

Dungeon S 1071

Chapter 1071 - Pretence

"Boss!" Lynn ran up the stairs panting slightly with a group of Killer Peggies right behind her. Their choppers were sharpened and ready to cleave through any armour or any other type of resistance they might encounter. She even had the resurrected Tyr Elites follow quietly behind her, ready to act at a moment's notice. It was plain obvious that they had already fallen as the System's thralls and would act against their former Shadow King if necessary.

However, when they opened the door... they found Jin discussing a series of business deals with his supposed mission target, having a serious conversation until they both looked up, interrupted by the appearance of the newcomers.

"I see that you have successfully enthralled all of my Elites," Neil sighed as he stood up and bowed. He introduced himself as Tyr Gauntlets' Shadow King and Lynn was pleasantly surprised by them talking things over with their mouths instead of their fists.

Noticing her gaze, Neil laughed. "If I were Atrocity's or Eld Enclave's Shadow King, I probably would have done that. Atrocity would use the excuse of passing out judgement against you, when in truth, they'd just want revenge. Eld Enclave, on the other hand, would love to get their hands on your bodies to study the secrets of your magical styles. Of course, both scenarios would need them to survive your onslaught first." Neil added as he courteously offered Lynn the seat beside Jin's.

"We have not even fought and you already think I could win?" Jin chuckled as he poured Lynn a glass of alcohol and asked the chef to give it a try.

"Last time we fought, I was stronger than the other two Shadow Kings combined, yet I didn't have to fight you to feel that if it came down to it, I would be at the losing end." Neil admitted as he stared at Jin for a moment before gazing upon the battle maiden who had bested nearly all his Elites on her own. Suffice to say, the Killer Peggies at the door were beaming at him, watching his every move in case he tried to do anything funny against their Queen. Regardless of whether he had already accepted the System's contract, the peggies were a fanatic bunch of warriors that would do anything to keep their Queen safe under their protection.

Meanwhile, Lynn was appreciating the strong flavour of the alcohol and wondering whether she could and should try to recreate it for her customers. Jin explained to her what they had discussed and it was the first time Lynn was hearing about the Church of the Afterlife having instigated other cities to attack them. Because of her primary job, she had hardly been part of the War Room and nobody else had bothered to tell her that this entire raid had changed recently into an elaborate plan to lure the Church of the Afterlife into fighting.

"But we all believed it would not happen so soon. Given their cautious nature based on the information given to me by Kraft and Kiyu, I estimated that they would probably only attack after a week or two." Jin commented.

"As I've said, I would still recommend you to announce the fall of me, the Tyr Gauntlets' Shadow King. Not to toot my own horn too much, but my supposed demise would actually be quite the big news to the other two Shadow Kings. When the human cities learn that one entire Mafia faction has been

defeated this fast, they would have no choice but to rush in. Waiting too long would have them risk losing the opportunity to ambush your side during the chaos." Neil remarked while he poured another glass of alcohol for Lynn.

"As much as we might like to side the humans, the majority of them have sided with the Church without ever bothering to give us a chance. There is no denying that they will come based on the Church's agents...erm persuasion. Even if they see my customers they will probably just treat them as demon worshippers or something." Jin added more context for Lynn to understand.

"Why do you want to go to war again? Aren't you preparing yourself for the Demon Rat Offensive in the Farming World? By doing this, aren't you overstretching your troops to a huge extent that they might not have enough rest? What about the resources that you-" Lynn wanted to complain even further but then it struck her like a bolt of lightning. It finally dawned on her why Jin was doing such a complicated process by using Demopolis as excessive bait.

"You want more men?" Lynn's short and sweet analysis hit the spot and Jin nodded his head with a smile.

"Where else can we get more manpower that has already been trained so wonderfully?" Jin chuckled as he was pleasantly amazed that Lynn was able to catch the underlying ploy by Kraft and him. This entire raid had already been turned into just a pretence to get more troops from the Dungeon World and use them against the Demon Rats.

"The System has already verified that as long as we're able to capture their Dungeon Core, it would be akin to holding their city 'hostage' for the lack of a better word. We don't need to control them ourselves. We can easily promise them to release the hostages as long as agree to come into the Farming World and cause some havoc there."

"Of course, the System will still have to track each and every one of them down to ensure that those who belong in the Dungeon World return here, dead or alive. Best thing, we don't even need to arm them as much as the minions on our side. Our batch will act as the elites, doing the tasks necessary to bring their entire Rat Empire down while the human armies can just act as the rank and file to disrupt the massive numbers that the Demon Rats have." Jin added and Lynn involuntarily shook her head.

"But still, in order to earn those cities, you gotta fight for them. How are you proposing to do it? And in a quick manner too so that they won't notice it?" Lynn questioned and suddenly a shadow appeared behind Jin. His hand was gently placed on Jin's shoulders and he could already feel the weight of the many worlds resting on them.

"Why of course, that job is up to me and my (Night) Foxes, who shall have the honour of performing this brilliant coordination capturing," Kraft stated and Lynn sighed. There was no denying that no one else was as powerful as those Foxes and if Kraft's boasting was to be believed, they haven't even displayed their true capabilities during the previous Demopolis City capture. That alone made Lynn ponder just how absurdly strong these ancestors were and their enemies had been to have fostered such overpowered fighters.

"Don't worry, our ...agents have already shown us that they're not as guarded as Demopolis and don't have such a complicated seal. The human cities have mostly concentrated on outer defence over

protecting their core." Kraft grinned as he recalled how quick those Church agents had spilled the beans upon some 'persuasion'.

Neil cleared his throat. "Looks like the conversation is getting out of my depth. Let's end it here and you lot can talk in some other office, alright? Now if you'll excuse me, I have orders from my new employer to station my guys at the outskirts of Demopolis." He picked up his suit and then he stopped for a moment to snap his fingers at Lynn. "Sorry there, Bossman and his lady, but I would appreciate having control over my Elites for the fight."

Jin acknowledged the request and had the System summon the rest of the Tyr Elite party in front of him. The office was getting crowded, so Jin and the rest left via a portal while the Tyr Elites knelt right in front of their Shadow King. They roughly knew the current situation based on the flash memory overload that the System had forced upon them.

"Well, guess we drew the short straw of being the good bad guys for once," Neil sighed as he wore his suit and raised his hands to the side cabinet of the table. With magic, the drawer opened and an embroidered pouch emerged from it, floating right towards his waist.

"You guys better buck up, or else!" Neil's expression darkened before taking out a jewel from the embroiled pouch and a teleport circle appeared as the jewel glowed. The entire team teleported out from the scenes and so did every underling under Tyr's Gauntlet leader's command.

It was definitely a more powered up version of the System's mass teleport. The super entity had shamelessly recorded it and was now attempting to copy it behind the scenes.

Chapter 1072 - Overview of the Demopolis Raid -unedited

Just as Lynn learnt the truth of the raid, the raid was still progressing as per planned. The only difference was that Jin had announced that the entire Tyr Gauntlet Mafia had disappeared from the map. There was no explanation given and the System had already cordoned off the Petal District by putting up a power barrier which an ordinary Pandaren could bypass. In terms of gaming terminology, it had become restricted for any users to go in.

