

Dungeon S 131

Chapter 131 Ku Wai

Although the fight against the Three Eyed Tiger members was over quickly, Peppers having a panic attack caused a lot of delays which meant that Jin had roughly five minutes to reach the amphitheatre. "Hahaha, if only I had learnt more movement techniques similar to the Blind Bat style, then I would have been there by now." Jin could only blame himself for not learning the Panda Tumbling movement technique in his cultivation manual.

Jin knew that the zoo's amphitheatre was within reach when he heard announcements of the fight arena about to take place from the surround speakers. He knew that there would definitely be another battle in the fight arena later in the afternoon but he wanted to open his store on time.

Doing the fight arena now would allow him to save more time as well as complete the baby panda mission. Jin slowed his running to a jog due to the crowd going into the amphitheatre. He was rushing because this was not the first time he had come to the Zoo of cultivation arts. He knew the unspoken rules of the fight arena since he had been part of the audience with his grandfather.

In this kind of fight arena, if you were late, your chance to fight would be forfeited. This was because discipline was one of the core values of cultivation. If you were tardy, it was generally assumed that you were not strict with yourself, hence the forfeit. That was why Jin tried to walk through the masses and run whenever possible...until he saw a precarious looking man in a white suit.

Jin sensed that this man was trouble so he tried to manoeuvre away from him if possible but eventually he realised that the white suit man was walking towards him no matter how hard he tried to shake him off,

Eventually, the white suit man had enough and performed a spectacular high jump, which briefly stunned the masses for a moment before landing right in front of Jin. "Is this him?" The man with the white suit spoke in a low voice and pointed the camera of his phone towards Jin.

"Yes, Senior Wai! That's him! He stole your relic of life and caused me to lose my arm!" Jin realised it was Kao Peng shouting through his phone via a video chat.

"Return the relic of life to me along with your head, or I shall make you taste suffering that is worse than death for trifling with the Three Eyed Tiger." Senior Ku Wai spoke in a deep voice as he took his suit off and tore his shirt into pieces to show his strength and superiority.

Right in front of Jin, Ku Wai's body seemed like a monstrosity. Six packs with bulging muscles that had two tigers tattooed on each side of his arms. Every onlooker began to move away from the main source of conflict in order to give the two cultivators space to duel.

"I am busy right now, how about this. You let me finish the fight arena first and then you can deal with me in whatever way you want?" Jin looked at his watch and saw that there were only a few minutes left before the Fight Arena officially begins."

"What if I don't?" Ku Wai went into his fighting stance and stared intensely at Jin.

"Then I shall announce that the commencement of the first fight to occur right here and right now." An old lady's voice blurted out from the masses and Jin realised it was Grandma Yuan.

"What are you looking at? You didn't know that I was one of the Zoo's honoured cultivation masters?" Grandma Yuan smirked as she said that and with a snap of her fingers, a defensive barrier appeared around Ku Wai and Jin.

"However, unlike the usual Fight Arena, you two will be fighting until both of you resolve your differences." Grandma Yuan said.

"Excellent, that means I can still collect the baby panda picture for Princess while I'm at it." Ku Wai cracked his knuckles and shouted, showing his cultivation of five tiger silhouettes roaring in the sky. However, Jin managed to notice that one of the tiger's silhouette was simple, indicating that his opponent was either an average Grade 5 cultivator or that he had just reached Grade 5.

While there was still a power gap between Grade 5 and Grade 4 Peak, Jin thought that he might be able to win if he was careful enough. "I will give you one last chance. Relic of Life and bow down so I can cut your head cleanly." Ku Wai said fiercely.

After Jin quietly took out Bam from his storage watch, the watch immediately turned back into four bands of living armour, ready to move around Jin's body whenever needed. There was no stance Jin could adopt as he didn't know any so he instead drew his sword out and tugged his scabbard at the side of his waist with the help of his belt.

"Jin, Dungeon Supplier. Panda Style." In every duel, it was more respectful for each side to announce their names before they started to fight.

"Ku Wai, Senior Member of the Three Eyed Tiger, Member of the Crouching Tiger. Terrific Tiger Style." Ku Wai did not waste any more time as he dashed forward with no weapons in hand.

"Quan Fa?! He uses martial arts?!" Jin realised he might be in more trouble than he thought he initially thought he was in. Ku Wai's fist was easy to predict but the speed it swooped in was lightning fast. If not for Jin's Perfectly Normal Parry Slash, which managed to block the fist, Jin might have suffered a mortal blow to his chest.

Ku Wai was initially smirking when Jin used his sword to block the attack, but he was shocked when his Tiger Fist of Suffering was not only blocked but he found some blood on the side of his rock hard fist.

"Guess you are not to be underestimated after all. Now I understand why Kao Peng was so badly defeated by a normal looking guy like you." Ku Wai commented but he was actually buying some time for his chi to control the bleeding on his fist.

To be able to cause a wound on his fist raised some alarms for Ku Wai. Either Jin had some really good inscriptions that allowed his attacks to pierce through the defence of his Terrific Tiger martial art or he really had the skill to do so just with his own strength. "That means he's at least a Grade 4 cultivator." He thought to himself.

"I did not use the Relic of Life or whatever you called it. That friend of yours who you talked to just now used it. If you do not believe me, you can check the Zoo's CCTV cameras." Jin refuted the earlier accusation as he entered a defensive stance. He knew that if he attacked outright, he would lose, but

with the Perfectly Normal Parry Slash, there might be a chance for him to defeat Ku Wai. Of course, that was the most ideal situation.

Jin knew from his title as a member of the Crouching Tiger Sect, a direct sect under the Royal Zodiac Tiger Sect, that he was not an easy opponent. He probably had some secret technique that could overpower Jin instantly. "Well, I have my own trump cards too..." Jin thought to himself.

"Does not matter, I will deal with that friend of mine later. But since you dissolved his hand away, at the very least I will repay that debt." Ku Wai rushed in once more.

Meanwhile, Grandma Yuan was in total shock as she thought that Jin would be defeated in one go and that would teach him a lesson. She remembered that just weeks ago, Jin was only a pathetic Grade 3 cultivator. When did he have the ability to...

"Unless he has the thing that Old Ming had..." Grandma Yuan had her suspicions and decided to confirm it when she had the chance.

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Chapter 132 A Real Mean Punch

The fight raged on between Ku Wai and Jin and it was so breathtaking that the onlookers were starting to take videos of the battle. People were commenting about how a commoner was fighting evenly against a Three Eyed Tiger Senior member.

