

Dungeon S 1271

Chapter 1271: Royal Zodiac Meeting -Part 2

As they finally reached the top floor once more, the ushers were already sweating buckets from the outburst of chi from the two high level cultivators. They were standing as still as they could and only showing the way because they knew that if they moved, their legs would give way and that would cost embarrassment (Possibly the loss of their jobs too for not being professional.)

Unfortunately, one of them eventually fell to the ground as he realised that his legs could not take it anymore. Everyone in the room held back their breath as they did not know how the trio who entered the room could react to this unprofessional behaviour. The floor manager even thought of opening his mouth to beg for forgiveness but his mouth just simply could not move as the tallest among them stared at him as if he could pinpoint who was the person responsible for this entire floor.

However, Kong Rong let out a quiet cough and Kraft looked away almost instantaneously while the people guarding the doors opened it as soon as the trio were in sight. They were barely keeping their wits together and also tried to avoid eye contact even though they were as curious as they were scared.

Jin yawned again before slapping his face a little to wake himself up as they walked through the doors, knowing that there would be another trial he had to face. And sadly, the first person he saw was none other than Yuan Ba at the edge of the conference table, looking irritated at him and so did the other Zodiac Heads.

He presumed that he was not only late but also the outburst of chi which made them uncomfortable. But even before he could open his mouth, Kong Rong took the centre stage and introduced Jin and Kraft to the restless group of figureheads (quite literally.)

"Apologies for the tardiness. We were not exactly informed of the procedures and we had failed to ask Kong Rong on how to proceed with this entire meeting. Did not know there were such stringent security protocols in place and many other erm... guidelines to follow" Jin bowed slightly to show some sincerity in his apology but the Zodiac Heads were not buying it. Of course, why would they trust this new Lord who had no Royal upbringing at all?

"Hence, I asked that you all be so kind as to accept my apologies with this as your breakfast if you all have not had any," Jin said while he opened his storage watch to take out the items he wished to present to the entire group.

"It is fine. We already had our refreshments. Do not tarry the real agenda of this meeting." Yuan Ba said with an annoyed look but someone interjected the moment Jin took out the very first item. A small steaming basket full of Xiao Long Bao or also known as soup dumplings.

"Now this is something even more appealing than that ridiculous miniature rectangular sandwich that was given to us." A man with an enormous beer belly stood up as he saw the steam basket still piping hot.

"Zhu Tai Fang. Head of the Royal Zodiac Pig Head. I am normally disinclined with eating food that is not associated with my clan's restaurant but the moment you take that out, it's releasing an abnormal amount of chi and aroma which immediately catches my attention. Defence Minister, I understand that

we have lots of things to discuss but having a terribly poor breakfast is not good for the brain and the soul. Not to mention, it seems everyone is in a foul mood. I suggest we partake in his apologies and then continue on with the current meeting.”

“How do we know that he did not poison the food?” Yuan Ba was definitely still feeling sore from the aftermath of losing a few of his important territories.

“I am here. There is nothing much to worry about. And Tiger, poisoning the entire group of Zodiac Heads? You have such wild imaginations that I would never think of in this lifetime.” A rather well dressed middle aged lady said with her arms crossed. It was apparent she was in favour of eating a sumptuous breakfast before the meeting.

“But dear Sirs and Madams, if it pleases you, we can release our breakfast itinerary at this moment-” One of the many vice managers had begun to voice out but Tai Fang literally snorted.

“Please, I am kind of sick of eating such substandard food every time I have to visit this place.”

“But Head Zhu, we had employed the best of the best chefs from your clan. There should not be-” Before the vice manager was able to finish his sentence, Tai Fang had already materialised his personal pair of chopsticks and spoon to pick up the piping hot xiao long bao from the steam basket.

“Oh my... This is exquisite. The skin of the bun is translucent to the point I can see the fillings when I bring it close to my mouth but yet retain its beauty from afar. It can not only hold the weight of the ingredients within it and does not break that easily when pinching it from the top.” Tai Fang said as he took a quick breath in.

“The soup... the smell is not an ordinary recipe.” Tai Fang immediately placed the first xiao long bao in his mouth and as he crushed it from within, he could feel the umami rich soup pouring out of his mouth and pulsating through his entire body. “The minced pork...is equally fresh, and I cannot believe a single ingredient within the soup could change the flavour immensely, wait no. It should have been boiled for at least a few days before achieving such — Where did you get such an amazing basket of Xiao Long Bao?” Tai Fang with his godly tongue due to his Royal Zodiac Pig Cultivation was able to discern almost every single ingredient within that small Xiao Long Bao. He was amazed by the amount of work that was put in, significantly way more than the chefs he ever trained.

Even as ‘simple’ as a Xiao Long Bao, he could already feel the years of dedication and training being put into this product and all he wanted was another piece to be placed into his mouth so he could relive the delight. Not to mention, the chi eluded in this small dumpling was way more than he could have ever thought it was possible and it undoubtedly revitalised him.

Seeing how the Head of Royal Zodiac Pig, a critical appraiser of food, was recognising Jin’s apology meal, the rest started to feel their stomach rumbling at the sight of it and saliva sneakily drooling out of their mouths.

“It’s made by my head chef in Dungeons and Pandas. I have more than enough dim sum dishes for everyone and even Chinese tea made by her.” Jin said as he pulled more of the steam baskets out of his storage watch. Defence Minister He Fei also could not resist after smelling the rich aroma coming from the steam baskets even though he was at the far end of the conference table and admitted that a good

breakfast would be useful for everyone. Thus, the Royal Zodiac Heads and their companions slowly but surely started to crowd around Jin for the food.

Even that annoyed tiger.

Chapter 1272: Royal Zodiac Meeting -Part 3

“Jin, it’s best if you bring all of this to the meeting,” Lynn said as she hollered for her boyfriend when he was about to depart with Kraft.

“Why? I am going there as a participant, not some delivery guy,” Jin said and Lynn smacked his head hard for not being able to comprehend the situation he was in.

“You did not bother to do anything with regards to the meeting and you wish to show up at the very last minute? Don’t you think it’s high time you gain some brownie points from all those higher up from you? Do you really want them to think that the Panda Lord is some young adult who did not respect any of their rules?” Lynn pouted and Jin quietly receive the scolding. She was not as fierce when they were mere boss and employee but her concern for Jin was well thought out.

“I had prepared this for the past few hours with time dilution magic. Keep them in the special System storage compartment of your watch.” Lynn said to Jin as she wiped her hands and recounted the number of steam baskets and trays he was about to bring for the meeting. Her Sub System assured her that everything had been accounted for and would bill Jin if he did not return all the dishes.