Jin had also added that anyone who had attempted to trespass into the Petal District would be forcefully teleported out of the raid instance and that puzzled everyone that was in the raid. People started to create bizarre theories on the current situation. From a technical bug that had been found and Jin was repairing it in the midst of the dungeon runs to others thinking that Jin purposely increased the Raid difficulty since the Petal District was one of the few districts that were tantamount to an intersectional district that connects to the rest of the surrounding areas.

No one would have known that it was because of Jin's subjugation of the Mafia except for the major two families that were still alive. They realised that the communication between the Tyr Gauntlet and them had been cut off permanently with no possible way to restore any connections. And with the light barriers appearing over the Petal District, they could only assume that the Tyr Gauntlet Mafia had been estranged by the Demopolis Police forces or the human mercenaries which King Rex had hired.

While the Shadow Kings had influence to not just their own families but to various minor gangs as well, the situation was not looking good for them. There were humans armed with both magical and technical expertise that were able to shred the defences that they had painstakingly built to protect themselves against the Demopolis Police. To make matters worse, some were being captured alive and brought to the Demopolis Police outposts and headquarters.

However, the underworld was not to be underestimated. Even with the shock tactics done by the Pandarens, the Mafia gangsters had managed to decipher their formations and started to counter attack with overwhelming numbers. Some even use the same tricks that the Pandarens had played because of the constant exchange of information between mafias. Although fighting a few of the Pandarens would result in losses, they still knew their districts and the environment played a crucial role in securing a win. They might not win the war, but they sure know how to inflict major losses to King Rex. (Or that's what the Mafia were supposed to believe.)

And this was merely Day One of the raid where the tougher guys were still not out to play with the Pandarens. All the customers had been fighting against were merely the rank and file lackeys. But now with sufficient information in their hands, Atrocity and Eld Enclave had decided to go all out by sending their veterans to assist with the surviving minor gangs.

Although it was true that the Team Pandawan had been making strides in their effort to thwart Atrocity, they too had underestimated the sheer numbers the Mafias have, hiding behind the scenes, waiting for their Shadow Kings to give the command.

To add on, the lack of Demopolis Police in the streets and the odd looking light based barrier had caused the two remaining Shadow Kings to deduce that the Demopolis Police was concentrating their efforts to contain Tyr's Gauntlet. And as if to support that theory, Ixel, the current chief of Demopolis Police Department and all things to do with internal security, had already pre-empted this by releasing fake telecommunications so that the Mafias could be misled by the false information. (The rest of the foxes were surprised that their muscle brain Ixel was able to think this out.)

Telegrams and magical calls that requested for help had been intercepted by the Eld Enclave Mages and that prompted the Shadow Kings to be more aggressive in their fight. What they did not know was that their actions were all calculated within the parameters of the plan created by Kraft and his pals in the War Room.

The arrival of their veterans had allowed the Goblin Telecoms Team to reverify the Mafia's outposts and strongholds and update the Pandaren's map as necessary. However, most of the Pandarens who continued this particular raid in the Dungeon World had amounted to nearly a day. Even Team Pandawan who thought that they only spend hours in it, was shocked that they were immersed in this warzone for at least a day in it.

Lee An and Xue Ping had decided to return to the safehouse to check out of the raid instance safely, and to keep their progress of their current run. After which, they had a couple only dinner in the restaurant instance before beaming out from Jin's store instance. (All in all, a very satisfied couple.) The rest of the team eventually did the same an hour later and all of them noticed how different it was when compared to the Pandapolis Raid.

The intensity of the fights was less but the amount of effort to traverse from one corner to another was tiring. While they were glad that this particular raid was as advertised, they could not believe how real it was that the detective couple told them that was how soldiers lived in the war zone in their chat group. Some wondered how they could keep up on a daily basis and the detectives said that when they were stuck in that situation, all they thought was how to survive the next day.

But as usual, satisfied customers come along the other end of the spectrum. There were armchair commentators stating how boring the entire raid was, compared to the exhilarating turn of events during the Pandapolis Raid. They even stated that the longevity of this particular raid was merely to squeeze more money from the customers. Naturally, Jin did not bother with them as his ultimate goal was to get the armies from the humans. The only things he did consider were the feedback to improve the current raid and some of the opinions given by his Pandaren customers were rather interesting.

There were certain feedbacks to create a 'quick time event' within the raid so that the scattered Pandarens within the vicinity could band together and fight against the threat. In return, more Emblems or Demopolis Raid Points to be given out for those who managed to complete the quick time event. It was a neat idea and Jin did ponder on how to implement it into the current Raid but at the same time, he was thinking of the situation that they were in to the System.

"... Nevertheless, what Neil said was true. The two other Shadow Kings are bolder right now and they had ramped up the difficulty of the fights for the Pandarens." Jin remarked as he sat beside his Dungeon Maker console, twirling around waiting for a response from the System but instead, he sensed an aura all too familiar emerging right beside him.

"And to make things even sweeter, my scouts reported that the Human Cities had already embarked from their cities. They are riding to us as we speak and should be expecting them within another day or two." Kraft opened his digital tablet and Jin could see blips moving towards Demopolis.

"You think they would make a coordinated effort to attack us?" Jin questioned but Kraft shook his shoulders.

"Wait and see." The fox said and he smirked seeing the blips ever moving slowly towards his brother's precious city before disappearing once again.

Chapter 1073 - Active Response Events

Following his customers' wishes, Jin did indeed end up implementing several quick time events over the next few days, which would appear on their raid maps with a symbol of two Pandas wearing Viking helmets and raising their axes in unison. Each one would have a circular parameter around the location on the map and anyone inside would be able to receive participation points.

Usually, the objective of these Active Response Events would be accompanied by a simple narrative, with some of them being pretty whacky considering they were all generated by the System. (It's honest;y a side of the System which most users would never get to see.) Jin had allowed it mainly due to

the fact that it had all the information about the current situation on the ground. Not to mention, the System seemed to have been having fun generating the narrative based on its info gathering.

One such example was about a Pandaren who had become too greedy with hoarding the furniture to the point his assigned ring had been filled to the brim. Apparently unhappy about not being able to take back everything at once, he had decided to carry just a few more things manually.

Alas, the mafia had spotted the hoarding Pandaren and rightfully believing he had valuable things on him they had annihilated him on his way to the nearest safe house. With the death of the ring holder, all items in the assigned storage ring had dispersed out in the open, filling the street.

This had prompted the Mafia gangsters to grab the valuables before they had promptly returned to their own base. Fortunately, those lost items had been geotagged by the System, allowing it to track where they had gone. Instead of getting away, the thieves were unknowingly leading the way to their den.

Such events prompted other Pandarens to join in the search. Not only were they able to take hold of the lost items for Raid Emblems but also earn extra Raid Points upon completion of these AREs.

However, to remain true to the idea of an 'Active Response', the System had also implemented timers attached to the events, causing customers to rush to the assigned location, thus indirectly ensuring a decent Pandaren presence within the current section of the battlefield. This also guaranteed that the fighting would be more intense and to a certain degree, memorable.

To foster a healthy sense of competition, the amount of participation would result in the Pandaren's achieving a Bronze, Silver or Gold Tier rating, each one rewarding the participants a certain set of raid points and to make things easy for the System to track. (Especially when there were multiple AREs active within the Demopolis districts)

In order to achieve a Gold Tier, Pandarens would have to very actively participate within the diameter of the ARE, which depended on the mission, be it collecting the majority of the lost items or subduing most mafia gangsters.