Even Ku Wai was beginning to feel the pressure every time he clashed with Jin. There were times when Jin barely managed to defend with his sword but when Ku Wai pressed on with a stronger attack, Jin would always somehow manage to parry it would deal damage to his Terrific Tiger Fists.

Meanwhile for Jin, he was observing how Ku Wai was fighting as the fight dragged on. "He is mostly a Fist user and after he saw the Perfectly Normal Parry Slash, he became more cautious with his attacks and only executes skilled fist arts when the first punch connects." Jin thought to himself. Compared to Ku Wai, there was a severe deficit in Jin's arsenal, practically nothing except for Panda Yawning and Lazy Panda Swipe.

Jin had the ability to change his weapons on the fly but Ku Wai was not giving him space to do so since he was punching. "Punching!" Jin thought to himself as he remembered someone else who could dish out a punch. A real mean punch too.

"I wonder if it really works..." Jin knew how agile a martial artist could get and if he wanted to land a direct hit, he would need to properly immobilise him. He took out Boo from his living armour bands and gave mental instructions to the living armour bands. Upon hearing the plans, the living armour bands seemed to be excited in anticipation for the incoming action.

"That guy's face changed...He must be planning something." Ku Wai noticed that something was amiss due to the slight change in Jin's expression. Maybe he was wrong but his hunch told him otherwise. "I will throw in a few more punches before I execute my ultimate technique."

Ku Wai pretended to relax a little by jumping on the spot for a few seconds, which caused Jin to daze for a bit and that was when he struck. Ku Wai knew that the differences in routine pattern could make his opponent think and at that point, his opponent would be in a slight daze, not sure what he could do to prevent the attack. Ku Wai figured that Jin did not have the experience of constant fighting so he would definitely be caught off guard by the change of attack pattern.

In a flash, Ku Wai rushed in and started off with a flying kick instead of his regular punch. Jin managed to parry in time and caused a slight wound to Ku Wai's leg, but that was Ku Wai's main objective. He also knew that Jin's parrying could not be used twice in a row, so the first attack was a feint. The moment Jin attempted to counterattack, Ku Wai performed a frontal somersault, which allowed him to land right behind Jin.

"Intermediate Fist Art! The Ambush of the Terrifying Terrific Tiger!" The shout of his technique caused onlookers with a cultivation grade of two and lower to tremble with fear. That was the indication of the power gap between the grades. The aura of the Grade 5 fully suppressed the cultivators of Grade 2 and lower.

The Five tiger silhouettes immediately turned into one large sized tiger silhouette that was big enough to provide shade for the two people fighting each other. Ku Wai placed all his chi into his right fist and like a tiger ambushing its prey, his fist looked like a large tiger silhouette's claw going for Jin.

"Lazy Panda Swipe!" Jin knew that at this instant, he had to sacrifice something for his plan to work. Jin used the Lazy Panda Swipe with his left hand, which was covered with Boo since was transformed into a bamboo gauntlet. Four Panda silhouettes appeared while baring their teeth at the large tiger right above Jin and the onlookers finally saw the cultivation style of this mysterious yet normal looking male.

Ku Wai saw Jin's cultivation and laughed. "My Victory!" His Tiger Fist clashed head on with Jin's left hand swipe and the impact caused both cultivators' chi to radiate out so harshly that it could be felt by the surrounding onlookers.

"What strong chi for a Grade 4." Grandma Yuan was becoming more and more impressed by Jin's struggle but it looked like the battle was going to end. It did but not the way Grandma Yuan had expected. While it felt intense, it was obvious who was losing as they saw Jin's hand moving lifelessly after the clash of fists...but something was missing. The onlookers realised the green gauntlet was gone and thought it was destroyed by the attack.

However, when Jin's left hand came into contact with Ku Wai's fist, the bamboo gauntlet actually grabbed hold on Ku Wai like a spreading contagion. Not just that, Boo wrapped around Ku Wai's Hand and thin bamboo spikes appeared from Boo to temporarily immobilise him.

Ku Wai suddenly felt that he could not move his fist and felt extremely heavy, so much so that he crashed into the ground. Furthermore, the spikes pierced through his shoulders and legs, making it difficult for him to move. The onlookers were extremely shocked by the sudden turn of events.

Jin had placed the four living armour bands within Boo and with Jin's Chi it was shaped as a gauntlet. When Boo transferred itself to Ku Wai, it was also based on Jin's imagination of the weapon and a lot of chi was being pumped into Boo to keep it malleable and natural in order for it to cover the transfer of the living bands to Ku Wai.

When the bands reached Ku Wai, they immediately grew as heavy or maybe heavier than what Jin had experienced in the Farming World, which caused Ku Wai to fall.

The moment Ku Wai fell to the floor, Jin pulled off the flashiest stunt that the onlookers had ever seen. Jin jumped up high and with his right fist holding on to his phone, he plummeted it down towards Ku Wai with two words.

"GODDDDDDD PUNCH!"

A golden flashy gigantic fist appeared from nowhere and slammed Ku Wai with a force to be reckoned with. The ground broke and pieces of it flew away from the violent impact. Thankfully, the defensive barriers were working properly and blocked all the debris from hitting the onlookers.

As a result of the attack, Ku Wai was rendered unconscious by Jin's vicious punch. Jin was not able to kill him because Ku Wai's constitution was still stronger due to his Cultivation Grade. Well, Jin could have ended his life with a slash through his throat since he was unconscious but this was sufficient enough for Jin.

"I now declare Jin as the Winner for his fight." Grandma Yuan announced the result the moment she saw Ku Wai's condition and the defensive barriers were lowered. The guards and medics were already on standby since they were informed that one of the fights for the panda photo taking was officiated outside of the amphitheatre by Grandma Yuan.

Grandma Yuan walked towards the panting Jin and gave him a seal. "You can now go take a picture of your baby panda and improve your cultivation." She then walked away as promptly as she came. "Oh, and good job." Grandma Yuan turned and gave him a smirk before she walked into the amphitheatre.

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Chapter 133 Panda Enclosure

"Jin, are you okay?" Milk and the rest finally caught up with Jin who was sitting at a bench being attended by the Zoo's Medic. "His arm has been rendered useless by the previous fight, he needs attention at the hospital. He was initially low on chi but for some reason, his chi production is higher than the usual standards. Though it is not that surprising given since being a Grade 4 cultivator despite still being this young is an achievement. Other than that, I have treated most of his wounds." The female field medic gave her assessment to Jin's friends.