“I do not care if they are dirty or not, be sure to bring them back. Those bamboo steam baskets are not easy to come by. They are made from Grade 11 bamboo which the System had been cultivating in the Werejackals farm. Currently, they are considered as limited goods so you better bring them back.”

“Why use such expensive baskets?! Also, you want me to time freeze the food is just-”

“Just listen to me for this once. If you do not think it’s helping you after you serve them, you can complain to me all you want when you reach home.” Lynn interjected while throwing a piece of chopstick towards Kraft as his fingers were getting very fidgety especially when the smell of the dim sum combined had been nearly intolerable for his mouth to control.

“Eat it later or else no food for you for the next one week.” Lynn sternly said and he quietly received his punishment when the chopstick flew towards Kraft’s fingers. Way too close for comfort when he could see the chopstick was barely a millimetre away from his index finger.

“Thank god for Lynn’s cooking... Looks like I really owe you big time.” Jin thought to himself as everyone thoroughly enjoyed the food presented to them and kept pressing for more information about Jin’s employee. That was where Kraft had debuted his charismatic self and fully praised Lynn right in front of the entire group without any reserves. If it was about Jin, he would probably have added some snarky remarks into it but Lynn had nothing short of compliments from Kraft. (In fact, he was being rather genuine with his comments and no one had detected a single lie from him at all.)

Kong Rong even chipped in some of the experiences he had from Lynn's cooking and he said that Jin's store was no ordinary dungeon supplier shop at all. While the rest had sent in their spies to poke around Jin's store, they could not believe what their followers had said until they personally heard it from the horse's mouth.

"I too wished to compliment Jin's store as it had been nothing but a wonderful experience." A very familiar female voice was heard within the crowd and Jin was totally surprised to see her. (Perhaps, her father's presence and the need to please the crowd was more pressurising to notice her.)

"Yang Ling. Do not say anymore." Yuan Ba stared at his daughter but she was adamant to voice her opinion. After all her father had done to suppress Jin, she was not willing to let the matter slide easily. This entire meeting is also the one and only opportunity for Jin to make allies and not more enemies if everything was done right. If her father was able to let go of the centuries old grudge between the main zodiac team and the Panda Clan, they might be able to do something extraordinary together especially when the Panda Lord had been climbing up the ladder of influence pretty quickly.

And she also supported him regardless even though Yang Ling had known that she had no chance to be with him when Lynn gave a friendly call to her asking for help. In a way, she was returning a favour Jin never owned and was doing it to support her dear friend too. The Panda Lord had unanimously helped the tiger princess at her lowest and she will do the same for him when the situation arises. And that situation is now, as she told everyone how the help of Jin was crucial to the success she was enjoying at the moment.

Kong Rong too did not hesitate to take the opportunity to reiterate the achievements Jin had done for the country in order to show that the Panda Lord was here to assist the Royal Zodiac Clans as well as protect the country's sovereignty against both internal and external threats.

If anything, Pig Head Tai Fang had unknowingly sided with Jin now that he knows he might finally have a cooking rival he could look forward to. The rest of the group were partially swayed by the stories Jin's friends had said and even Tiger Head Yuan Ba had reluctantly admitted indirectly that Jin was a league of his own as his General had praised him for the efforts against the Banned Emperor's induced Monster Horde.

"Ah, that. Yes, my own general too had many compliments for him on that particular incident. For that, I personally would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Those men who could live and breathe easily right now were because of your efforts. They repeatedly said that they owe their lives to you and would assist you in any endeavour in a heartbeat. Even if I were to give orders to kill you, they will at the very least disobey it once. This is how much my men respected you for your heroics for that particular day." Se Chang Chang, the Head of the Royal Zodiac Snake said as he savoured a Char Siew Bao. (Pork Bun)

"While the food is nice, honestly the compliments are making me sick." Royal Zodiac Rat Head, Shu Tiao Xiao, grumbled and everyone knew that like Yuan Ba, he had suffered financially because of the loss of King's Monster as well as his Triad Boss. However, as bitter he was, he knew that it was somewhat inevitable since he knew his lackey's personality.

“Right, we have enough idle chit chat. Thank you for the food, Jin. It had been refreshing to hear about you from these people and it made me understand you a little more.” He Fei smiled as he raised his hand to shake with Jin for the impromptu sumptuous meal.

Now, the meeting has truly begun.

Chapter 1273: Royal Zodiac Meeting -Part 4

With everyone having their stomachs full of good food, their moods too had changed for the better as they took their seats at the conference table. In the meantime, Jin had quickly transferred the remaining food items onto plates and quickly kept the steam baskets before Lynn haunts him for the rest of his entire life.

“Hey, sit down already.” Yang Ling sent a telepathic message to Jin as everyone including He Fei was patiently waiting for him to sit but at the same time, they seemed like they were biding their time to attack him verbally as well.

Between the wrath of the 12 Zodiac Heads and Lynn, he believed the latter would be more of a devastation compared to these people. Still, he decided to fasten the pace by activating his Maqi and using a pinch of Green Panda Wind Energy to move all the steam baskets closer to him while a bit of Pink Panda Psychic Energy so that he could pop the remaining dim sums into the plates he prepared earlier.

This quick and small display of ‘chi’ surprised the group as they saw two different elements in action at the same time which made them ponder what Jin had been hiding behind that Panda Title of his.

At the same time, Jin could feel the curious looks from all the Zodiac Heads, and even without saying, the Panda Lord knew that they were dying to know what skills he had. Should he sugarcoat the truth? Or give them a blatant lie? Perhaps a half truth might do him good since they would be working with him even more in the near future...assuming they were going to be allies in this crucial time of killing the Banned Emperor lackeys for good.

“For now, you should not even speak anything.” Kraft who could see the situation unfold said through the System Channel. He did not trust these telepathic messages since everyone around here is a high level cultivator. Who knows one of them could intercept and decrypt whatever messages that were given to anyone within this table. “Get to your seat and prepare yourself. There might not be any blows exchanged today but words are as deadly as swords in this era.”

“Never see you this uptight before,” Jin said to Kraft through the Channel as he thanked the group out loud for waiting instead of the usual humble approach in apologising to people.

“Oh, I would love to play mind games with them. Very glad to do so but you are involved and your impression in this entire meeting pertains to your survival. As your contracted bellator, I do have a duty to keep you alive.”

"You barely keep me alive in most circumstances." Jin retorted and Kraft was laughing from within while keeping a very stoic face.

"Still breathing, considered job done." Even though it was not shown physically, Jin could practically hear Kraft's sinister laughter from the comment.