As long as the Pandarens were performing something useful even by just aiding an injured Pandaren to safety earns them points. These points would then be tabulated and the System would instantly create a list displaying who had scored the most number of points. Only once an event has concluded, would the System rank those Pandarens based on the Tier System.

Initially, Jin had intended to implement a flat points system, meaning as long as the Pandarens reached a certain number of points, they would be rewarded with a Gold tier reward. However, the System had refused the idea, arguing that those raid points would eventually be used to purchase items, so it would hurt his bottom line in the long run if he was too generous.

Ultimately, they compromised with a system that acted something like a bell curve. The top percentile would receive the Gold Tier, most people earning the middle Silver Tier, so only those who did the bare minimum got the Bronze Tier.

Such tactics forced the Pandarens to take more initiative in their game and after the first day, some had already compiled a list of do's and don'ts in order to achieve a Gold Tier. (Eventually, the 'analysts' noticed that it was a bell curve and had placed a new disclaimer that the list only covered the basics.)

Still, all of this was merely distractions for the actual agenda.

Kraft's foxes and a few minions under Jin's command had stationed themselves outside of Demopolis to watch out for the real enemies. Without a doubt, the human armies were coming en masse and they were not hiding their firepower.

As Demopolis was situated in a peninsula, the Deep Ones were monitoring the ships' movements beneath the sea while Kraft's Night Foxes had noted that armies under different city banners were moving in from the top too. If anything, it was plainly obvious that they were aiming for a pincer movement based on the speed they were travelling.

"A pincer movement seems like an understatement." Moloch was standing at the side of the War Room Table and was taking note of the city banners that the scouts had reported. "It looks more like a 'You're surrounded, surrender now and we might give you a quick death!' "

"You believe they will grant you a quick death after all the raiding during King Baal's time?" Nubwort snorted and Moloch shrugged. "Besides, you guys can resurrect so if it was me, I would enslave you under the pretence of justice."

"You're not wrong on that. Lucky, we have a pair of new Goddesses who can protect us, right?" Moloch smiled as he looked at Jin.

"While I like to say that they are changing into their costumes right now, but I'm not sure how easy it will be for Peppers to convince the Mafias to switch sides. And that is assuming if they were not too lazy to come out. To be frank, I am still contemplating to use Rex instead." Jin wondered if it wouldn't have been wiser to use King Rex instead.

"After what Rex supposedly did, you think the Mafias would listen to him?" Qiu Yue questioned as she was already clearing a few backend issues for the incoming fight.

"I guess they'll have to. No matter what, the Mafia gangs should still fight for the city." Jin argued.

"What makes you so sure about this?" Qiu Yue stopped her work, curious for the answer.

"The fact that they stood their ground and fought against King Rex's hired soldiers shows that they still have loyalty towards this city. That alone should be enough to turn the tide later on. Besides, all we need is for them and the Pandarens to buy us some time." Jin remarked and suddenly he could hear the rumbling coming from the side of the War Room.

A black and elegant 'throne' emerged out of nowhere, decorated with foxes elaborately carved into the chair. It was clear that given its design it could only belong to a narcissistic certain someone, which caused everyone at the War Room table to collectively sigh.

"What's with this reaction? A little more respect to this El Presidente. After you all swear your allegiance, we're going to take all those cities!" Kraft announced as he emerged from thin air and comfortably sat down on his new 'chair'.

Nine magical tails shot out from the back of the throne and weaved around their local 'Usurper', making him more ominous than usual.

Chapter 1074 - Uniting the Shadow Kings

"Sir! We finally have a signal!" The messenger slammed open the door only to realise that he had interrupted a meeting full of executives. All eyes were now glaring at him with scorn and he knew that unless he could give them a good reason for his action, it might actually be the end of his life.

"Sire, we finally managed to receive a signal from Tyr Gauntlet." The messenger knelt at the doors, closing his eyes while beads of sweat rolled down his neck. His heart was accelerating and the only thing that kept him sane from this pressurising situation was the hope that his transgression would be overlooked in favour of the completion of the task assigned by Atrocity's Shadow King himself.

"You." Without even turning his neck, the corner of Satov's eye was sufficient for the messenger to know that he was being called upon.

"Place the communication ball on the table. Everyone else, dismissed!"

With one command, the entire room was silenced and the only sound was that of the executives' chairs being moved backwards. The executives stood right beside their seats before bowing simultaneously to Satov and walking away in unison. All of them clearly avoided the messenger and his precious crystal ball, not even sparing him a single glance.

"Sire, the signal is weak and there were unfortunately only inconceivable replies coming from the ball. So far, we have yet to decipher them as there was quite a fair bit of mana disruption in the room. I just came here, because it was your command to inform you, no matter how weak the signal was..." The messenger slowly mumbled his words as he could suddenly feel a darkened pressure emitting from the Shadow King's single eye.

Indeed, Satov, Atrocity's Shadow King, was a Cyclops, a race whose members were widely regarded as primitive monsters who only followed their base instincts.

And yet the one before the Tiefling messenger not only had an abysmal amount of strength and endurance that could match a Giant's, he also had intelligence far above the average man. For him to command one of the three large Mafia factions was a testimony of his abilities, rightfully earning him the respect and fear of everyone in the underworld.

Although Neil had claimed that his abilities could rival the other two Shadow Kings combined, he would never deny that based on raw strength, the Red Tiefling would lose in an instant.

"You may get out now," Satov said and the messenger immediately ran with his tail between his legs. The Cyclops would lie if he said he wasn't disappointed with the messenger's result. Merely getting a weak signal was as good as nothing, but it was not entirely the messenger's fault.

The Shadow Kings had purposely used something like an encryption code via magic to protect their messages and for the messenger to even get a signal was already a miracle considering the barrier in Petal District.

While using his innate strengths to survive, Satov hadn't wasted his years climbing to the top of the food chain and had come to learn some basic magic. With some mana gathered in his three fingered hand,

the crystal ball started to glow eerily for a moment before he managed to get some footage within the ball.

"Ah, Shadow King Satov, I finally managed to contact you." A voice came from the Crystal Ball, yet it wasn't Neil's nor anyone else he could recognise from Tyr Gauntlet. Satov quickly assumed the worst as the image formed into the one seen on magical screens all over the city.

King Rex.

"Speak." The Cyclops demanded with gritted teeth, making sure to hold himself back from immediately crushing the crystal ball.

"Firstly, thank you for not breaking the conversation and thereby showing me where you are. There is a lot I wish to speak about with you. Surely you must wond-"

"If you wish to waste my time, I shall end this call. If there is anything you want to say to me do it now, or we will speak on the battlefield." Satov interrupted him sternly as he tried to hold his anger, calling him out on the 'bluff'.

Rex cleared his throat before he spoke with clarity. "Alright, I shall get directly to the point. Tyr Gauntlet has surrendered to me. Shadow King Neil is currently working to protect Demopolis."

"So? Did you want to flaunt that you have gained another ally?" Satov questioned while trying to perceive any underlying meaning whether Neil had betrayed the alliance.

"No, I wish to offer you a proposal. Before you reached out, I've already managed to contact the Eld Enclave and their Shadow 'King' has already accepted the deal." Rex clarified and suddenly Satov saw a portal appear right in the middle of his table.