"Its okay, I can fix that arm for him. He does not need to go to the hospital." Milk took the female medic's place and assessed Jin's arm all by herself. "Slight nerve necrosis due to a lack of chi and blood,

some of the bones are impacted but they are not much of an issue, I can fix that." Milk gently touch Jin and managed to figure out his problems. "Oh, some internal bleeding due to the tearing of the muscles."

"If that's the case, should we not rush him to the hospital?" The field medic did not know that the injuries problem were this bad. "Relax." The entire group said in unison, which scared the field medic for a moment. Within the next minute, the field medic then realised that she had really worried for nothing when Milk once again wrote some magical symbols in the air as a healing spell materialised to help heal Jin.

"You are a western magic arts practitioner?" It was not rare to see western magic in this modern world but western healing magic was one of the hardest styles magic to master in the world. Some said that the western healing magic was harder because they copy...erm... incorporated Eastern Healing techniques into the magic to make it have more of an effect and work more efficiently.

Hence, Western Healing Magic was considered as the highest standard of healing magic even though the eastern counterparts did not wish to admit it. Milk nodded her head but the field medic who had seen a variety of western magic could not comprehend the magic she just saw.

"Ah, it's a variant healing magic, it's easier on her mana." Jin decided to help Milk answer when he somehow understood that some lying was necessary to keep Milk's existence consistent to this world's standard.

"I see, even so, this is literally a miracle. I would like to know more about this if possible." The field medic continued her small talk and eventually she realised that Jin was a Dungeon Supplier. "I will go and take a look if I ever have the time, till then take care of yourself, Mr Xie." The field medic took her leave and the entire group felt a sense of relief.

"Thanks for covering for me back there, Master." Milk pinched Jin's cheeks for fun.

"Ahhhhh, no. Thank You for your help back then as well as right now. I can't imagine what I would have done otherwise." Jin smiled back at Milk, which caused Milk to irresistibly hug him.

"You are so cute, Jin!" Jin was a little embarrassed as a few bystanders were around and saw Milk hugging Jin so openly in the public. He quickly pushed her away and asked her to calm down. It was then that Jin noticed that Peppers had been hiding behind Yun this whole time. "Come here, Peppers."

Peppers quietly came forward with her head down. "What exactly happened?" Jin asked and Peppers looked at Milk, who gave her the nod of approval to go ahead. "I was exiled from my country because of my terrifying magical powers. They were...too scared of me." Peppers gave him the short version but Jin believed that it took a massive amount courage to even say that much.

"Do not worry, I am not scared of you a single bit. Neither is Milk, Yun or Zeru. If anyone is afraid of you, come to us. We will protect you with all our might!" Jin looked Peppers in the eye and gave her his assurance.

"But...there are times that I can't control myself, and the magic in me feels like it's about to explode. I am afraid I might burn you...and you will be scared of m-" That was when Jin and the others laughed.

"What a joke! Have you forgotten the times you have already burnt me? Was I scared of you? Was I afraid? Did I really scold you?" Peppers shook her head in answer to every question that Jin had asked and Jin smiled at her too.

"Then? What are you afraid of? Be yourse-" Jin stopped when he realised he almost said the wrong thing to Peppers, which caused Peppers to laugh. "Hahaha, I will control myself, but master. Be there to stop me if I cannot." Peppers stepped backwards and graciously did a curtsy bow like a princess with her denim dress.

"Alright, let's go to the Panda Enclosure again and take the picture with the baby panda." Jin began to walk back to see the pandas once more when he noticed the field medics were pushing Ku Wai into the Zoo's ambulance. Jin unconsciously checked for the storage watch on his hand and Boo to make sure that they were with him before he walked away.

Jin figured Ku Wai would probably end up going to the field hospital first for some monitoring and care before heading to the main hospital. "Did he say...he was getting a panda picture for princess?" Jin thought to himself and walked back with the entire group.

"Ah! You managed to win the seal to take a picture with the Baby Panda?" The same annoying zoo attendant who was shouting to promote the fight arena spoke to Jin once again. "Here you go." Jin passed the seal to him and the attendant scanned it with his phone to make sure it was authentic.

"Sure scared me back there with that fire blast thing. Anyways, follow me. Are you taking the photo as a group or alone?" The zoo attendant asked as he gestured for them to follow him to the back of the Panda Enclosure.

"You are okay with such a big group?" Jin was pleasantly surprised.

"Yeah, sure. I believe you painstakingly earn it fighting the grandmaster. Besides, that was some fine ass kicking you performed back with those triad members. Been a long time since someone openly disobeyed them in this zoo. I will close one eye this time round just for you buddy. Heck, you can pass me one of your phones so that I can help you guys take the group photo." The annoying zoo attendant became so generous that Jin just had to forgive his annoyance..for now.

"Give me a moment! I will bring the baby panda into the office for the whole group shot, then we will do the official one in the panda enclosure." The zoo attendant took some time but he managed to bring the baby panda into the Panda Enclosure office.

"Alright, hold this Hero." The zoo attendant passed Jin the baby panda and the group quickly took a photo with the zoo attendant's help.

"Not a bad picture." Yun saw the picture and praised the zoo attendant.

"Hahaha, it's one of my hobbies and it was my idea to do this photo taking thing to make my zoo job a little more interesting." The Zoo attendant took the baby panda back from Jin and that was when he noticed that something was off.

The Baby Panda who was usually against visitors was actually very comfortable around Jin.

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Chapter 134 Panda Xin

"Maybe the Baby Panda was tired." The zoo attendant shrugged his shoulders and brought Jin to the Panda Enclosure. He asked the rest of the group to stay in the office for a moment if they wanted to or they could head back out to see the photo taking process. They agreed to do the latter.

It was then that the Grade 10 Zoo Guard flew down from his guard tower and towards Jin. "I need to use this inscription on you to remove any possible germs or virus that might affect the Pandas, are you okay to proceed?" The guard spoke as he took out an inscription talisman and held it for Jin to see.

"Sure, no problem, I understand." Jin agreed to it and the guard spoke the incantations for the inscription to work. Meanwhile, the zoo attendant sneered quietly as he thought to himself. "Those things are redundant since the moment they entered the office, the inscription for removing those germs were already doing their work." In any case, the zoo attendant opened the enclosure gate for Jin.

"I see that you won the fight arena. Which master did you fight against?" The Grade 10 Zoo Guard was there in case Jin tried to do anything funny to the Pandas. After all, they were the treasure of not just this zoo but the entire country too.