"Thank you once more for coming and making time from your busy schedule." He Fei let out a quick sigh knowing today's agenda might be an unprecedented milestone that he had never foreseen himself. "As you all have known, our topic today would be none other than the total annihilation of the Banned Emperor Uprising Faction."

"As you all have known, they had been a group of terrorists who had been annoying us since the dawn of time but recently, their actions had proven to be more than a nuisance." He Fei explained while Kong Rong, who knew that Jin had zero grasp of the current history, quickly gave a breakdown to Jin via the System. He already prepared infographics which the System promptly showed Jin while He Fei spoke of the threats in summary.

"I support the eradication of the Banned Emperor. They are hiding in our midst and even taking up high level positions." Shu Tiao Xiao, the Rat Head, voiced his support. "Like the bodyguards that were supposed to protect you. To think that they were to be trusted to keep you safe but they betrayed our trust so deeply that anyone here could be an imposter, including this kid that just comes in."

"How can we be so sure this Panda kid is not the Banned Emperor's lackey?" Yuan Ba chipped into the argument knowing that this was his opportunity to attack him and everyone was already whispering and even had doubts.

"Dad, -erm Tiger Head Yuan Ba. I suppose you had not forgotten the time the Banned Emperor had attacked me and you? Who was the one who saved us?" Yang Ling queried out loud, knowing that her Father's hatred was clouding his judgement right now.

"Maybe he just did it to ensure that he would be allowed to join our ranks. Infiltrate us as to how those bodyguards did. Imagine the horrors if Minister He Fei is not alive and breathing at this moment. It will be a blow to the country and a win to the uprising." Tiao Xiao exclaimed, hoping that some other Heads and hopefully He Fei will fuel their doubts for this new guy. "After all, it is a small price to pay to join us. You had seen how they tried to sacrifice their own people just for the resurrection of the Banned Emperor. They all blindly believed that in doing so, they would be revived again and serve under him as eternal servants."

"I had already done an extensive background check on Jin as much as I would have done to any of you. In fact, we tripled it and spend a reasonable amount of resources to cover all bases to ensure he has a clean slate as the State Security Department had taken this very seriously. Else, My team and the rest of the State Security department would not have unanimously granted Jin and his clan members protection against the rest of the Royal Zodiac Clans. Unless you have evidence that proves otherwise, it would be best to keep your mouth shut about such accusations." Kong Rong said, hoping to wrap this wild rumour mill up before it spirals out of control.

"You seriously think we can believe you Kong Rong? Our spies had indicated that you had been working rather closely with Jin for the past few months. Sightings of you in his Dungeon Supplier store are all

over our database. How can we be sure that YOU are not part of the Banned Emperor terrorists? Or did he already sway your allegiance to the Banned Emperor and not the betterment of our country?" Tiao Xiao responded by bashing the truth out for everyone to hear.

"Enough!" Jin finally shouted out from the corner of the table to stop all the gossip. He stood up and Kraft could already see what was going on in Jin's head.

"Don't. You are hindering yourself if you do this. There is no point making empty promises." Kraft advised through the System Channel.

"If I do not lead this situation, it might spiral even more out of hand. Besides, you know, we can always improvise." Jin said through the channel as he walked to the middle of the Conference room.

"Good luck then, let me enjoy the show." Kraft decided to let Jin handle it and see how it unfolds.

Besides, his job was to keep him alive. Nothing about not allowing his master to suffer.

Chapter 1274: Royal Zodiac Meeting -Part 5

"I could tell you all my background story of how my parents were brutally killed by the Banned Emperor Assassins just as I was a newborn baby. There should be police records of it years ago assuming none of them had been deemed classified, archived or worse still, scrapped." Jin said thinking none of them will care with the exception of Yang Rou Xiang, the Head of Royal Zodiac Sheep as well as the lady who said that she could cure everyone of their ailments if Jin had poisoned the food that they ate previously.

"No, explain more. Especially how they were found dead." Rou Xiang queried even though this was delaying the meeting even further. (And that is why meetings are never productive...) Even though almost everyone in the room believed that they needed to know a little more about Jin, they did not really care about him much until the Royal Zodiac Sheep Head had decided to probe further.

"From what I heard from my grandfather before he passed away, they were killed almost beyond recognition and their Dantian cores had been shattered. The same technique was almost used to assassinate Tigers when they came to my shop." Jin said and Rou Xiang sighed.

"Although I could not vouch for him, he spoke the truth of the young couple. I was one of the professionals called to the scene and it left me bewildered on the killer's modus operandi." Rou Xiang said. "We later learned that that young couple was the last few surviving members of Panda Clan and possibly the up and coming new Panda Lord. Little did we know that they had already given birth to a young child."

"Because former General Ming had been rather secretive and protective of his only grandson's identity." Se Chang Chang, the Snake Head remarked. "I worked with him in the army and he kept such a secret for a long time even though we were once close colleagues. We all assumed the grandson was adopted based on how he told the story. And here is the flesh and blood of the last standing Panda Clan member."

“Still doesn’t mean he could not have betrayed us in the near future. If Jin had been amicable, he would have found ways to cohabit with us rather than killing our men.” Shu Tiao Xiao exclaimed, and Jin looked at him only to remember how Wo De Tian was so ruthless in destroying the Tiangong Shopping District. What the Rat Head had poured his woes on was clearly the pot calling the kettle black

“Not to mention how he flexed his muscles to cripple both of my sons in broad daylight during the festive Chinese New Year. How much humiliation one can take from this rebel Lord is rather limited.” Yuan Ba chipped in and Yang Ling could see her father was merely fueling the flames of accusation once more.

Defence Minister He Fei and a few other Zodiac Heads felt the need to keep quiet to see how Jin would react in such a situation. As long as he wears the mantle of the Panda Lord, he would need to present himself as worthy to be sitting at the adult’s table even though some of the adults were behaving like children. It is just an unwritten rule to ascend as a Royal Zodiac Head.

“Business is business, Head Shu, I lament your loss but if you cannot get over the fact that your Triad Boss is unable to beat a game which he had started, that is not my concern. And Head Hu. The Heavens had overseen the fight, fair and square while the rest of my companions fought against overwhelming numbers without killing a single one of your men. Injuries aside, they are all still alive. I might have offended you but you were the one who poked the hornet’s nest. Therefore, I asked that the both of you stop being such sore losers. Admit your defeat and move on.” Jin replied and Kraft could already hear a few subtle chuckles and slight smirks on their faces. Oh, the entertainment was worth it and he was glad to be here.

The two Heads were stunned and speechless for a while since they assumed that their snarky comments would infuriate Jin with all the accusations and subsequently put him in place but it seemed like the opposite had occurred. Yet, the Panda Lord was not done and he continued to attack the two of them by offering them an olive bunch.