It was none other than the King of Demopolis himself who walked out from it. Upon emerging from the portal, he activated his storage ring and a few suitcases drop in front of him. The King mildly kicked one of the suitcases towards the Cyclops and the lid popped open, revealing a stash of Adamantine bars.

"I've been told gold bars are not to your liking, but these... These will allow you to have suits of armour of unparalleled strength, which will complement that gauntlet you have right over there." Rex eyed the old rusted Adamantine gauntlet at the side of the Shadow King.

Needless to say, Satov was just as intrigued as Neil from the allure of those Adamantine bars. He could only wager a guess who had told Rex about it, but they were spot on.

Those dull greenish metal bars were more precious to him than everything else gold could allow him to buy. If anything, the Cyclops race treated Adamantine as their war trophies. It might just be a piece of rare metal to the other demon races but when a Cyclops wore such metal, it allowed them to harness more advanced magic because of their properties.

And that was for a normal Cyclops, whereas Satov was considered to be the brightest of all his race combined. Unfortunately, despite his high intelligence, his ability to use magic was still hindered by his genetic markup.

These Adamantine metals had the triggering properties to complement his genetics and were able to allow him to wield magic as mighty as the Shadow 'King' of the Eld Enclave. Alas, although powerful,

Adamantine would rust and disintegrate with each use of magic, preventing Satov to fully capitalise on them if he does not have sufficient Adamantine to even learn those said magic.

Let's not mention how Adamantine could not be found easily because of the humans' rational fear of the magical wielding juggernauts. (The humans destroyed any sources they could find and even banned Dungeon Cores that created them.)

"So, you wish to stop this war by buying us Shadow Kings under the table?" Satov questioned and Rex laughed loudly.

"Stop this war? We have barely begun." The King smirked as he pulled out the very same contract that Jin had used on Neil previously. The time for war against the human armies was approaching with each tick of the clock, and the King had taken the spontaneous chance Jin had accidentally created to unite the Underworld under him.

Chapter 1075 - Wide Active Response Event (WARE)

King Rex had already met with the only female Shadow 'King' of the Eld Enclave before having his conversation with Satov. While Rex and Satov sealed the deal, she was in the midst of preparing the spells to protect the remaining portion of Demopolis for the next phase.

Honestly, he had not expected Jin's rich resources to be so easily accepted by the Shadow Kings but it had proven that their intelligence gathering had been on point. Through the constant eavesdropping, the goblin communications team had successfully managed to figure out the desires of each head of the three major Mafia factions. It was not an easy feat but the completion of this particular task had further shown Jin's War Council that information gathering and manipulation was indeed as important as the strength to fight off their enemies.

The Eld Enclave had always needed more magical stones and the higher quality the better. So, with the System's access to the Intergalactic Black Markets, Rex had been able to find a magical stone that the Eld Enclave had been unable to resist.

The price to pay for it had been rather obscene but the System had believed it to be a decent recompense. After all, it couldn't risk losing Demopolis because of the infighting between the Mafias and the Pandarens. Fortunately, the System had felt that it had earned sufficiently from the sales from the raid so far, so it had decided it was time to enter the next phase as quick as possible.

Thus, an alert had been sent out via the Pandamonium App indicating a very important Active Response Event was about to be created. The warnings had not been restricted to one particular district, unlike the previous events, but more and more alerts had popped up in the outer districts. Eventually, it changed into a call to gather at the Royal Palace of Demopolis which would henceforth act as the stronghold for the Pandarens.

Xiong Da, Ruo Ying, Xue Ping and Lee An were fighting in the raids as this large scale Active Response Event had been activated since it happened to coincide with the weekend. (And the inspectors for once wanted to finish this raid. For 'research purposes' as Xue Ping claimed.)

The Pandawans did not know what exactly was happening and all they could do was to follow the narrative of this current raid, as stated within the Pandamonium App. By adhering to the instructions of the ARE, the Pandarens were immediately rewarded with twenty raid points which already resulted in a boost to morale.

They quickly realised that this was not just some ordinary Active Response Event as the panda symbols with Vikings helms had evolved into a Viking panda having its back leaning beside a plushie looking minotaur similar to Moloch while they were surrounded by sinister shadows. They were whispering between themselves, wondering if this could be like a starting signal for phase two of this particular Demopolis raid.

And true enough, the Pandarens saw the narrative changed once the timer on the event expired. Multiple district events merged into a singular city wide event which was the Pandapolis called a Wide Active Response Event, or WARE.

The narrative instantly changed within the Pandamonium App as King Rex broadcast a holographic image of himself at the top of the Royal Palace. It was huge enough so that everyone who wasn't currently hiding in a bas.e.m.e.nt would see it. And even then, his booming voice reverberated from the palace to all over the city, to alert and inform everyone.

"Citizens of Demopolis, while some may claim that a king should never bow to his subjects, today, I, King Rex, have come to ask you for your help." King Rex announced while publically lowering his head in front of them all. "Over the last few days, we have been fighting amongst ourselves for our personal beliefs, yet now outsiders have come to prey on us, wishing to make use of our own turmoil."

"They are Purist Humans who have aligned themselves with the Church of the Afterlife, and intend to plunder while we are at our weakest. As I speak, they are coming closer to our lands and shores for a definitive attack. My scouts have reported to me that we will be contending not with one, not with two, but with the military of seven cities at once. Their numbers in strength alone could topple our city in a matter of hours."

"Thus, I beseech each and every one of you, just as I have implored the Shadow Kings, stop the infighting and concentrate on the real enemy. Although we had our differences with the Shadow Kings, ultimately Demopolis is our home and WE ARE NOT GIVING IT UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!!!" Rex roared and the city shook once more, as the ones inside the palace joined their king in his declaration.

As King Rex mentioned the Shadow Kings, three beacons, one in red, green and blue were emitted within their respective districts, showing holographic pictures of their families' crest. The ones belonging to the Mafia recognised it as an affirmation of what the current King was saying and that they should stop the infighting.

"With what little time we have left, we need to prepare against the horde of humans. I, therefore, ask all the various Mafia members who listen to my proclamation to move to those beacons and follow the instructions of your respective Shadow Kings. Together we shall save the entire Demopolis from becoming a ruin. Listen to me now and I promise to lead us to victory against the Seven Cities!!!" King Rex announced which subsequently led the Pandamonium app to start beeping again.

The rules of the City Raid had changed and any Pandaren who were still fighting against the mafia would be eliminated from the current raid instance. To avoid such a fate the app recommended for them to rendezvous at the Royal Palace instead. The time limit was an hour and this led the Pandarens to wonder what they could do until a new objective started to appear in their app.

"Rest and prepare for the next phase of the raid."

This enabled people who were not in the current raid instance to have some time to make their way to Jin's store as the alert had been sent out to every customer who had the Pandamonium App installed on their device. The Pandawans took the chance to call on their remaining team members to gather once more while they explored the current monument they were residing in, the palace itself.

While it had been designated a forbidden place during the raid, the now opened Royal Palace of Demopolis offered the Pandarens a chance to explore the luxurious buildings built during King Baal's reign. Not only that but there were also portals that allow them to return to their customised rooms to change their gears as well as a bunch of System Traders which the Pandarens could stock up at. Judging from King Rex's message, they discerned that the upcoming fight would be a tough one.