"Tiangong District Guardian Yuan allowed a custom fight against one of the Three Eyed Tiger Senior Members. I barely managed to win." Jin tried to stay humble in front of the Grade 10 Guard.

"Hmmp! That's so Grandma Yuan, always breaking the zoo rules to fit her. Anyways, have a seat near the Panda playground, we will set up the camera equipment for you to take a good photo with the Baby Panda." The Guard said as he continued to watch Jin's movement as the zoo attendant prepared the camera equipment.

The bystanders were extremely jealous that Jin had a close shot but the regulars of the zoo started to pity Jin. They knew that Pandas never liked anyone new coming into their territory. Perhaps only the young ones were mildly interested in their new 'toy' before they got sick of it. Hence, Jin would never get a proper photo and even if he did, it would probably seem forced. If that how it happened, he probably would not get any inspiration for his cultivation after taking the photo.

"Heh, we have a good show to watch." the regulars of the zoo chuckled as they stood by just to see how the Pandas trashed this cultivator. There was a reason why the cultivators who wanted to take a photo with the Pandas need to pass the Fight Arena.

It was because there was this particular panda that was fiercely territorial in nature and even the Grade 10 Zoo Guard had troubles keeping it in check. Sure, the Grade 10 Guard could instantly stop that Panda with force but would the management be happy with that? That was a definite No. In any case, the territorial Panda, who was named as Xin, had already gotten familiar with the noisy zoo attendant and the Grade 10 Zoo Guard so it wouldn't bother them again.

As Jin sat at the playground while waiting for the Zoo attendant, It was then that something happened that everyone did not expect. The Pandas were not being territorial but was instead gathering around Jin.

Everyone who was waiting for a show where the Pandas trashed Jin immediately took their phones out to start taking photos of Jin having fun with the Pandas. Meanwhile, Jin was overwhelmed by the sudden cosiness of all the Pandas gathering around him. Some even playfully bit Jin. All he could do now was to let them do whatever they want.

Some of the younger pandas even tried to crawl up Jin's head and one of them even rested atop of it permanently. Both the Zoo Guard and Zoo Attendant were in awe by the sudden change of events. What they had learnt from their experiences was that even cultivators who cultivated Panda Styles, which were already few in numbers, could not garner this kind of reaction from the Pandas.

Those Panda Cultivators could at most get one or two Pandas to like them. It was never the entire bunch like how they were surrounding Jin...except for Xin. Xin was at the back of the enclosure with baring its teeth quietly. Jin noticed Xin presence from behind him and turned to look at him. For some reason, Jin knew what it desired.

It wanted to battle with someone, someone who was worthy because this enclosure was boring to it. Xin noticed that Jin acknowledged its lust for battle and slowly walked to the middle of the enclosure. "Okay guys, give me some space, your big brother wants some action with me."

When Jin spoke, it seemed that every single Panda knew what he was talking about and walked away from him. Meanwhile, all of this was being recorded by Yun and the other bellators were amazed at how Jin managed to accomplish such a feat. "Panda Whisperer!" Peppers casually said and the entire group seemed to agree.

Separately, Jin did not take out any weapons out since this was technically a friendly fight, although he was getting the feeling that Xin wanted to kill him. Besides, if Jin took a weapon out, he would probably be killed by the Grade 10 Zoo Guard instantly.

Xin screeched and dashed towards Jin. Meanwhile, Jin focused all of his chi into his arms and prepared to receive the incoming assault. Although the pandas were bigger in size, their size did not exactly translate to pure strength well mainly laziness but also Jin being a Grade 4 Peak had the power to match them.

Thankfully, these pandas were held in captivity so their power levels were not as high or as cunning as the wild ones in nature. While Jin was push backed a lot from the initial charge, he was eventually able to hold on and grapple around with Xin.

He allowed the Panda to think it had the upper hand for the moment before going around Xin before performing a grappling lock and pushing the Panda down. The Zoo attendant saw the ongoing fight scene and wanted to stop them but the Grade 10 Zoo Guard stopped him. "Let Xin vent out some of its boredom and perhaps also let that guy teach Xin some humility."

The Zoo Guard knew that Jin was going easy against the Panda but that did not mean he was not keeping a close eye at him. With a few grapple holds and some judo throws, Xin finally panted. "Is this

all you got Brother Panda?" Jin wiped his sweat away. Even though it was easy to overpower the Panda, it wasn't an easy job playing along with it.

In the end, Xin nodded its head and stared at Jin as if it wanted to say that it would build up strength in anticipation for a rematch. It then bit its own flesh and let the blood drip onto the ground. Jin obliged it by biting his own thumb and dripped some blood onto the same spot on the ground in return. Xin walked towards the blood to smell and lick it. After which, it screeched and every other panda followed suit.

"What are they doing?" Milk asked.

"A mutual agreement between animal and human. An informal blood pact." Peppers explained as she remembered reading about it. It was a rare occurrence for it to happen, not just in the Zoo but in the wild too. "It meant that the Pandas have acknowledged Jin as a friend, brother and comrade." Yun smiled as Jin had accomplished way more than what he should have accomplished over here.

When he heard the union of screeches, Jin felt a sense of power accumulating within him.

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Chapter 135 Spiritual Union

During the unison of screeches, the surrounding atmosphere turned extremely tranquil and there was a feeling of floating in space. The Pandas, Jin, and even the crowd near the enclosure were experiencing the same thing, all at the same time. They felt a starry spiritual force floating and coursing through each and every man and animal present.

Jin, at the centre of it all, was the one most impacted by it. He could feel not only the spiritual force of the pandas but the gentle unison of the Yin and Yang chi around the area of which Jin was in the middle of.

After a while, everything slowly returned to normal, the only difference being that the Pandas became even more friendly and they started to grab onto Jin like he was a magnet to ferrous metals. Even Xin walked towards him and rubbed its head against Jin's legs.

"This is the first time in my life that I have seen an informal blood pact and a spiritual union between a group of animals and a human. In addition, for both events to happen simultaneously? It's nothing short of a miracle." The Grade 10 Zoo Guard was astonished by Jin's actions while the Zoo Attendant was flabbergasted. Judging from the initial fight to the current situation, the Grade 10 Zoo Guard finally felt that this normal looking cultivator was not a simple one. "Perhaps I should get to know who he is."