“Move on and be my ally in the fight against the Banned Emperor. I can only think that the motive of them killing my parents would be to completely decimate a possible rising Royal Zodiac Clan at that point in time. Supposedly nipping the problem at its bud could have solved the problem but they did not expect their son would rise to exact vengeance against them. So if anyone still doubts my resolve, you can voice it out now.”

“Then perform a Heavenly Five Element Tribulation right in front of us and swear that you will defeat the Banned Emperor at all cost.” Tiao Xiao said in a fit of anger and thus the worst scenario possible in Jin’s and Kraft’s minds had been realised. It’s not that Jin could not perform the Heavenly Five Element Tribulation, the promise itself would be an extremely assuring factor to increase his trust towards the Royal Zodiacs but it’s the wording of the swearing that needs to be considered.

Usually, when someone performed the Heavenly Five Element Tribulation, it was in a fit of anger and many who did that had the wording of their promise to be too broad for interpretation, causing people to suffer the Heaven’s Wrath unnecessarily. So, Jin either had to circumvent this situation by trying to avoid the use of the Heavenly Five Element Tribulation (Which is unlikely and cause suspicions) or have a proper phasing so that the Heavenly Five Element Tribulation would only be struck if he were to derail away from his road of serving justice to the Banned Emperor’s lackeys.

So, he decided to return the favour. “Then what about everyone in this room? Have they performed the very same Heavenly Five Element Tribulations concerning the said common enemy?”

Chapter 1275: Royal Zodiac Meeting -Part 6

“What nonsense are you talking about? Why would we need to do that?” Yuan Ba scoffed at the idea, refuting the need to do so. “We do not trust you even if that story of yours holds the truth.”

“Then why would I need to do the same for you people? A few days ago, you guys were considered mere figureheads to me which commoners were complaining about how all of you were high and mighty. All tardy in their actions and reactions to everything, leaving the common people to suffer the brunt of the recent incidents. There were no consolations and reassurances for them to hear while the government gave empty promises to assist and little was done to address the grievances by the common folk.” Jin declared loudly and it stung the Zodiac Heads.

“Like the cities that were inflicted by the hordes. Sure, the minority might be demanding more than the compensation that was given but to many, their homes were upset by the entire incident that the compensation was clearly not sufficient to aid them.” Jin placed both of his hands on the table while assuming a slightly aggressive stance while he stood against the accusations.

“So why must I seal this particular deal with a pact of trust that is more binding than a personal blood pact to the people who do not have eyes to sympathise with the common folk and boots on the ground to stand with the people?”

“You speak so much as if you had helped the people. Perhaps you should do the same before you say anymore.” Shu Tiao Xiao rebutted and Jin stared at him.

“My contributions to my fellow district neighbours are well known. And besides, I had personally contributed to each of the recent major incidents, risking my life against the Banned Emperor Terrorist while the rest of the Heads were sitting in their offices watching from behind their desks. And you know I do not mean it literally.” Jin said and finally, He Fei, who felt that there was enough drama for the day, spoke up.

“Then what would suit you to prove your allegiance to the Zodiac Heads? Like you said, to us, you are a mere Dungeon Supplier who has gained some recent achievements and testimonies that prove that you are a cut above the rest. That’s all to it. You are not qualified as a Zodiac Head in our eyes and thus not our trust too.”

“Don’t you think that a blood contract should suffice?” Jin said that he had already taken out a small stack of paper from his storage ring and presented it to them. Each soon received a copy to preview and they were all the same for everyone.

Most if not all of the Zodiac Heads knew some form of contract law and had the basics covered especially since they were governing major industries and even organisations that the country could not live without. Thus, upon reading the blood contract, they understood the contract to be fair, if not weigh slightly towards their advantage instead of his.

From benefits such as the constant sharing of information to monetary and proprietary penalties if Jin had broken the code of conduct as written on the blood contract. It was well crafted that even He Fei who made his way to the top by dealing with contracts on a daily basis could not see any fault or loopholes he could possibly exploit. It meant that Jin had already foreseen this current situation and prepared the contracts in advance. Jin was leading the meeting at his own pace to the surprise of the Zodiac Heads who were staying at the sidelines to watch the situation unfold.

“What do you mean that you are able to call upon the help of the signed contractee?” Rat Head Tiao Xiao queried and Jin explained that it could not be a one way street in business.

“If you do not scratch my back, would it be fair that I scratch yours for free? After all, this meeting was supposed to be for Zodiac Heads, right? If you all treated me as a fellow ally, shouldn’t I be able to do the same at my behest?” Jin said and he was prepared to answer a few more questions until a startling sound of a pen was being used.

Zhu Tai Fang, the Head of the Royal Zodiac Pig was already signing with his blood and then placing it on the table for Jin to collect. Every one of them looked at him and were rather taken aback by his actions. “What? He made sense. In some way, he should be considered a National Hero by now with several rewards and compensations to be given to him for all the service he did for the country but instead all you guys gave him were stares of doubts and mistrust. Just because of what? That old myth of how the Panda Clan needed revenge against the other twelve clans?” Tai Fang snorted loudly and continued his snarky remarks to the rest of the Zodiac Heads.

“Please, we all know that that is the lie we had to tell people in the past and that we brought this upon ourselves. Instead of helping the Panda Clan, our ancestors took the chance to climb and steal the glory of the past Panda Clan. It is pretty dumb to bring over a feud that was centuries old and you saw how this young Panda Lord had presented himself to be forward looking by moving away from our rotten past by attempting to reunite everyone without selling himself short. So, I have to say this blood contract is nothing compared to what he had to suffer and had sacrificed to aid the public.”

The Pig Head’s words started to ring bells in the rest of the Royal Zodiac Heads and a few sighed as Tai Fang was right. By right, they had nothing against the new Panda Lord and instead should welcome him as a new stout ally in the fight against the Banned Emperor and the betterment of the country as a whole.

“The Dragons had signed the contract too.” Kong Rong had written on behalf of his father since he was transiting to be the next Head and was given permission to do so.

“The Snakes had done the same.” Se Chang Chang added and the rest slowly did the same too in an attempt to not bring unnecessary discord to the current group.

“Xie Jin, you are bold to include me in this contract signing.” Defence Minister He Fei said and Jin smiled weakly.

“If there is a big fish dangling right in front of me, pardon my phasing but I will be damned if I do not even attempt to try and catch it,” Jin said as he bowed slightly when he saw He Fei too picking up his pen and pricking his finger to sign the very same contract presented to everyone.