And that preparation alone was enough for Jin to open up a very special page in their app that would change the experience of the Pandarens that were playing this particular raid.

Chapter 1076 - Xiong Da's The Man!

When the objective 'to rest and prepare for the next raid' appeared on the Pandamonium App, Xiong Da noticed that there was a mini panda notification blinking in his inbox. As a person who disliked notifications annoying him all day long, he tapped on it to check what it was.

Actually, he just wanted to press on that cute panda icon that was carelessly fluttering around at the corner of the Pandamonium App while holding on to an email. (The mini Panda Icon carried more letters if the notifications were not cleared and there was once Xiong Da was so busy that the mini Panda was hidden by a stack of letters as if it was being drowned by it.)

"Is it a new curated list?" Xiong Da thought to himself as the Pandamonium App would sometimes create specialised lists for Pandarens to buy based on their buying patterns and behaviours, which was hauntingly accurate for the most part. (It would be 100% accurate if the System did not throw in the occasional curveball to make the customers less vigilant about them being studied)

Because of these lists, the Pandarens discovered the increasing multitudes of services that were being offered by Jin's store. Xiong Da believed it to be the kind of notification informing him about some special deals which could prove useful for the next phase, as it coincided with the new task. From personal experience, he could say that they were strikingly close to search engines and wondered what new items they would have in store for him to try out.

However, to his surprise, it was not a customised shopping advertisement, instead, it was a banner for help.

"Assist in the war efforts against the Seven Cities! Contribute your Demopolis Raid Points, Raid Emblems or even Panda Coins to strengthen Demopolis' defences!" The banner stated and Xiong Da was instantly intrigued by it. If anything, he could potentially turn the tide of this particular dungeon instance with the seemingly near infinite Panda Coins residing in his wallet.

Did Boss Jin create this event to cater to the likes of him?

As he clicked on the banner, he was linked to a special page in the Pandemonium App which was beautifully designed by none other than Kiyu. There was a large progress bar at the top of the page with various milestones being set by Jin.

"Hey, guys. Check this out." Xiong Da said to his fellow Pandawan teammates via the app by sending them the link. "Looks like there is something that can give us an edge in the second phase of this ridiculously crazy raid." The rest quickly clicked on it, to check what Xiong Da was referring to.

Upon reading the details, they realised that if they were to contribute their resources, they would have an easier time in the upcoming fight. After participating in the raid for a few days, they had seen how crumbled the entire place was thanks to the previous infighting and there were not many defensible areas left that they could make use of.

Kiyu's 'Call For Help' page stated that if they were to collect 250,000 raid points, they could instantly change the city's landscape to something suitable like a stronghold. And that was only the raid points' portion. If they were to contribute emblems, military vehicles could be issued for ease of transport as well as an increase in mobility.

Likewise, for Panda Coins, they could be converted into either temporary raid points or temporary emblems that could be used to contribute to the respective progress bars. However, it was heavily emphasised that none of those temporary points could be used to redeem items.

Despite the versatility of the Panda Coins, they also had a separate progress bar and inserting money would result in additional support for the NPCs and even call some of the other dungeons minions that would fight alongside them upon hitting certain milestones.

In summary, achieving the three different progress bars would bring extensive perks for their battle against the Seven Cities Armies. This was something similar to a collaborative effort where their hard earned points would be used for the entirety of the raid instance.

And right below the banner page, Kiyu had prepared some expected 'frequently asked questions' with the appropriate answers.

Q: "Can I only donate Demopolis Raid Points, Raid Emblems or Panda Coins right now or is it possible to do so during the second phase?"

A: All three currencies will be accepted at any time during the second phase.

Kiyu's tip: Pandarens might want to prioritise achieving the very first milestone of the Raid Point section before the battle as the current interval allows the city to change without much interference. Should the goal be hit during the "rest and prepare" mission the city would instantly receive basic foundation upgrades for the upcoming second phase.

Q: "Can I get a refund if a milestone is not hit?"

A: Refunds will automatically be processed in the respective currency at the end of the raid if a milestone has not been met. However, once the next milestone has been achieved within the progress bar the customer has donated to, that currency will be considered 'spent'. Any 'unspent' currency will, as stated, be naturally returned.

Q: "It was hard getting my raid points/emblems, Panda Coins, why should I donate them?"

A: For the benefit of the entire raid!

Boss Jin's remark: I can assure everyone that the rewards for winning the entire instance will outweigh the charity we ask for.

More FAQs were below these answers, but the Pandawans reading it had also noticed that there were bubble notifications for the people contributing at the side of their Pandamonium App.

Many had doubts about just how many customers would be willing to give up their points as they were all earned with the Pandarens' sweat and blood. Not to mention, the redemption store had quite a lot of items that were very enticing even for even the Pandawans. So, to see Pandarens actively give up their points for the raid was somewhat heartening.

The bigger the contribution, the bigger the bubble mention. It was supposed to motivate his customers. Although the sum needed was large, if everyone chipped in a bit, it would be easy enough to reach...

However, their dear Sir Spendalot had decided to completely wreck this system by chipping in the largest portion into the fray. The Panda Coins which he had been rewarded for assisting in the construction of the Tree Mall were frivolously exchanged for Raid Points and then donated towards the progress bar, allowing the entire raid instance to achieve the first milestone of rebuilding the foundations of the city.

"Heh, I knew he would do that." Both the Pandawan Team and Jin thought the same and chuckled to themselves. Still, the large celestial 'whale' otherwise known as Xiong Da didn't stop just there, as he liked to exceed people's expectations, especially Jin's. (In most games, people who spend a lot were called a 'Whale', as they were known to be whaling for the game.)

Not only the first milestone of the Raid Points Progress Bar had been fulfilled, but also the one for the Raid Emblems, as well as the Panda Coins' initial milestone, providing the entire Pandarens team with the perks of having a brand new city defence foundation, a truckload of jeeps and motorcycles at their disposal as well as some experimental batch of guns for the current guards.

The bubble mention instantly filled the entire screen indicating Xiong Da's major contribution. To further thank him for his epic donation proportion, Jin, who had been watching all of this from the sidelines, had decided to project a holographic form of him, over the entire city, just as they had done for King Rex.

Suddenly, everyone saw the innocent looking Xiong Da smiling down at his phone, before subsequently realising that he was being projected in holographic form for everyone to see their benefactor. The flustered look on his face caused Ruo Ying to laugh loudly and hug him from his back.

The nearby inspectors also rushed and hugged him, thanking his generosity to the raid instance, allowing everyone to see the big hippo cultivator being loved by his friends dearly via the giant hologram.

And because of Xiong Da achievement in hitting all three milestones, everyone who logs in for the second phase had been given a free defensive temporary inscription courtesy of the Dungeon Supplier.

As was to be expected, everyone went bonkers.

Chapter 1077 - New Empire Building Sub System Feature

Although Kraft oversaw the entire operation, he still allowed Jin to incorporate stuff to entertain his customers. As long as it didn't interfere with the Devil Fox's almighty master plan, he didn't care what his master made his customers do. Even if it entailed something as drastic as an entire revamp of Demopolis, just in time for the attack of the Seven Cities.

From a pragmatic standpoint, Kraft did not think that they needed to proceed with the fight. He and the other foxes could easily teleport to the enemies' Dungeon Cores and steal them right under their noses.

