry Mr. Leigong Isabella."

Beatrice poked the grumpy Isabella from the side after hearing the conversation.

"W-what? Marry him?"

Zhang Dong just smiled down at the two girls. Isabella went bright red in the face which only made him want to tease her more.

"Regretfully I'm already spoken for, but I'm flattered nonetheless."

"Oh, you have a wife?"

Beatrice asked as he had somehow managed to evade this topic through his stay here. No one had asked him to marry him though, being a spirit and all.

"Ah yes and two kids!"

"Spirits can have children?"

Beatrice and Isabella looked at each other but soon they recalled that Leigong here wasn't your average spirit. He was a special never before seen one with a somewhat strange unknown background.

"Well, here take a look."

He wasn't against talking about his own family. The girls were already close to him so he didn't mind sharing some of his secrets. Though at this point in time they still knew him as a strange spirit and he didn't mention him being from another world.

While the two girls moved closer he held out his hand and a little 3D hologram of Zhang Liena appeared. She was dressed up in an exquisite robe that she wore during their wedding.

"Oh... she is beautiful... but..."

The two girls' eyes wandered on the presented hologram and the shape of the woman's body. Soon they both focused on the chest area that was quite prominent.

"Big..."

"Yes big..."

Both of them moved their hands to their own chests while looking at the hologram of Zhang Dong's wife. He could tell that they were feeling defeated which only caused him to chuckle, his laughing didn't go unnoticed.

"Does size really matter?"

"Yeah..."

He wanted nothing more than to rub it in but he also didn't want these two girls to get some strange chest size complex. Due to this, he moved to the next hologram which was of his little cinnamon roll.

"Oh, who is this cute little girl?"

"She looks a bit similar..."

"I see that you have noticed, this is my oldest daughter, isn't she cute?"

The girl's eyes started sparkling as they saw the child moving around in the palm of Zhang Dong's hand. While they were cheering he on the other hand started to get less excited. The sight of his daughter only caused the worrisome thoughts to enter his mind again.

The hologram then changed again to his wife holding a newborn in her hands while the older daughter was to the side full of smiles. He started staring at his family without saying a word only a louder call out from Beatrice managed to snap him out of it.

"Mr. Leigong, are you okay?"

"Ah...sorry about that..."

He moved his hand away while removing the hologram of his family. The two girls that he tried to cheer up were now looking at him with concern in their eyes.

"Well, it looks like Takeshi and the others are done with the elves, we will be moving into the elven city you two should get ready."

Beatrice and Isabella looked at Zhang Dong who was clearly trying to shift the conversations. Before they could actually ask if he was really fine the flying shift jolted forward. They had to give up on their cross-examination as they would also be required to enter the elven city. There they were supposed to get the aid of the elves against the demonic beings.

## **Chapter 309**

"Are you done Mr. Leigong?"

"In a moment..."

Zhang Dong was waving his hands around while some books and scripts floated towards him. Around there were some people like Beatrice and the elven folk. They were in the elven library and he was in the process of absorbing all of their knowledge.

"I'm sure you're glad that you don't need to touch these books anymore."

He laughed as he remembered that in the beginning, Beatrice needed to poke the books by herself. Now with her reaching a higher realm of power he was able to move around freely and do this himself.

"There that's the last one... do you have any more?"

"Yes oh illustrious Spirit Emperor, the secret texts are in the levels below, it would be a pleasure to lead you there!"

A beautiful elven woman prostrated herself in front of him while he tried not to laugh. He started to recall what had happened a few hours back when they arrived in this place. He was standing in the background at first and let the heroes do their thing.

He had discussed the plan with them beforehand and it looked like they had more status than a spirit like him. That would soon come out as a big mistake after they managed to get an audience with the elven monarch.

"It's an honor to greet the Elven Queen!"

The biggest problem was that there were unwelcome guests with them. Three strapping young lads and one pink-haired princess that were clinging to the hero party. The oldest prince was the one that greeted the Queen this time around while the rest were left to kneel down.

That is, besides one white-haired person that was hanging out in the back. Due to the way he had set up his persona as a haughty and mighty Spirit Emperor he couldn't just bow down before this woman. He did the same thing when he met the human king and he had to keep up appearances unless he wanted his act to crumble now.

This didn't go unnoticed by the elven people around them. A large man in a pure white robe with his hands crossed over did stick out like a sore thumb.

"Show your respect to the Queen, human!"

One of the royal guards called out, it was a beautiful-looking man in a shiny golden armor. The elves in this world were matriarchal in nature, their men were mostly just used as guards. This was mostly due to the low birthrates which made the women a more valuable resource than the men. Thus they would do everything to protect their females while also putting one on the throne.

"I am no human, mortal!"