"Is it really that amazing to have a blood pact and spiritual union occur at the same time?" Milk was totally foreign to these 'rituals' since she was not part of this world at all, and unlike Peppers, she had not read up on it.

"It is. Having an informal blood pact with an animal is actually the highest honour one can attain in a friendship between man and animal. When this pact occurs, it means that the animal is willing to accept you as both a comrade and a mutual brother. I believe it had something to do with Jin's cultivation that caused the pandas to behave this way." Zeru explained to Milk

"Animals cannot perform a formal Blood Pact because they lack the sufficient intelligence to initiate it, so initiating an informal blood pact willingly means that the animal fully trusts the cultivator." Peppers interjected her local knowledge into the conversation.

"The fight with the big Panda also proved that Jin was willing to fight not for his own benefit but to show the Panda that he was willing to compromise for the Pandas. The pandas probably felt his intentions and judged him through his actions." Zeru further added on.

"However, for the Spiritual Union...I honestly do not know how Jin managed to attain it. To achieve it with an animal means that the cultivator chose the perfect cultivation method that is attuned so perfectly to him that the animal acknowledged his choice of cultivation and chose to impart their knowledge of their own style upon the cultivator. In my previous lifetime, I only saw it once and that was when my Master managed to unlock it. He was one of the most powerful and wise masters I could ever serve." Zeru continued.

"To achieve spiritual union with not one, not two but the entire group of Pandas...it's beyond astonishing. It felt like it's Heaven's will." Zeru could not help but feel honoured that he was serving Jin and was able to partake in this beautiful view.

"So will Jin get stronger?" Milk questioned Zeru with excitement.

"Definitely, but that does not mean that he will have access to those Panda's skills. Like cultivation masters, the pandas have purposely locked their powers, waiting for Jin to unlock them as he grows stronger in his cultivation." Zeru replied.

"That is also why many people come to the Zoo to attain the acknowledgement of the animals whose styles they have been training. It is all so they can attain the spiritual union. Like what Zeru said, not many are successful, but those who are will eventually become very powerful." Yun commented.

Meanwhile, in the crowd, bystanders were shouting in excitement as people shared their knowledge like how Zeru had. They were talking about how lucky they were to catch such a rare yet insightful glimpse of a spiritual union.

"Hmmp, this is more intriguing than I thought." Hiding in the noisy crowd was Mr Know It All grinning at the entire course of events before he decided to leave the area quietly. No one, not even Yun, knew he was there at all.

"Mister! I need you to come here to take the photo!" The zoo attendant wanted to help Jin but he believed no matter how hard he tried, those clinging pandas would not let go of him. All he could do was to hurry Jin up to come to the playground.

"Alright my brothers and sisters, calm down, let's go take a photo together." After the spiritual union, Jin seemed to understand the pandas even more clearly than before, and the same thing applied to the

Pandas regarding their understanding of Jin. They followed him without making any noise, like the Pied Piper leading the children away .

"This is the most amazing shot I will ever take in my life." The Zoo attendant said and took the picture once Jin and the Pandas settled down at the playground. He was not the only one taking it though, as the rest of the crowd were spamming their phones and DSLR cameras just to take a picture of the congregation of pandas piling up on top of each other. Causing Jin to nearly drown in Pandas.

When the Zoo attendant was done taking the photo, Jin stopped him for a moment. "Do you mind giving me a photo of the baby panda without me in it?"

"For you? Absolutely. You have made my day, and one more picture of that little cuddle is nothing compared to what I have in my possession right now." The zoo attendant then asked Jin to hold on to the playful baby panda in his hands and took a close up shot of it.

"Give me a few minutes, I will get the photos printed. In the meantime, I do not have the authority to allow you to do so, but I believe the pandas trust you enough to play with them."

"Do not worry, I will watch him carefully in case he decides to kidnap any of them." The Zoo Guard laughed heartily as Jin continued to play with the pandas at the playground.

Within ten minutes, the photos were ready and Jin bid farewell to the pandas. Though sad, they knew that he could not stay long. All they could do was to yearn for him to come back soon. "I will, I definitely will." Jin felt a warmth in his heart that he could not describe.

"So are we going back right now?" Yun asked Jin, who still had some panda fur stuck on his clothes. Jin shook his head and pointed at the field hospital. "I would like to give this to Ku Wai first." Jin showed the beautiful close up shot of the Panda to the entire group and the girls could not help but express great love for the photograph.

"Do we really have give him this? This is so cute!" Peppers wanted that photo to be placed in the store.

"Well, I have many others courtesy to the Zoo attendant..whom I do not know the name of. Was too occupied by the pandas." Jin removed another ball of fur from his shirt as he walked towards the field hospital.

"Can I visit Ku Wai? I fought him not too long ago and he dropped one of his possessions on the ground which the medic did not pick up." Jin told the front desk counter and the nurse agreed to pass it to Ku Wai when he woke up.

"Why did you do that? Did he not want to end your life?" Peppers questioned Jin's actions.

"The cycle of revenge will never end until someone steps away. I vaguely heard that some 'princess' of his wanted a panda photo so I hope that this small deed may eventually end this stupid cycle of hate before it gets worse." Jin said as he called for a taxi that allowed all five of them to board.

On the way back, they happily chatted inside the taxi until they eventually reached the store, only to find an extremely long queue of customers waiting outside Jin's store.

Chapter 136 "Get To Work!"

"Why is there such a large amount of people waiting outside? I am not late or anything!" Jin checked his phone to look at the time and subsequently assured himself that it was indeed not opening time yet.

When Jin got off from the taxi, the first person he saw was Xiong Da. "BOSS! Why did you not tell me that you would not be opened in the morning?" Xiong Da shouted

"Did I say that I would open in the morning for you?" Jin asked and Xiong Da was stunned for a moment. "Besides, Zhen Qing is here, isn't she? Why did you not ask her?" Jin looked at Zhen Qing and she nodded her head to confirm the fact that Xiong Da had not asked her.

"Hahaha, it's kind of embarrassing, but the truth is that I did not want to leave the queue." Xiong Da shyly spoke after Jin reprimanded him.

"Then what's everyone else here for?" Jin was curious as to exactly what was happening.

"Eh? You were the one who sent out the message saying that the Qixi Festival Dungeon was up and running. The people queuing here are the ones who bought the tickets from the loot box machine and Pandamonium stated this morning that it would be up today." Xiong Da explained and curiously looked at Jin for an answer.

"Even Bin Yong and Jia Le are queuing, despite it still being the afternoon." Xiong Da pointed at the newly formed couple waiting patiently in the queue.