However, both Kiyu and Qiu Yue had vehemently disagreed with that kind of action. Not only because they wanted to continue profiting from the war by allowing the Pandarens who still thought of this as a Raid Instance to actively participate in it, but the main rationale was that if they were the first ones invaded, they would have a legitimate excuse to occupy the trespassing Seven Cities.

Even without advertising the battle between Demopolis and Pandapolis, there were already rumours and whispers spreading around various cities about how a young city lord had managed to not only fend off Demon King Baal but had also managed to take his city by force and right under his nose too.

While these rumours were left out that he had been assisted by King Baal's ex-advisor, they eventually became hot news, leading the Church of the Afterlife to push its faithful allies to take over Demopolis from behind the scenes.

Of course, the Church of the Afterlife had refrained from publicly promising their support. Instead, they had nudged the surrounding human cities to take revenge against Demopolis who should be in a state of turmoil as a result of their infighting.

With the 'blessing' of the Church, the armies of the Seven Cities expected that by the time they reached Demopolis, all they would need to do was to finish up the weakened forces and divide the rewards among themselves.

Yet, that was the narrative in their society's news, but everyone who had lived long enough would know that all these were just a pretence for a competition between the Seven Cities to grab Demopolis' Dungeon Core.

They would eventually defeat and slaughter each and every demon and Demopolis citizen they encountered, but as soon as their common enemy was defeated, it would become a battle to decide who was the strongest between the Seven Cities.

However, what if Jin, Kraft and Rex could fend off the overwhelming assault as well as capture the Seven Cities' Dungeon Cores?

It would not only make the headlines but allow Jin to create an alliance of cities that would benefit him and ultimately Pandapolis too. (Not to mention it would be a perfect shield for Demopolis.) The others would fear him and some industry titans might even convert to his side for safety.

The three had also learned from Moloch and Baal that they did not have to necessarily conquer and rule the Seven Cities like how they did for Demopolis and Pandapolis. Another option would be to turn those Seven Cities into their vassal states for a period of time as set by a contract between the victor's Dungeon Core and the losing side's Dungeon Core.

Knowing that Jin had a sufficient amount of kingdom ruling between worlds, this was a delightful feature that he would love to utilise. He would be able to influence the way those Seven Cities worked while not having to deal with the administrative work that was beset by each city.

At the time that Moloch had explained this feature inside the Dungeon Cores, the System had spoken out, suggesting that should Jin and his minions be successful in this endeavour, Qiu Yue would be the most important piece in his current arsenal.

As much as the Empire Building Sub System was made to construct instant buildings as Qiu Yue levelled up her cultivation grade, more features such as automated governance could be given clearance by the Sub System for Jin and Qiu Yue to utilise.

One of the requirements would be to get more Dungeon Cores into the System's care as they inadvertently would increase its processing capabilities, in turn allowing it to allocate more resources to each of the Sub Systems, even though the Sub System modules were already partially independent from the main System.

Speaking of the Empire Building Sub System, the current "Assistance in the War Efforts" had been a collaboration between Jin and Qiu Yue. Due to the Red Panda Cultivator's diligent effort under the training of Tsu and Kai, her grade had gone exponentially to the point that it had frightened the System a little too.

Although she kept her new skills a secret from everyone but the Wolf Foxes, she did not hesitate to show Jin the new features that the Empire Building Sub System had unlocked, which had allowed this "Assistance in War Efforts" to be possible and naturally the Dungeon Supplier wasn't averse to make a profit in every possible turn of events that the Pandarens were in.

Jin had thought that he and Rex would have to use the Dungeon Core's basic functions to do a hard reset, clearing most of the city away and used Qiu Yue's previous quick fabrication buildings to provide defensive strongholds for the city.

However, with her new function, she was not only able to do that but by imaging what she wanted, the Empire Building Sub System was able to create a draft design of the area and fully replicate them immediately as soon as its user approved it.

Both major and minor edits could be done so long as Qiu Yue had a digital tablet and pen with her, with which she would redraw and change the designs by hand. The Sub System would then take into account her edits and add the needed infrastructure to make it work.

It would still require specific resources to build the buildings as detailed by the Empire Building System but if the Main System was in possession of those resources (from cement to pipes and wirings), everything would be automated through the powers of the Empire Building Sub System and this brought extreme new possibilities to the way Jin could fight his wars.

Once Qiu Yue demonstrated it to him, they were both reminded of those real-time strategy games like "Black Alert" or "Command And Conquest" where buildings were built so long as they had sufficient resources at their disposal.

The only problem was when Qiu Yue wanted the building to be completed within an instant. The Empire Building System stated that such a feature was not implemented and even if tried to research such a thing, it would be locked until she attained a much higher cultivation grade.

Thus, the defensive stronghold foundations that Xiong Da had assisted the Raid Instance to those milestones were merely part of the plan that Qiu Yue had already designed and had merely been awaiting construction based on the customers' progress. All the derelict buildings had already been deconstructed and removed, yet Rex had programmed the Dungeon Core to recycle the materials so they could be used for future construction.

Bunkers were already installed in the bas.e.m.e.nt levels and roads were mended throughout the districts except for the Royal Palace and the Shadow King Districts. With the milestone rewards to entice the Pandarens, Jin would step in and intervene only when they felt the need to rush the constructions.

For now, they just let those point and coin contributions come in, allowing Jin to save tons of money in redemption rewards while earning more via the side to fund the resources needed for the construction works.

Chapter 1078 - Retaliation Against The Seven Cities

As Jin was reinforcing the City with the 'aid' of the Pandarens, the acclaimed fox overlords of all Overlords, was already on the move to prepare the defences of Demopolis for a simultaneous strike against the Seven Cities.

He already had information on those seven cities and he was appalled that the Church of the Afterlife were using such weak pawns against the Demopolis. With the exception of one particular city, Kraft had determined that the rest were equivalent to warm up exercises.

This was because Demopolis had previously dominated these cities during its prime. They had been defeated to a plum and had been raised with so many resources that Kraft who had checked the Dungeon Core's directory of cities learned that they amounted to nothing.

However, he was still wary of them mainly because of the Church's support. He spent enough time within the organisation to learn that they had been doing illicit experiments to artificially strengthen soldiers for their fight.

He even managed to procure one set for Ayse to study and she was shocked how ravenous the Church Agents could be when it came to sentient experiments. "Their serum will strip the user of every bit of intelligence they would have and rampage crazily. And the set you gave me seems to indicate they have catered the serums based on their elements. From basic ones like Wind, Fire, Earth, Water to advanced ones like Light and Darkness." Ayse said as she placed on the System's replicator to reproduce the exact same serum for further testing.

She was annoyed that the resources required were a little obscure and she had to spend money in the black market to duplicate the exact ingredients. (Even without showing it, the System was pleased Kraft was able to steal a sample set.)

"With the Church of the Afterlife monopolising the deaths of billions of people and monsters, they no doubt have sufficient samples for those who were not able to pay the fee to resurrect. This is indeed a horrible organisation that these people had no idea how much crazy batshit these people are overcharging for a resurrection." Ayse said as she showed the results to Kraft.