Zhang Dong keeping to his shtick delivered a direct attack to this man's soul. He had learned a thing or two about those types of attacks during his stay here. He was unable to cultivate anything but his own soul, through the weeks he stayed here it had increased in size exponentially.

These attacks could not damage the outside shell which was the body but were devastating to the mechanism that kept it working, the soul. If someone was unable to protect themselves from a soul



attack they would be paralyzed. Their body would stop functioning and they could even die if the connection was broken.

All of this could be done by putting your soul against another. These attacks had a large risk to them, they could damage the user's soul which would cause a large backlash. A backlash was more volatile than being damaged by someone else's soul attack. This made this type of skill high-risk high reward. You were literally putting your life on the line whenever using it.

On the other hand, it was quite safe to use on anyone that had an inferior soul to the user. It made it quite a skill to take out many weaker enemies. This was now the case as Zhang Dong had to crank up the output. The other guards tried surrounding him but found themselves on their knees instead.

"Beatrice, control your spirit!"

The one shouting out was Prince Ludwig. He had quite the angry expression on his face, probably still angry about how Isabella tossed him to the side. Now he had to cling to Sakura's thigh in hopes that his father gave him some assets that he lost.

"Silence! Before the Queen!"

Two elven women stepped out from the side. They were wearing white robes with some strange golden runic patterns. Each one had a staff, at the end a large shining gem that was radiating magical power. They slammed these staffs onto the floor to produce some kind of magical effect.

Zhang Dong felt like he had overdone it a bit with his Emperor act but luckily this magical attack was soul-based in nature as well. Because he was someone with an oversized soul with no one in this world matching up to it, it was quite ineffective.

These women mages expected their warriors to be set free from the spell that Zhang Dong produced but instead they saw it being repelled back towards them.

"How is this possible!"

They gasped while taking a step back, both of them perplexed at their magical attack not working.

"Who is that man, is he part of the hero party? But there were supposed to only be four!"

More people started arriving in the throne room. It was clear that Zhang Dong's little soul attack had brought everyone's attention to him. He looked unperturbed but deep inside he wanted to cry. They only came here to get help from the elves, have them lend them a few flying ships and a couple magicians.

The elven mages were really good at barriers like the one they constructed here. If they wanted to enter the demonic continent they would need the help of the elves to open the path. By how things were looking getting out of here in one piece had become the biggest concern.

"Silence mortals, you dare attack this Lightning Emperor Leigong!"

Zhang Dong decided that he might as well give it his all. He had already been quite disrespectful so there was no going back. Apologizing at this point would only show weakness and he still could use his soul attack against these weaker soldiers, the biggest problem was the Elven Queen.

She was at about the same level as the human king, trailing behind by a small amount. She would be able to defend herself against his soul attacks due to him being in his powered down state.

‘Can this be salvaged... should I tell the girls to get ready for a fight...’

He was slowly thinking that they might have to strongarm the elven faction into obeying them instead. If the diplomatic talks broke down this would be the only thing that remained. They still needed their knowledge which could also be gained by reading their secret texts. Before he could make a decision though he felt something coming his way.

The elven queen looked in his direction while squinting. She had remained silent for the whole predicament but it looked like she wanted a piece of him after her guards had failed. If she directly pitted her mana against his then he would surely lose but luck was on Zhang Dong’s side.

‘Wait is she... these elves sure like the soul-based attacks...heh well come in if you wish.’

It was a direct attack against his soul world. He wasn’t sure if the Queen was just trying to test him after seeing him perform his own soul attack but he was glad that she did. Just like with the Vice-Principal before he sprung his trap. If it came to defending against such skills, there was no one who could out soul his soul.

“What!?”

The beautiful woman found herself in an open grass field. The sky above was clear with no clouds and everything looked peaceful.

She knew that she was just clashing against the unknown human that was in the hero party. There was no information about someone of that caliber so she thought that she could easily subdue him and force him to show respect. Even the heroes remained respectful but this rude man never even knelt.

Now she was concerned, the path outside was blocked and she knew that her soul was somehow pulled into this dimension by this person.

“Who are you? ... What are you?”

She shouted out with all her might as her voice echoed through the open grasslands. Her mind began connecting the dots while trying to piece everything together. There weren’t many beings in this world that were above her in might. She was already close to being a thousand years old and she had seen it all.

She was there when the previous heroes were here. She was there when they battled the previous demonic lords and there when the demon king was forced to retreat. Even then she couldn’t recall anyone that could do something like this.

“Who am I, Little one do you really need to ask?”

“This energy...”

The whole place began to rumble and the sunny sky began to become cloudy. Storm clouds approached and the wind picked up. Thunderous lightning collided with each other while the ground began to split

apart. The elven woman was unable to access any of her magic, falling down on her posterior was the outcome.

“You have a lot of gall to address me in that tone of voice, mortal.”