"Happened to be our off days today." Bin Yong blushed when he said it whilst holding Jia Le's hand. "So we thought it would be nice to participate in the event at your store and perhaps have some lunch in the store as well before we go watch a movie in the evening."

Jin knew the one who played this trick was either Yun or the system. Yun looked at him innocently and shook her head, denying her involvement. Jin could only sigh at the system taking the initiative to post those Pandamonium messages.

"Okay, give me five to ten minutes for the store's equipment to be up and running," Jin assured the queue and the group of bellator entered with him.

"Who are they exactly? Why are they allowed to enter Jin's store before us?" A customer asked and Xiong Da replied back before baseless accusations could be thrown around. "They are the instructors and helpers hired by Jin. Don't tell me you can't even recognise Yun?"

The customers that were queuing started to mellow down after Xiong Da's explanation. They trusted him because he was a well known regular customer that frequented Jin's store and Xiong Da would therefore probably know more things about the shop than all of them combined.

"Still, it's rare to see Boss Jin going out with such a big group." Bin Yong commented casually and Jia Le giggled. "Boss Jin has a personal life outside of this shop too you know, like how we have to be outside of our jobs to enjoy each other." She placed her arm closer to Bin Yong, which caused the customer right behind them to become slightly envious of their lovey dovey relationship.

"Ah, what are you looking at." That particular customer's girlfriend then pinched his arm and nearly gave him a death stare before he tried to save himself. "It's just that I suddenly feel how fortunate I am to have you by my side. I imagine that if I were still single, I would be cursing and swearing at how affectionate the couple in front of us is."

"Really?" His girlfriend pouted a little but blushed too.

"Definitely." The customer smiled widely, which caused his girlfriend to hide her face in his chest and giggle. Meanwhile, in the customer's head.... "Safe~!" was all he could think about.

"Are you angry Jin?" Yun saw Jin hurrying to power up everything in the store. Even Zeru and Milk went to the second and third floors respectively to turn on the equipment.

"A little, but when I think about it logically, it's not really that a big deal. I knew the system would do things that would make things difficult once in a while. I believe this is something small, and besides, if the system pushes me to earn money, it means that I can complete the short term goals I have faster, like recreating the monster homes." Jin checked the Panda Port to see if everything was working normally.

When Zeru and Milk came down, Jin decided to take advantage of this chance to request for the Bellator's help. "Zeru, do you mind being the instructor for not just Xiong Da but for everyone who goes into Panda Muscles?" Zeru immediately knelt down and gladly accepted the work.

"And Milk, do you mind helping out at the recovery instance in replacement of Yun?" Jin asked Milk and Milk readily agreed but then realised something. "If I work at the Recovery instance, then what would Yun do?"

"She would help out with the food orders here," Jin answered and immediately looked at Peppers. It was obvious that she wanted to help in the store too.

"I have a very important mission for you Peppers." Jin squatted down and talked to Peppers. Jin knew not to underestimate this little kid. She might be young but she undoubtedly held a universe of knowledge in her head. Like pepper, she could be hot and sharp but if you knew her well enough, she would bring you many benefits.

"I need you to go to the Dungeon Maker and learn about each and every customer. Their cultivation, their techniques, their flaws, and how to improve. Is that okay? Or is that too much?" Jin asked gently and Peppers scoffed.

"Are you kidding me? That is like the best job I could ever hope for! To collect data! To analyse! Also, finding out about their flaws and helping them make improvements? That's the greatest pleasure a sage could ever get. I honestly prefer that over you asking me to wash the dishes or something." Peppers answered so truthfully that Yun walked over to where Peppers was and pulled her ear.

"Is there something wrong with washing dishes?" Yun used her authority as the system's spokesperson to overpower Peppers so that all Peppers could do was apologise before the pain got even worse.

"Alright, Bellators let's officially get to work!" Jin ordered and the entire group went to their respective instances. "I should also check on Zhen Qing before I open up the store." Jin realised he was too caught up with his bellators that he forgot his first real employee.

"Hi Zhen Qing, how are the preparations coming along?" Jin called using his phone as he found it awkward to go out of the shop at the moment since the customers would be expecting him to open the store instead of going to the caravan. Also...he was just too shy to see Zhen Qing face to face.

"All good! When I saw the queue outside growing, I decided to go back into the kitchen instance to prepare some more ingredients. I should have enough ingredients now to serve them all." Zhen Qing replied using the earpiece she was wearing that allowed her to listen to the Kitchen AI. She did not know that it could be used to communicate with Jin too.

"Excellent, if you need some Black Ivory Coffee, don't hesitate to come into the store and have a cup. You need your energy to serve the customers. Do not faint on me." Jin showed some concern to Zhen Qing but all she said in reply was "Okay, Thank you."

"Do not worry, one step at a time." Jin took in a deep breath before he opened the shutters of his store. Qixi Festival Dungeon? If only, he could celebrate Qixi, which was coming in a few days time, with Zhen Qing...that would be the best.

"Hahaha, do not push your luck and lose a potentially good chef." Jin bitterly smiled to himself as he raised the shutters up and welcomed his customers. "Welcome! And Xiong Da! To your training now!"

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Chapter 137 Niu Lang and Zhi Nu

Xiong Da thought that he would be able to eat something first but he had already ordered three black pepper buns when he was waiting for Jin to open his shop. "Yes, Boss!" Xiong Da knew that what he was doing was all to regain his pride and give Ruo Ying back her freedom, so these sacrifices were worth it.

Bin Yong and Jia Le managed to get in early and secured a Station. Compared to previous dungeons, the advertisement stated that a cultivator needed to bring their loved one for the Qixi Festival Dungeon. Hence the Qixi Dungeon instance was ideally for two cultivators, a couple would be ideal. If the cultivators wished to participate as a group, they would not be rejected though they may have a slightly different dungeon experience in comparison to the couples.

"Oh my god! The new Qixi Festival Dungeon Instance is that expensive without the ticket?" Bin Yong caught a glimpse of the menu when he was thinking of getting some drinks before he entered the dungeon.

"How much is it?" Jia Le took a look before she immediately covered her mouth in surprise. "It's that expensive?" Jia Le looked at Jin and he nodded. "The perks of using the loot box machine. In the future, the loot box machine will sell a themed dungeon at the start of every month and that will be the only way to get to the ticket cheap. Do not worry, since when have my dungeons not given you a nice and proper experience?"