"Isn't that why we are working to put up our own religion aka the most legitimate business? The bigger the competitors, the sweeter the victory when we bring it down. Oh when you think about it, Jin sure found a loophole of using Peppers and Milk as the goddess of saviours since they did not have to be around all the time to entertain their followers." Kraft chuckled to her as he read the results and prepared for such scenarios.

And today's the day he was able to show the result of his preparations. (Though to be honest, he never really prepared much against a rampaging horde of insentient monsters.) Kraft did however take the effort to place signs at the borders of Demopolis, including large floating billboards in his seas to tell the armies to back off or be killed mercilessly.

The Seven Cities never heed the warnings and ignore them as empty threats as they trampled the signs or for the naval fleets invading, blasting the floating billboards away. Now that the Seven Cities were in their territory and had ignored the warnings of Kraft the kind gentle fox, they were ready to retaliate.

"As per Dungeon World's PROPER rules of engagement, we had warned our enemies to not step into our territory. Yet, they refused to heed our pleas of peace and even showed force on my terribly beautiful billboards. So, we now have the right to engage them in battle and chase them out of Demopolis." Kraft said as he sat on his oversized throne and played a jack in the box. A fox plushie came springing out of the box instead and that indicated to the War Room staff to start the retaliation process.

"Try not to kill all of them or else I have a sparkling new Stronghold without any scars on it. Would not look nice in the resume of any Stronghold builder." Qiu Yue said as she started to coordinate for the north eastern and western part of Demopolis where there was sea and land to contend against the invaders, and also assuming Kraft failed to stop the sea invasion. And when that happened, this would be the hardest to contain if the commanders handling the north and south failed.

"Please, it would be best the new Demopolis City was unaffected and we would save more money reconverting it back to a functioning city." Moloch replied as his focus was at the south against the incoming naval fleets. "We should send the Pandarens to battle rather than letting them stay in the cities. The Mafias and other remaining Demons would subsequently see them as allies for King Rex too."

"You think too much Moloch. Just convert the entire city to a Military stronghold and naval base and we can use it to raid on a regular basis without other cities even thinking of attacking us. You had forgotten that we would be angering the largest and most advanced organisation in the entire world. You think they would give us a chance to rest and prosper when they could counter within a whim?" Nubwort commented while handling the northern lands and he was not wrong.

"What do you have to worry about? We have always been the underdogs fighting against the big guys. From the Orcs to Rats and even my world's Tigers. Even if we have to lose, we won't lose with grace." Jin said. "We will be winning this battle and win even more in this war as long as we play our cards right."

"That's my boy!" Kraft said as he pointed to Jin and gave him a love sign with his two hands. Then his face turned dark as he turned on the multiple holographic screens right in front of him.

"Don't you worry, this fox will make sure the Panda Clan not only wins but have its name be heard across the various worlds," Kraft said as he fiddled his chair and a keyboard with a tablet attached, emerged from the sides. He then typed a few commands which he sent to his Night Foxes for them to commence with their current operations.

It was a guarantee the Seven Cities were going to fall. It would be up to Kraft how hard they were going to do so.

Chapter 1079 - Taris Army Setting Camp Up

"General. We are reaching their city outskirts soon. Should we set up our camp here to rest while sending out our scouts to inform us about their situation before embarking for the assault?" One of the leading Majors asked Yaega Nern, the attacking general from the City of Taris, as he looked back to see the fatigue in his soldiers after a long march from their city. They needed to take some long winding path in order to prevent their away army from being mistaken by other cities as an act of aggression and not incurring the wrath of other cities.

"Aye, we should and set up a defence parameter as we make camp here," Yaega said as he took his stuffy iron helmet out after a long trip from his city. Unlike the Demopolis City who had immense magical powers to teleport their armies for a shock intensive raid, these human cities did not have such luxuries. The only thing they had in their possession were numbers.

From the poor and impoverished to the middle class who wished to gain an achievement, all of these people were drafted into this particular army for the assault. But all these changes when the Church Agents had given them a small shot of a secret serum that gave even the weakest his ability to fight at least two people at once.

After all, in Yaega's mind, he knew that the Church wanted Demopolis out of the picture and all Taris wanted was a piece of the pie when the Church Agents suggested a coordinated attack. The Taris army would be moving out of Demopolis as soon as they got sufficient shares of Demopolis's treasures, the other cities fight it out for the grand prize of owning it.

"We would be coordinating with Bodek City and Merah City's armies for the morning's attack. According to our last communication, they should be able to rendezvous by nightfall. Other than that, this is proceeding way too smoothly than I expected. The infighting had indeed taken a toll on their defences." Yaega smiled as he could still see smoke coming from the city at the cliff view he was standing upon.

"Yes, sir. Usually, we would have to meet up with such aggressive defence from the Demopolis forces that it would be impossible for us to step a hundred metres into their territory." The Major smiled as he pulled out a small bottle of wine from his bag and asked if the General of Taris City wished to have a gulp of it for a job well done leading their army here intact.

"Drinking on the job?" Yaega questioned and the Major's eyes were as thin as a slit of paper, smiling from one corner of his mouth to the other.

"No, General. More like a good luck drink." The Major rephrased it and Yaega could not refuse when he put it that way. In the meantime, the General's orders were being passed down to the rest and a platoon of guards had spread out as ordered so that the rest could have peace of mind to set their camp out.

Thankfully, it was uneventful as the Taris Army set their camp up for the night. Even though they were in the enemy's territory, they were still brazen enough to establish a full temporary base right in the enemies' region. It was as if telling the other incoming city armies that the Demopolis' defences were non-existent and that they could invade with a drink in their hand. The commanding officers even thought that this could be a tale to savour for time to come as they partnered with the other cities for the morning's coordinated attack.

However, Yaega did not wish to be complacent in his defence after coming a long way from home. So, he ordered a few more platoons of guards to keep watch of the new encampment and send his scouts to check ahead as the rest of the army were allowed to have a hearty meal and some winks of sleep before the morning's assault.

"Are these humans really naïve or what?" Tinda, one of the Night Fox Elites grumbled via the System Channel thinking that this was an insult to the defenders while passing the binoculars to her pal.

"That's the whole point of this retaliation. Tinda, take a chill pill." Narris said as she looked through the binoculars to confirm that there was little activity within the encampment even though the sun had yet to set. At that moment, Tinda already gave instructions to the rest of the Night Foxes to surround the encampment and the rest swiftly flew to their allocated positions with their gearbox suits.

If they were going to massacre the entire encampment, they needed the element of surprise and those gearbox suits which the Mousefolks used previously during the Southern Region Battle were the right tool for the job. (Of course, they were equipped with gearbox suits which were bigger in size and not Mousefolk sizes.) Not to mention, the dark elves already excelled moving through the forested regions with ease even without the gearbox so the new suit merely accelerate their movements to be more fluid

like a floating shadow, allowing Tinda to be able to execute an extremely precise ambush with a lesser number of elves in the team when they split up.

And that was what they were waiting for the entire time.

Massacring an entire army of two thousand troops with fifty odd Night Foxes was overkill in the eyes of Kraft when he knew that a small coordinated group could easily handle a number bigger than that. (He did oversee their training and expected them to perform an equivalent as a God of War in a medieval setting.) But he wanted these many people not because he wanted to send a show of force or create an explosive scene.