The lightning bolts started shooting down from the sky onto the splitting earth. Soon it was like a torrent of plasma energy just descending from the sky, forming a humanoid figure.

Zhang Dong took shape as a being made from lightning energy. His face was somewhat distinguishable but he looked like a being completely made out of electricity. The huge electric giant looked down to the elven queen that was trembling down on the ground.

“S-spirit King? N-no Spirit Emperor!”

Her eyes bulged after seeing the form that was before her. This giant made from lightning was clearly giving off a strange mana signature akin to beings from the astral realm. Elves were beings close to this realm and mostly made contracts with nature spirits. Zhang Dong had shifted this energy slightly so that the elven queen would indeed think that he was a real spirit.

“I see that you have realized.”

Spirit Emperors were the highest form that a spirit could take in this world. They were beings at the very top of the pecking order and also very rarely seen. Not much information was out there about these beings which made it easier to fool others. The only consensus was that they were more powerful than anything that could be produced on this planet.

It was unheard of that a Spirit Emperor took shape amongst the mortal people. They usually only gave out some blessings like the weapons that the heroes possessed. At most they could be summoned to deliver one devastating attack, sometimes at the cost of the summoner’s own life.

“Please great spirit emperor, forgive me and my people for being so narrow-minded. Punish this mortal but please show mercy to my people.”

The woman was quick to drop down to her knees and to prostrate herself. Due to the soul interception, he could tell that she was sincere. She was mostly concerned that Zhang Dong could wipe her people out of existence.

‘Well that went better than expected, this will probably save me so much time!’

He chuckled inwardly, it was time to have a talk with this lady. After this event, he was sure that they would do anything that he required of him.

## **Chapter 310**

**\*Thump\***

The elves looked as their Queen slumped forward in her throne and then face-planted on the ground. The exchange in Zhang Dong’s soul dimension only took a couple of seconds. Back in the real world, it looked like the Queen was staring at him for a moment before face diving into the floor.

“Protect the Queen!”

“...”

“Stop, I’m fine...”

The beautiful woman raised her hand up into the air while her face was still on the ground. She stood up in an instant while having a bloody nose. This was quickly healed without even needing an incantation. The guards were still confused about what was happening and the party of heroes was in the same boat.

Only Zhang Dong and the elven Queen knew what was going on. After giving the old woman a scare in his soul dimension he let her soul go back into her body. He did not put any soul locks or curses behind like he did with the Vice-Principal.

He wanted to seem as a magnanimous spirit Emperor and not like a despot. The other elves might choose to attack or not work with them if something like that happened.

The Queen looked at him without much of a change to her expression. The bloody nose vanished along with the blood after some kind of healing magic was cast. It was more akin to the regenerative arts that his own Zhang clan liked to perform than to holy element healing.

She advanced forward towards where he, Beatrice, and Isabella were standing. The girls were down on their knees but he was still standing. The guards parted ways for their queen that was slowly walking towards him. The woman was wearing quite the flowy dress similar to cultivator robes. There were even some small forest spirits lifting it up from behind her and keeping it from being scratched up on the floor.

“My Queen what are you...”

The elves expected the Queen to order an attack or something close to it. Instead, they saw her lowering her head in front of this white-haired man. The man nodded as if this was something natural, the other just stared at the strange sight of the elven queen bowing before an unknown person.

“Silence! Pay your respect to the Spirit Emperor, you all are being disgraceful.”

Soon everyone was down on the ground and kneeling before him. His face didn’t change as he just waited.

‘Haven’t had a full throne room kneeling before me ever since I did that one lecture...’

“You may raise your heads.”

Only when he called out did the elven queen listen. Following her example, the other elves did the same. The members of the royal family went googly-eyed at the scene before them. In their eyes kneeling before Zhang Dong was akin to them kneeling before Beatrice, a low Baron’s daughter.

“I will let this transgression slide this time, now I think we have some things to discuss.”

“Yes, great spirit.”

The members of the royal family could not believe Zhang Dong’s tone. Even less that this powerful elven monarch was fine with it. The moment she called him a spirit emperor the other elves started to shake

in their boots as well. This was mostly due to this race being quite close to astral beings due to their roots.

They came from the world tree, which was also rumored to have been created by some kind of ancient spirit emperor. Now they had one before them, one that could be at the same level as their ancestor.

‘Good, this speeds up things...’

The rest was history, Zhang Dong asked for their library and then absorbed all of their knowledge. The elven magic was mostly following the nature element and was quite extensive. The knowledge that they had gathered was superior to what the humans had, at least to the one in the magic academy. If the royal family was hiding something in their castle could be a possibility.

Takeshi and the others were relegated to background characters while Zhang Dong and his two summoners got all the attention. They all were wined and dined by the beautiful elven males and females while he was back doing his thing. After absorbing all of this knowledge from the elven library he needed some time to digest all of it.