"Never, at least not that I know of any." Bin Yong wiped his cold sweat away, thanking his stars that the whim to buy two loot boxes for both him and Jia Le was the right choice. A whopping 500 Yuan for a ticket instead of the loot box price of 100 Yuan.

There were some customers who saw the ticket price and were taken aback too, only to shamelessly ask if there were any loot boxes left. "There is a limited quantity every day until the actual Qixi Festival, so grab it while you can." Jin smiled and the moment he finished speaking, a number of customers began rushing up the stairs just to use the Loot Box Vending Machine.

"What a scary tactic you used." Jia Le commented as she knew that the price for the dungeon was probably inflated due to it being the Qixi Festival, just like every other store. Jin could only shrug at her reply and continued to serve the customers.

"Woah, Ms Yun! You are not in the recovery instance?" a fairly regular customer queried when he saw the rumoured Nightingale of Jin's store. "Jin found someone more proficient than me in the art of healing so I offered to relinquish my place to her. Even I approve of her. You will soon understand why she is the real Nightingale of Jin's Store."

"Bin Yong, let's go!" Jia Le noticed Station 5 was blinking, waiting for the couple, so they quickly rushed over. Even though the new Qixi Festival Dungeon Instance had a recommended slot of two people, the dimensional space station was able to facilitate up to eight cultivators so it could effectively handle four different dungeon instances at the same time.

When Bin Yong and Jia Le teleported into the dungeon, they realised that they were already caught in the action. "Catch those two!!!" A senior palace guard shouted and both Bin Yong and Jia Le found that they were beside a couple palace guards that were clad in the same heavy armour as the one shouting at them.

"You two mercenary immortals! What are you two staring at? Quickly go catch the traitors. This is under the orders of the Heavenly Empress herself!" The senior palace guard shouted at them and ordered them to do so. It was then that Bin Yong and Jia Le realised the two that were running were the Cowherd boy, Niu Lang and the Weaver Girl, Zhi Nu.

"Do we really have to catch them?" Jia Le looked at Bin Yong as they started to chase after the running couple. The legend of Qixi festival originated from the legend of Niu Lang and Zhi Nu. Zhi Nu was the immortal weaver girl that served under the Heavenly Empress and she was the granddaughter of the Heavenly Emperor. Niu Lang, on the other hand, was just a kind-hearted mortal and a simple cowherd boy.

The legend went like this. One day, when Niu Lan was out tending to his cows as usual, he found the Zhi Nu's clothes through pure chance. Searching for the owner of the clothes, he happened to see Zhi Nu bathing in a pond near his cottage. When he returned the clothes to her, somehow or other, they fell in

love at first sight. Now, in this dungeon, it seemed that the Empress found out that her granddaughter had decided to marry a mere mortal just for love so she was probably ordering the palace guards to capture Zhi Nu.

For Bin Yong, the Qixi lore resonated with him a lot. He, a kind-hearted man, though he wouldn't say it out loud, had fallen in love at first sight with Jia Le, which till this day he could not believe actually happened. And so, he knew how the cowherd and weaver felt. If in this dungeon, he was somehow able to change the course of the legend, it would bring him great joy.

"Let's pretend to chase after them but provide them with our assistance if needed." Bin Yong sent a transmission message to Jia Le, which she readily agreed to. Although Jia Le's love for Bin Yong was from an obsession rather than a love at first sight, she slowly but truly appreciated that she had made the right choice, even if the tactics both she and Bin Yong's friends had used were rather underhanded.

"We cannot outrun them Niu Lang!" Zhi Nu turned her head to check how many people were chasing after them. Neither of them was fighters and both knew that every second they spent together could be their last.

"Do not worry, just a little further away from the heavenly palace and I might be able to buy us some time!" Niu Lang held tightly onto the Ox leather hide cape he was wearing. It was actually the skin of the dead Heavenly Astral Ox, Taurus, whom Niu Lang had unknowingly taken care of for many years when Taurus had been exiled from the Heavens for a selfless crime. In return for Niu Lang's kindness and upon hearing his love situation, Taurus told Niu Lang that should he ever die from old age, Niu Land should preserve his skin and carve his horns out as a blowing horn. Lastly, he should keep his tail hair for protection.

"If you ever feel like you are in a pinch and require help desperately, express your desire for help as you blow the horn. Help will arrive. Give some of the tail hair to your loved one the moment you see her again and ask her to hold onto it properly. You will understand why when the situation comes. For now, I shall return to Earth and gaze upon the stars from the ground." The dying words of the Heavenly Astral Ox had always stayed in Niu Lang's heart and mind and he had never forgotten them.

"Lady Zhi Nu! Stop at once and you will be forgiven for your crime!" The senior palace guard who was chasing them shouted booming at them.

"It is not a crime for me to love someone I like!" Zhi Nu replied as she stuck her tongue out at them.

"Do not make things difficult!" The Palace Guards began to move even faster the moment the senior guard gave the order. Meanwhile, Bin Yong and Jia Le ran quietly behind them, hoping to find the right opportunity to strike them and save the star-crossed lovers.

Chapter 138 You Shall Not Pass!

"Ah!" Zhi Nu, the Weaver Girl, accidentally fell after running for such a long distance and the palace guards were catching up on them. Niu Lang the Cowherd Boy stopped to help Zhi Nu up gently, just like how he would pick a flower from the fields.

Niu Lang would have already given up a long time ago if not for the Heavenly Astral Ox cape that he was wearing. There was no other way he would have been able to run for so long at such a fast pace and keep the Palace Guards away from them.

"Zhi Nu, I think we have run far enough away from the Heavenly Palace. I counted and confirmed that the number of palace guards that were chasing us is all here. Niu Lang stood right in front of Zhi Nu as the Palace Guards, along with Bin Yong and Jia Le, approached them.

"You sure can run fast, but no matter how fast you run, you will never be able to outrun us! Especially me, He Bao!" The senior palace guard, He Bao, shouted at them and with a hand gesture, five other heavily armoured palace guards surrounded them.

"Lady Zhi Nu, for conspiring with that mortal, I am afraid I have to punish you too!" He Bao unsheathed his sword from its scabbard before Niu Lang unexpectedly spoke out loudly.

"You two! You two are mercenary immortals, right? Will you listen to my plea?" Niu Lang kneeled before Bin Yong and Jia Le, begging for mercy. "I am really in love with Zhi Nu. I do not care about what happens to me but I beg you to please take her away from this mess! I am willing to give anything and everything to you if you help her! Even my next life or my future lives will be in service to you!" Niu Lang banged his head against the celestial floor as hard as he could to show his sincerity.