This was because the rest of the incoming army would be wary of their firepower and perhaps indulge in the Church's illegal experiments to succeed in this alliance attack on Demopolis. Instead, he sent this many Night Foxes for one reason.

Sabotage.

The Night Foxes whose subterfuge was second to none had been sent into the Taris Army to poison their food and water stocks with a rather nasty virus. A virus concocted none other by the Ravenous Lord Kiva.

That bad Bat Lord was no doubt a competent scientist which could rival Ayse in their individual field of expertise. His poisons had earned him the privileges of being the right hand man of King Baal and this was no exception in the eyes of Kraft. If anything, Kiva had revitalised and produced a previous concoction of stomach flu virus that would be used to target a person's life energy. Except now it was more refined, more elegant and undoubtedly top notched effective that give Kraft the idea for mass biological warfare.

However, that was not the most impressive portion and rather, the ability to have a delay activation when the virus entered their body. Kiva had made sure that the activation would happen when the body arouses its adrenaline receptors, hence causing them to fall ill the moment they were anxious, excited or even felt fearful. In theory, the virus sounded fun for Kraft and decided to give Kiva an entire army as his experiment sample.

As for the location of the food stocks, the Night Foxes had been there keeping an eye when the Taris Army set their entire encampment out in the open the entire time. From the moment they arrived up to now, their watchful eyes had seen where the food and water items were placed and allocated. Also, this was a true test of their subterfuge abilities as the sun had yet to set and they were poisoning the water and food supplies before their dinner started.

While it might sound like a handicap, the Night Foxes even for the likes of elites, both Tinda and Narris relished this stealthy close encounter as they poisoned their enemies' perishables. Their objective was not to kill anyone at all while making sure they were able to complete their mission.

Even though it was a roundabout way to do this, chemical warfare was something that Kraft had been looking into for some time and with Kiva's 'evil' expertise at his disposal, this was one more way to defeat the enemies of the Panda Clan.

Chapter 1080 - Seven Cities Assault -Part 1

The night went by peacefully for the Taris Army with no incidents and that alone reinforced the fact that the Demopolis Police and even their Home Guards were too busy dealing with the internal strife to even know about them.

Taris General Yaega had sent scouts ahead to check on the city's situation for he felt something was still amiss. There was no way the Demopolis would not know about them given that they were blatantly out in the open. All that bustling for setting the camp up should have already given away their position and yet there was no retaliation on their side.

However, the commanding officers under him reassured him further when the scouts returned safely to state that the infighting was still ongoing.

Even though it was before the peak of dawn, the scouts reported there were sporadic infightings in each district and the place was basically torn down. This gave General Yaega a momentary peace of mind until the arrival of Bodek and Merah City's legions came into view. Their Generals had also assembled in the temporary headquarters Taris had erected within the night. For the rest of the army, they were given a moment's respite as well as a hearty breakfast before their assault.

As the other two cities were further than Taris, they were unable to carry as many food supplies as they would like to and thus given that responsibility to Taris to handle. Surely it was not a wise decision from a strategic point of view since they would all be vying for the treasures and loot of Demopolis but the Church's power to guarantee the cities participating, a fair compensation if they were to coordinate until the demise of Demopolis.

With that contract enforced, the various City Generals were still protecting the best of their interests but at the same time cooperating between the cities whenever needed while a few Church Agents were made as overseers to make sure that their alliance was valid.

And one of such overseers was Agent Ravis. Scrawny but not to be underestimated as he was also one of the few who had taken the prototype serum after the scientists' countless attempts at refining it. Besides, his true identity was an elite agent employed by the Church of the Afterlife who accompanied Merah City's Army to Demopolis outskirts. (Mainly because the agent happened to be around that area and it was easier to rendezvous with them.) And thus alongside him was General Ana, who was well known in their circles of cities as the War Angel of Fire.

Bodek City's general had also arrived as per stipulated time and the three generals were discussing the fine points of the battle plan created by the tacticians of the Seven Cities. The current war master plan was fairly simple. Taris, Merah and Bodek would attack from the north, attacking from three points. The middle point would be led by Taris Army but only a small force would be allocated for that position. A bulk of their troops would be separated to assist with Merah and Bodek attack points which were the North East and North West respectively.

Eun City, Kemban City and Leba City would be commandeering naval fleets to attack from the south. These three cities, which had superior naval fleets compared to the rest, would be attacking at a later

time as they would want the Demopolis Home Guards to focus on the north as their naval fleets swoop in from the south.

As for the last city, Aljun City, they were the trump card of the Seven Cities alliance and the one Kraft was a little worried about. This was because they were not sea or land based but aerial. But unlike the Land and sea, the aerial forces would come in the last because their city did not wish to waste their precious expensive machinations to be destroyed by some magic ball wielding demons. They would however provide whatever fire support the other human cities would need against the Demopolis and should the demons put up a fierce fight, the rest of the armies could retreat and allow Aljun Cities Fleet Armada to burn the entire Demopolis to Kingdom Come.

"General Ana, it's nice to see you again and a good day to you to Church Agent Ravis, I have received your correspondence and sent my units to check out the parameters. Everything is in order and proceeding smoothly. Hope you all had a decent time travelling through the other cities without much disruption." Taris said as he pointed to them their seats on their war table.

"There were some unpleasant encounters with a few groups of bandits who think that they could steal our supplies. Other than that it was nothing significant, just a bit of sport for our army." General Ana said as she sat down and placed her War Axe at the side. It nearly tipped the table to her side but she reacted quickly by picking it up and placing it on the ground.

"Where is General Edgar? I thought you said everyone had arrived." Ravis said as he opened his pocket watch to check the time. "He knows that he had to be here by-"

"Stop your nonsensical yapping, you bloody agent. I am already here." Edgar swiped the tent's entrance flap away and sat at the remaining chair available around the war table. "Don't you bastards already know that my city's the furthest and you had to yap on being punctual when I am REQUIRED to take detours of unknown difficulties and to come on time as instructed as well? Well f.u.c.k you, you churchie."

"Mind your words, Edgar. I can denounce you as a heretic and have you cut down even before the start of this assault." Ravis raised his finger at him but Edgar did not back down and instead, challenged him further.

"Try me." Edgar raised his chest and looked down at the scrawny looking Church Agent.

"Enough!" Ana was about to pick her war axe and stomped it to stop the commotion and Yaega placed himself in the middle to intervene them from even attempting to confront each other. "We can do all this after the assault, not in the middle of it. Let's quickly review the plans and start the attack. The dawn is approaching soon and we should hit before the Demopolis Home Guards notice us."

The three generals including the church agent once more went through with their plans while their armies ate their breakfast in the Taris temporary headquarters. Once the generals were out of their camp meeting, the orders to reorganise and sortie were given as Church Agent Ravis reported the army's progress to his main headquarters. His main purpose was to liaise the information between the land, sea and air so that the war master plan could proceed with ease.

But that was not their main concern for the Church as they themselves were actually preparing a special surprise for Demopolis in case the Seven Cities failed in their assault. After all, they saw the swift

capture of Demopolis as well as the stout defences from Pandapolis. Therefore, they were taking no chances.

"Ahh... So, this is what they had been planning. Now I finally know why my senses had been tingling for some time. Naughty, naughty! My dear elves, please catch that Church Agent, I would like to know more about their surprise." Kraft smiled to himself as he received the very same information not soon after.