"I admired your boldness and as Tai Fang had said, in return for your service to the country, this is a favour I am willing to owe. Also, after the meeting come and find me. We will discuss your compensation for the services rendered officially by the government." He Fei said and he did a short cough to convene the meeting once more.

Chapter 1276: Royal Zodiac Meeting -Part 7

The agenda by the Defence Minister was really simple, to flush the Banned Emperor Terrorists out once and for all. Rather than a discussion, it was more like a one year plan that had already been discussed by his fellow department. The Royal Zodiac Heads were only there to voice out any possible concerns from their point of view, especially when the management of resources would be done by their men.

However, the objections were minor and most of the Heads who voiced out mainly supplemented the current plan with additional options that were readily available at their behest. In the meantime, since it was the Defence Minister that they were meeting with, the group were discussing sensitive issues pertaining to the security of the country such as the additional deployment of troops and police in the region that had been targeted as possible hotspots.

Everyone had agreed that Shenzhen and the surrounding regions were in the top priority slot with Beijing in view of the latest incidents that happened in the past few months. However, some of the Heads argued otherwise that Shenzhen should not be in the spot considering the amount of heat they had gained through the recent months but Kong Rong reiterated that such a possibility should not be ignored.

"Sometimes the most dangerous place is the safest place for the terrorists to lurk at. Most people would assume that as well and decide to keep a keen eye on the other hotspots, making Shenzhen once again susceptible to a terror attack. In fact, I have intel to prove that they might strike again."

"What is it?" He Fei furrowed his eyebrows as he had not had the faintest ideas in his brief from the State Security Department with regards to this new intel that Kong Rong was about to share. And then, all Kong Rong did was to look sideways and shake his head in the direction of Jin.

Everyone was confused for a moment with the exception of his Father who seem to know what Kong Rong was planning. "The birth of the new Royal Zodiac Clan." Long Shen Rong, the Dragon Head said and everyone considered it seriously.

"That's right. The emergence of the Panda Clan had not been published and only a handful including this room knows about Jin's true existence. However, the rise of the Royal Zodiac Panda Clan would definitely bring attention for the Banned Emperor Terrorists to take action. Not to mention, Jin currently has a sizeable target which would be easy for the terrorists to coordinate and take him down. Unfortunately, the only problem I could foresee is that-"

"You are doing it at the risk of my customers." Jin interrupted and he felt offended by it. Sometimes he wished that the Banned Emperor terrorists would not be a coward and face him directly like how the

other primitive worlds had been. (Less the Mecha World but so far, he had very little interaction with that to consider it in his mind.)

"It's a small price to pay to announce the whole world of your existence. Besides, you opened a dungeon supplier store, I am sure your staunch customers would relish the challenge against the Banned Emperor." Tiao Xiao joked and before Jin was able to say anything, Yuan Ba slammed the table to object for Jin.

"I may hate him with all the bones in my body but one thing I do not condone is that comment of yours. The Banned Emperor terrorists are capable of destroying people's dantian core as easily as snapping their fingers if they are of a high level cultivation. If you thought the price Jin had to pay for their resurrections, you are dead wrong. Shu, those lives that could never recover again." Yuan Ba said and it was the very least to show that the Banned Emperor still had an upper hand against everyone because of their technique to destroying cores.

"Thank you, Head Hu." Jin was surprised he had taken his side for the argument.

"Yang and Hou, any ways to circumvent such techniques?" He Fei asked, hoping they had some development in the medical and research fields governed by the Sheep and Monkey Clans respectively.

"Sadly, no. But if what Yuan Ba had said and he had recovered from such an attack via Jin's medical staff, perhaps he could share it with us?" Yang Rou Xiang, the Head of Royal Zodiac Sheep queried.

"I can introduce my colleague to you but I have to say that we were able to save Yuan Ba's life mainly because he was in my Dungeon Supplier store. Without immediate medical attention, there is no way we could have done it on a battlefield or in the midst of a duel." Jin replied and people in the room were in a bind. For a moment, they had forgotten that the terrorists they were dealing with were no ordinary run of the mill kind of organisation. Sure, the Elite Royal Zodiac platoons could easily overwhelm and give their lives for the country for it's their job, honour and duty but it's not the same when it comes to endangering citizens' lives.

"Actually, I might have a lead on something but it's something akin to a wild goose chase," Jin spoke up seeing that everyone was stuck in their thoughts. He Fei permitted Jin to continue his opinion while others determine to see if it was something too far fetched.

"Does anyone know about the Lost Flower Cities? Where the five flower clans used to rule?" Jin asked and only Hou Nao Da, the Head for Royal Zodiac Monkey nodded his head.

"It might sound weird but I have an employee hunting the ruins of the rumoured Lost Flower City as part of his assignment to gain extra ideas for the store to create its new dungeon instance. But he found out that there were traces of the Banned Emperor Terrorists attempting to find the same place as he did." Jin explained.

"So you are saying instead of luring them to your store, we lure them to a trap where only armed and trained cultivators are involved? But how reliable is your friend? How do we know that all they would do was to send a group to look for trails. At most, what we are looking at is a high ranking member of the organisation who would take the bait." Nao Da deduced that those who were in the military before knew that all it took was a break in the single chain for everything to start tumbling down.

"I will suggest giving that idea a try while we work on bolstering our security forces." Kong Rong said. "At most, we can revert back to the original idea of making Jin the bait especially when his PandaVerse Festival is coming soon in a month's time."

"Oh, that would be fun." Head Shu said in his mind but a smirk was portrayed as a sign of acknowledgement to Kong Rong's idea. But he did not know that it was Kong Rong's way of helping Jin to rise up to the ranks of the Zodiac Head.

For now, they discussed a few other minor stuff before wrapping the meeting up.

Chapter 1277: Royal Zodiac Meeting -Final

When the entire meeting was finally done, it was past noon and everyone had departed almost immediately from the meeting venue. Despite what the Defence Minister had said, He Fei was also in a rush but he had not forgotten what he promised Jin.

"Jin, do you have time? If yes, follow me." He Fei said which both Jin and Kraft quietly followed the Defence Minister.

"Any luggage you need to check out?" the Minister asked which the duo replied with a firm no. "I guess that's the perk of teleporting at the very last minute."

"Yea, my friend here is a whiz when it comes to teleporting. He was the one who help create those teleport gates," Jin patted Kraft's back and the latter knew it was a ruse to shift any eyes towards him.

"Ah, so you are the one I should thank for those teleporting trucks." He Fei said as they were once again in that dreaded lift. He Fei extended his hands to thank and congratulate Kraft for his 'achievement' but subsequently realised what Jin was pushing for.

A firm physical contact with the Defence Minister of China.