With it, he would probably be able to push his own barriers to the next level. The elves specialized in them, defensive ones and even ones that could lock people up for thousands of years. If he ever needed to seal an evil being that was hard to kill he would be able to.

“Please Queen you must not!”

A few days later the hero party and Zhang Dong were back on the flying ship. With the biggest change being that they received a massive ship from the elves. It was apparently made from the trunk of the world tree and would be able to receive hits from a demon lord class monster.

The two magicians that stood against him were now holding back the elven queen. For some reason, the old woman wanted to come with them. Her people weren’t so keen on this as they needed their monarch that was also the best mage here to stay behind. The queen was the key piece of their protective barrier, without her the demons would be able to slip in unnoticed.

The two were now holding her back as she wanted to join the party to go against the demon scourge. After Zhang Dong corrected some of the deficiencies in her spell-casting she started acting like a devout disciple. She probably wanted him to fix more of her spells, just like an old cultivator finally finding a good master to follow.

“Hey, Mr. Leigong the elves really like you... I thought you were a married man?”

Beatrice and Isabella looked at him with scorn. He had been seen wandering out at night to go teach the elven queen a thing or two. The girls imagination went into overdrive and came to a conclusion that he was having an affair.

“It’s not like that, you two idiots!”

He shouted at the two girls while shaking his fist.

“Great spirit, let us follow you instead of our queen.”

In the end, the two elven women that were the queen's trusted guards went along for the ride instead. The queen's reason won out over her desire to learn more. With these two in tow and a full elven team of warriors, they departed from this kingdom.

'Next stop the dwarves!'

Now that he had the elves on his side it was easier to control the situation. The elven ship was many times larger than the human ships that were now trailing behind them. He was also able to banish the royal family members from getting on this particular flying vessel. Though this only made the heroes a bit cranky as they enjoyed the companionship of the others.

Takeshi even decided to remain on one of the other ships with his princess. Zhang Dong didn't care enough to play chaperone. He had explained everything to the youths beforehand but their hormones were getting in the way. The only thing he could do was hope that they wouldn't go too far with their romance.

The journey continued and they soon arrived at the dwarven kingdom or its entrance that looked like a giant active volcano. Smoke and lava were coming out from it but there were also large statues of dwarven warriors and a large gate.

This large gate would lead to the land of the dwarves. They were a peculiar race that liked to live underground or burrow into large mountains or in this case a volcano. There they would dig for metals that would then allow them to create their contraptions.

They were known for being a race of craftsmen that spent most of their lives tinkering away. The flying ship technology was invented by this race, they also created a vast array of golems. The hero party here was in the need of better equipment and repairs. The weapons from the dungeon were nice but they still lacked compelling armor.

"So, this is the entrance into the Underlands."

Beatrice commented from the side while bouncing with anticipation. Isabella also looked quite interested in this place they were going to. The two were still only young girls that haven't really been able to see the outside world for themselves quite yet.

"So it is, think the dwarves will be as cooperative as the elves? Do they revere spirits perchance?"

He asked while not being too sure. If the dwarves were like the elves it would help Zhang Dong on his journey quite a bit.

"Those uncultured dwarves have no respect for that what is holy."

One of the elven mages chimed in while narrowing her eyes at the large structure below. It seemed that the small drunkards and the tree huggers didn't get along that much. One race loved nature while the other used it to their advantage no matter the cost. They lived underground where the sun didn't shine, without it things like plants were rarely seen.

"Is that so... this might be a problem."

Besides their outlooks on life, there was another problem with this race, they had no monarch that could rally them together. Zhang Dong was only able to speed things up as he had forced the respected

monarchs from the human race and the elven race to act. On the other hand here there were many underground cities and many people trying to be the next Dwarf King.

“Let’s go to the old capital, probably the most influential people will be there.”

The biggest city down below was right here in this very volcano. This was also the plan that they agreed on. Even if they didn’t have the help of the majority of dwarves they could get some from this city. It was apparently very modern and if they could just get another ship and some golems it would help in the future battles.

Zhang Dong was hopeful that the others wouldn’t need to act and that he was enough to defeat the enemies. However, in case that there were too many enemies to handle he needed his people to at least be able to defend themselves while he took out the bosses.

“Let us descend, we will need to switch to the smaller boat to get through that gate.”

Everyone nodded and the giant Elven ship descended downwards. The most important members of the crew would be switching to a smaller boat while going underground. Even though they were going below earth the dwarf craftsmen made enough space for flying contraptions like this boat to maneuver there.

Soon everyone descended into the cavern below. After showing the guards some credentials their identity as emissaries and heroes was cemented. The large gates started to open, it was as if the two huge statues were opening them up for the party to see.

‘Hope this is the last stop... I might be running out of time...’