"That Jin, he can be quite devious at times. So proud of him." Kraft said while smiling widely right in front of the Defence Minister. Just that second was all that was needed for the crafty devil to break into He Fei's mental barriers and access information which all the Royal Zodiac Heads combined would never have collected.

It was not to say that he did not have any barrier but it was rather that Kraft's devilish techniques to gain access were terribly efficient. The recent months working with Jin had been a big jump to his repertoire of skills that he believed no man alive was able to stop him from accessing their memories.

The only drawback was that he needed at least some physical contact with the said person. And that was a done deal when Jin had finally allowed Kraft to shake hands with He Fei. "Pleasure to meet you as well, Sir."

"Ah, this chi. It's the very same one that we all had experienced before having the pleasure to meet you. For you to be able to clash with Kong Rong head on is quite a remarkable feat. It's good to know that the Panda Lord has such a dependable ally."

“You too.” Kraft wanted to not say much but it seems he wanted to drag the physical contact even longer by placing his other hand on top of the ones they were shaking. “However, I am truly honoured to finally meet you. It’s not every day we are able to meet a high government official and have a face to face chat and even more, have a proper handshake.”

He Fei was a bit uncomfortable by Kraft’s shaking as the chi he eluded was somewhat a little threatening. The bodyguards eventually interfered and stop the handshake as they thought that he was about to do something out of the ordinary towards the minister but Jin immediately pulled Kraft back and placed his hand on Kraft’s neck in order to push it downwards.

An apology bow with Jin loudly stating within the lift that Kraft was too much a fan of his. Minister He Fei was no doubt shocked by the revelation as he did not expect himself to have such a ‘fervent fan’. He quickly told the bodyguards to step down and allowed Kraft to explain himself.

“Yes, yes. I apologise for the long handshake. I was holding my thoughts and excitement throughout the entire meeting. Anyways, you were talking about teleporting trucks? We can strike a deal with obviously the Panda Lord giving you a decent discount as a way to path our friendship?” Kraft continued to pretend his role given by Jin.

“Hmm, I will no doubt consider it.” He Fei said as they finally got out of the lift and people were already making way for the Defence Minister to get into his car. The other two shamelessly followed him and the guards still felt it was uncomfortable for them to sit in the same vehicle as the Defence Minister.

“I only have one space if my bodyguards are in here. So what about it?” He Fei asked and even though the answer was obviously Jin, the Panda Lord decided to let Kraft sit with the Defence Minister. “You sure about this?” Kraft was obviously acting and Jin magnanimously allowed his companion to take the seat but Ran Ran stepped in and gave a firm no.

“We do not have your credentials. Only Jin is able to enter the car from this point forward. I suggest you stay at the hotel until his return.” The main bodyguard for the Defence Minister said and Jin step backwards instead of listening to the bodyguard’s orders.

“Sorry, Minister. I am afraid that if I am the only one going into that car, my employee would hate me for life...so we shall politely decline this follow up meeting. The rewards can wait. I have enough to get by anyways.” Jin said and He Fei sighed.

“Make an exception this time around, Ran Ran. I am sure that they meant me no harm. It is rather bad manners for the government to not properly reward the person who had the biggest hand in solving the recent incidents. Besides, Kong Rong seems to allow that fellow to walk into the room full of Zodiac Clan Heads without any trouble. I am sure we will be fine.” He Fei said and Ran Ran shook his head.

“Understood, Sir. Fortress, we are changing the details a little...” Ran Ran had spoken through his intercoms and the guard inside the car came out, allowing Kraft to enter alongside Jin.

Ran Ran took the steering wheel while Jin sat at the front with Kraft and He Fei able to talk more about the ‘teleporting trucks’. It seemed that the Defence Ministry was willing to purchase up to a hundred of them as an experimental phase but Kraft said that they could at most produce twenty for the first production run after the revisions had been made.

“We need to make sure they are of the highest quality as teleporting people is as dangerous as making sure an aeroplane lands safely with their passengers intact. And the timeline given is rather tight especially when most of it is made with in house expertise. After all, it’s still a trade secret which Jin’s store and SeaMesh company are not willing to part it out yet.” Kraft said and He Fei understood where he was coming from.

“In any case, it seems we have been ignoring you. Jin. Once you reach my office, we will be able to furnish you a cheque and a few weapon relics which could be useful in the fight against the Banned Emperor.” He Fei said but Kraft decided to interrupt him.

“Rather than weapons and money, we would prefer connections and contracts if that’s possible. Jin is still a growing asset, it’s best we get the right people for the right job if we wish to eradicate the terrorist organisations. I wonder if you aid us in getting the contacts instead.” Kraft suggested, which made He Fei laugh loudly.

“Indeed, in this modern time and age, connections could be more powerful than money and resources. I see what I can do in giving you a few recommendation letters especially when I had too many people wishing for their favours to be repaid.” He Fei said and Kraft once again extended his hand for another handshake which the Defence Minister reciprocated.

Chapter 1278: Kraft’s Report

It was indeed a quick visit to the Ministry of Defence Office as He Fei had been bombarded with schedules and meeting agendas the moment he arrived at its front door. In fact, he almost had forgotten about the two visitors he brought along with him and told them that even though they had decided to ask for recommendation letters, it would take some time for him to call upon those favours and to produce said letters.

However, he was not willing to let them go empty handed and told his secretary to get the letter that was initially prepared for them. But as much as he wished to personally present them the letter of appreciation (with a cheque included), He Fei had already wasted too much time on the initial Royal Zodiac Meeting and the Panda Clan had no choice but to miss such an opportunity. (Kraft would surely want another handshake.)

As they were led out of the office, the secretary queried whether they would like to have a taxi booked on their behalf for them to return to the hotel. However, Jin politely declined and said that they would like to have a quick bite at the surrounding area before returning back. The secretary acknowledged their reply and returned to aid He Fei with his list of never ending tasks.

As they walked away from the office, Jin sent a telepathic message via the System Channel since their most secured channel despite being near one of the few safest places in the country. There were guards posted around the ‘office’ (Which is technically a building by itself) with a multilayer security system watching movements through high definition CCTV cameras and even had them scanned so that their identities would pop right out on their own system.

Fortunately, the System had already registered Kraft under the alias of Ke La Fu, and created an entire history full of fake data so that their systems could not detect anything abnormal with regards to Kraft unless they had decided to personally investigate his past. Else, the Devil Fox had an extremely clean record with a high amount of social points which would allow him to let him do whatever he wanted. (Almost everything...)

Jin was also afraid there were listening devices or hidden inscription charms which could listen in to their conversation and thus the communication through the System Channel without any worries that they could be found out.

“What did you learn about that guy that you had to shake his hand multiple times?”

“To confirm my fears.” Kraft looked around to take in the sights and learn more about the office’s surroundings. “Unfortunately for you, he is part of the Banned Emperor group. A high ranking undercover agent within their own organisation. We do not need any Flower City shit, the guy is right under our noses.”

“You are kidding, right? You usually would go one big round around the bush before telling me the answer. And now, Kraft is giving me straight in the face?” Jin said as he tried to keep calm. Perhaps he should take the taxi ride instead of looking for food.

“Hmm? I thought you had your suspicions, that’s why you decided to look around the Ministry of Defence Office so you might have a better idea in case we would like to infiltrate it.” Kraft turned to Jin for a moment before looking back straight ahead to an outdoor cafeteria.

“Let me gather my thoughts for a moment,” Kraft said in a serious tone as Jin ordered a Vanilla Milkshake for Kraft and a plain coffee for himself. They sat near the streets and quietly consumed their beverages.

“Any of the Zodiac Heads are in cahoots with him?” Jin asked and Kraft let out a rather quiet chuckle while sipping his milkshake.

“Have you forgotten that the eradication of the Royal Zodiac Clans is one of the few reasons why the Banned Emperor still exists up till now?” Kraft said in the System Channel as he happily enjoyed the thick vanilla cream in his drink. “And you too know that all high ranking official government posts must have not any affiliations with the Royal Zodiac Clans to remain partial to all. If one wants to join, they have to renounce all ties before doing so.”

“I doubt that vow will stop them from having connections with the Royal Zodiac Clans,” Jin said as he looked around, staring aimlessly at the public streets. “Anyways, System are you able to pull up some ‘official’ details on him? To see whether his data had been doctored like how you did for Kraft.”

“Oh yea, This guy might not look like it but he is actually a fucking sadist. He had plans to pull this entire country into the ground and burn it to kingdom come. This retaliation plan which they talked about is just the preparation to sacrifice a few regions to bring more Void Beings into this world. You have trouble with one, imagine a dozen more.” Kraft interrupted Jin’s request. “But what you have now is time...although I wonder how Zeru would be to know that there would be more terrorists trying to find him since you mentioned about the Lost Flower City to everyone in the meeting. Perhaps that would be a more pertinent issue than the destruction of the entire country.”

“And here we thought, the conspiracy lies with the Royal Zodiac Heads instead. Damn it...all I wanted is to open a fucking shop and subsequently be rich enough to have an easy retirement. Not play some hero bullshit.” Jin sighed as he gulped the hot coffee right through to ease his stress headaches.

“You are already playing one in many other worlds, time to be a proper one in your own world,” Kraft said but Jin returned his remarks with dagger eyes and a subtle middle finger while drinking his cup of coffee.

“Regardless, the System recommends User to clear his PandaVerse Festival and use that platform to gain a few more allies. As Original Bellator Kraft had said, User has time to thwart the Banned Emperor’s plans.” The System said and Jin could quietly nod his head while the both of them continued to exchange information as they walked away from the perimeter of the Defence Minister’s office into somewhere more secluded before teleporting away.

Chapter 1279: Flower Picking Session

“Huh? What? System, did you mess up the coordinates?” Jin asked as he found out that he was not teleported into the Dungeon Maker Instance but instead a remote location up in the mountains. As for which mountain he was on, there was nothing around, not even a noticeable landmark for him to get his bearings.

“Hmm. Did I guess it wrongly?” Kraft said as he tried to take note of his surroundings but it seems he was equally confused.

“You teleported us here in the middle of nowhere?” Jin questioned as if demanding an explanation as soon as possible since this was derailing his plans to work on the Pandaverse Festival even further.

“Our opponent had been upsized right? Just thought that we would try to find some clues with regards to him before we returned. But it looked like we might be in the wrong place.” Kraft did not care about Jin and walked up the slope, towards the peak of the mountain which seemed almost impossible to reach within a day’s time. (Assuming they are not using any chi to reach the peak and probably expose themselves to anybody around.)

“In the meantime, I suggest you pick up some of those wild flowers over there, which might be a suitable gift for Lynn when you return. After all, she did save your ass with her brilliant cooking once again.” Kraft said that he would walk up a little more to survey the area before affirming that the place was a dead end for them.

Jin looked at the wild flowers and asked the System if it had any data on those plants. The System quickly identified them as camellia flowers and in terms of flower language, those bright red pink flowers symbolise love as well.

“Then it can’t hurt to bring a few back. Did Kraft know the meaning of these flowers when he pointed at them?” Jin asked the System but it could not answer on behalf of Kraft.

“Back. There really isn’t anything in the region. Looks like I came to the wrong place.” Kraft said as Jin could feel the cold emanating from his long ass jacket.

“You ran all the way up the mountains?” Jin asked as he barely picked any flowers.

“Hmm yea, thought I could have a better view of the entire area without you holding me down so- Anyways, while you are flower picking, we can have a quick talk about your future,” Kraft said as he instantly climbed up one of the lower lying branches while Jin slowly tried to pick the prettiest of Camellia flowers among the patch.

“Now that we know that the Defence Minister is one of the Banned Emperor lackeys, what are you going to do? Take the fight against the government? Band up all the Royal Zodiacs and fight against them? Or you know, call the Defence Minister and say hey. I know who you are. How about you just erm, leave me alone and I leave you out of my life? Win Win situation,”

“Do you even think the last one is an option?”

“Like we had discussed before... technically, you can run away to other multiverses or even settle down in a new world. I do not see any wrong with that. Like come on, you have an entire city all by yourself in the Dungeon World. The entire world is like a shop to you. Heck, you might even be able to join as the player and join raids with all your monsters without worry. Eventually, you might be the biggest City Lord in the Dungeon World and you do not have to keep your powers as a secret.”

“Are you forgetting the Church of the Afterlife?” Jin said as he found a flower with no damaged petals. He skillfully used his hand to pinch the stalk so that the flower would be in perfect condition.

“Bah, those rascals are easier to handle. At least they have not learned the art of terrorism and even if they did, the System and the Dungeon Core would sound out the ambush. It’s less wary than what we have over here.” Kraft said as he lay right beside the tree trunk and shooed away a few insects with his chi.

“And even if you do not want the Dungeon World, the Goblin World would be a good place to stay. The Orcs and Goblins are under your command. Though it will be a matter of time until the humans feel inferior and start to attack, they probably won’t stand a chance against the technology you introduced to both kingdoms. Also, let’s not forget that there are other races that we have not ‘meet and greet’. The Fooking Fake Elves as my servants called them even though by lore, they are considered as ‘True’ Elves, have been hiding somewhere in that world and know the history behind the destruction of the dwarves. But we will get there another day if you stay there longer.” Kraft rumbles on and it was clear that escaping this world’s reality was as easy as snapping a finger.

“You are saying all this because we all know the consequences of killing a government official.”

“Not just some government official, it’s the goddamn defence minister which in this day and age, he is kinda the most important guy aside from the prime minister.” Kraft scoffed at Jin’s way of thinking. “I am all for challenging the country, but we won’t be on the winning side if we do not prep well. What we will be doing would definitely be an act of terrorism if we are not careful.”

“Hmm, yeah. But from the way you phrase it, you too want to have a plan of attack rather than just reacting against the terrorist’s plans, right? Have you found out if there are any other government officials that are in cahoots with him?”

“Not yet, didn’t bother. Maybe when I am back in the room or if I am too lazy, I get my dark elves to find it.”

“That information is all in your head, how the heck are you going to do that?” Jin asked as he stopped for a moment to question him.

“Bah, I can share information easily, you do not have to worry about me. Worry about yourself more. From the looks of it. PandaVerse Festival would not be a peaceful one for you and neither will Zeru. Although he can take care of himself, this time he is protecting an entire lost city if he ever finds it rather than just one person.”

“I honestly have no idea about the Lost Flower City, care to enlighten me?” Jin said as he was already holding a bunch of flowers with him.

“It’s best if the person himself tells you more about it. It’s more complicated than you think and its history is so fucked up that I cannot keep track of it. In fact, even Zeru might not have everything. I do not think the System has much information about it either. Even though it’s considered a Lost City. There are still people living a secluded life away from all that hustle and bustle.” Kraft shrugged his shoulders but those red flowers suddenly reminded Jin that there was someone who might have the answers to everything he requires ...assuming he passed the trial.

“Urgh, Do I really have to deal with Suzaku again...” Jin thought to himself.

Chapter 1280: Extra – A Couple’s Chat

“Oh hey, you are back. How did it go?” Lynn replied as she was surprised by Jin’s appearance in the busy kitchen of the Restaurant Train Instance. Jin then embarrassingly asked if he was able to talk to her alone at her office for a moment.

The rest of the penguins immediately offered to take over her duties, allowing her to accede to her boss’ request. At that moment, Jin’s heart was pounding hard, even harder than the adrenaline he had felt when fighting for his life. It might not be the first time he ever gave flowers to someone especially when he had courted Qiu Yue before but this was the first time he did something ...romantic to Lynn after asking for her hand in the relationship.

For all this time, it had always been quite a one way street with Lynn supporting Jin, being the woman to take care of his health as well as his store. Qiu Yue, on the other hand, was conscientious with the constructions being done in the Southern Region Capital but took the rest of the time training herself to be a better cultivator. It was as if her goals had redirected for the betterment of herself rather than to fight with Lynn for Jin

In fact, the fight for Jin was actually not entirely for her own selfish reasons. She had repeatedly seen how Lynn was grateful for Jin and how that idiotic ex boyfriend of hers was pretty oblivious to her deeds and actions. But it was great to see that Jin was forward looking enough to put down the burden he once had with her and move on to start a new relationship with Lynn.

Yet, Qiu Yue would not deny that she might be a tad jealous of Lynn since it's not every time you have a superhuman with a System as your boyfriend. Perhaps that was the few reasons why she decided to occupy her time with Zeru to improve her skills while handling her emotions.

As for Lynn, one could say that she was utterly surprised by Jin's attempt in presenting the bouquet of flowers to her. "Kraft and I went erm...sightseeing after the meeting and we- erm I mean I decided to get you this as a thank you gift for what you had done for me earlier this morning."

"So, the Royal Zodiac Heads do like the food! That's a relief to hear. I thought that they would insist on not eating, especially coming from a stranger like yourself." Lynn thanked Jin for the flowers and instantly conjured up a flower vase to put the flowers in it. She also requested her Sub System to put a constant time dilation spell on the Camellia flowers so they would be able to last longer than usual. "I will get a better flower vase!" She thought to herself while Jin babbled how there was a Royal Zodiac Head who trusted food more than Jin himself.

"The Royal Zodiac Pig Head said that he would like to meet you to exchange some ...pointers."

"Ah, an indirect cooking invitation challenge," Lynn said and she willingly agreed to it without the dungeon supplier explaining more about it.

"You sure? Don't these cook offs involve some condition where you lose and then you have to vow not being able to cook ever again?" Jin asked and Lynn laughed.

"Sometimes, I honestly think that your imagination had been heavily influenced by too much anime. No, we do cooking duels to not just impress our opponents but to learn from each other as well. It's an exchange of ideas as well as skills. Sure, there are off the books cooking duels but they mostly involve cash or certain incentives." Lynn said but the Sub System that governs her abilities and everyday life suddenly chimed out in the System Channel.

"Sub System must warn User that based on her memories, Sub System User had been through life and death cooking duels before and urged the User to take caution upon her acceptance in duels."

"What! Why do you expose that to him!" Lynn was visibly infuriated but Jin realised that there was much that he did not know about Lynn.

"Care to explain more?" Jin asked but Lynn shook her head saying that she still had work to do. "But you are leaving me in suspense!"

"Please, you basically do that to all your customers too. Also, speaking of Anime, Rei seemed to be looking for you earlier in the day. I told him that you were off at Beijing and might take some time to return. And by some time, I was expecting you to make a big ruckus that you might not be back in a day or two. I am honestly surprised you were generally cooperative with the other leaders." Lynn said as she pretended to pick up a few clipboards to check on her stock inventory so as to act busy.

“You will never believe what we found out. It’s either a big hoax by Kraft or everything we know about this world could be a conspiracy.” Jin sighed as he picked up his phone to see if Rei had left him any messages.

“Original Bellator had allowed the System to take a look into the information he had obtained and the System is currently collaborating with Original Bellator Kraft to search for the people in question. It would take some time due to the several backend processes that had been running in the background for the PandaVerse but it should be ready in a day or two.”

“Looks like it’s more than you can chew then,” Lynn said as she tapped his shoulders. “We can go over it during our dinner meeting. If you like, we can call back the rest of the gang.”

“If you are the one who called them, they will definitely come.” Jin always knew the power of her food was compelling but sometimes he had forgotten how incredibly powerful a tool it was.

“I shall. I assume everyone in Panda Inc?” Lynn said as she was about to leave the room.

“Yes, that would be great. If Kong Rong could make it, it would definitely be a boon too.” Jin said and just as she was about to leave the room, he held her hand and pulled her towards him for a peck on the cheeks.

“Hmmp!” Lynn pouted from the surprise attack but nevertheless, she was delighted by his actions today.