Niu Lang knew there was no way to get out of this alive but if the two mercenary immortals who were rumoured to do anything as long as the price was right truly lived up to their rumours, then maybe Zhi Nu might have a chance to be left alive and escape from this mess. That way, he could buy some time for Zhi Nu to escape.

"What are you talking about Niu Lang?! I will not leave you alone to die!" Zhi Nu cried and immediately hugged Niu Lang to stop him from kowtowing in front of the mercenary immortals. She figured these immortals probably received a hefty payment from the Heavenly Empress, which would probably last them for a lifetime.

"Hahaha! Useless efforts by a useless mortal! Your act of cowardice has entertained me sufficiently, now you shall pay the price for loving our Lady Zhi Nu!" He Bao rushed towards them with the intention to kill the mortal. Zhi Nu would be injured by his strike but he knew that the Palace Doctors were proficient enough to fix an immortal up.

Ba -Clang~!

A small beetle-shaped bronze shield appeared in front of He Bao and the strike was deflected by it. "Niu Lang, you said you would pay us with everything you had, right?" Bin Yong smirked when he saw He Bao's stunned face. Niu Lang shouted "Yes! Anything!!!" At that instant, he quickly took out his horn that was carved from the Heavenly Astral Ox and blew into it hard.

Buuuuu oooooonnnnnnn

The hunting horn echoed through the area, and the next scene completely befuddled the palace guards. That was because they saw a giant shadow lurking over Niu Lang's back. "Hmmp, I will take care of them, run away!" A giant black minotaur with leather shoulder armour and leg guards grunted at Niu Lang. Zhi Nu placed her hands over her mouth to mask her shock at the reveal of Niu Lang's secrets.

Bin Yong had decided to stay behind with the Minotaur to fight against the guards in order to buy more time for Jia Le and the couple to escape. It was not wise to split the party and divide their forces, but Bin Yong figured that if he could keep this minotaur alive, it might prove to be a formidable ally in later fights. He participated in enough of Jin's dungeons to know that this was just the beginning. In addition, this seemed to merely be the start of the legend, and therefore, only the start of the dungeon, meaning the worst had yet to come.

The minotaur snorted at the palace guards before howling loudly to display his fury. With his two handed great sword, the minotaur bashed a nearby palace guard with it, which caused him to fly towards the Heavenly Palace. Jia Le took this chance to grab Zhi Nu before running off with Niu Lang as they ran towards the Temporal Gate of Heavens which connects the Heavens, Earth and Hell.

"You are not getting away!" He Bao roared in anger and blew into his own hunting horn. Subsequently, two animated stone lions, one black, one white, crawled out from the celestial floor. These were the most common Regal guardian beasts that most senior palace guards were able to command.

The type of material the guardian beasts were made out of showed how powerful the senior guard was. Stone was the weakest while gold was the strongest. Most of the guardian lions that were summoned came as a pair. The Black Stone Lion represented Yin while the White Stone Lion represented Yang.

"Go hunt down this mercenary immortal, tear him into pieces and then track down the others and kill all of them. Go, my stone lions!" He Bao commanded as he continued his fight with the giant Minotaur. "I promise I will kill you!" He Bao cursed under his breath at Niu Lang who pulled such a trick on them.

The summoned Minotaur was proving to be a tough opponent for the Palace Guards, mainly because its origin was the Heavenly Astral Ox, a named entity unlike the palace guards who had only been training without much real combat experience.

Not wanting the Minotaur to do all the work, Bin Yong also went into a fighting stance. Just from seeing the small interactions between the palace guards and the Minotaur, he knew that this would be a tough fight...

"For a place in heaven, it's surprisingly quiet." Jia Le casually commented to herself, which made her chuckled. "It's a dungeon instance! If this were real, I don't think we would have been able to run away that easily simply due to overpopulation." That's what she thought Bin Yong's reply to her comment would have been and smiled. She and the star crossed couples eventually reached the Temporal Gates of Heaven. However, the three of them were met with another obstacle.

"I am sorry but you are not allowed to pass, Lady Zhi Nu. And little mortal, I have to punish you for escaping my security check! " Two gate gods, also known as Men Shen, stopped them right at the Temporal Gates of Heavens. These divine guardians of doors and gates were used to protect the heavens against evil influences and to encourage good hearted ones to enter.

"Please! Let us go! All I want is to have a simple life with Niu Lang! Nothing else!" Zhi Nu tried to plead the gate gods for their forgiveness. Niu Lang once again felt useless and felt that he had made Zhi Nu suffered.

Jia Le noticed the look on Niu Lang's face and recognised it immediately. She patted Niu Lang on the shoulder and said, "Love conquers all. Believe in it!" Upon hearing that, Niu Lang did not know if he should be thanking the mercenary immortal for her advice since he still had no idea whether or not he believed it.

"By the Heavenly Empress' Decree, I cannot allow you to pass through. However, if you prove yourself worthy through our test of strength!" The door gods, who were talking in unison, suddenly stopped and came out from their posts at the gates.

"I, Duke Zhuang, Divine Left Gate Guardian of the Temporal Gates of Heavens." The red faced door god shouted out his name and wielded his two handed mace, going into a fighting stance.

"And I, Duke Zhong Wu, Divine Right Gate Guardian of the Temporal Gates of Heavens!" The green faced door god announced his name too as he swung his halberd out in the open.

"Will battle all of you. Till then, You shall not pass!" Both Divine guardians of the Temporal Gates of Heavens shouted in unison as they readied their weapons against the group.

Chapter 139 Umbral Minotaur

---A few minutes before---

"Oh my god! Niu Lang was able to summon a Black Minotaur?!" The customers in the shop were once again completely astonished by the surprises Jin had in store for them. "If Niu Lang had been that strong in the old folktale, he probably would have openly defied the Heavenly Empress and there would never have been a Qixi Festival." A male customer commented and the others around him started laughing.

"Does that means Zhi Nu will also have a certain set of battle skills?" A female customer queried and many other customers started to conjure possible theories. "She's a weaver so she might have some string related attacks." An elderly onlooker who heard the Qixi commotion decided to come and take a look at how a Dungeon Supplier would be able to weave a fresh story out of an old folktale.

"You are most probably right, Madam." Yun magically took out a foldable chair from the bar counter and offered her a seat. The granny thanked Yun and sat down to watch the dungeon matches. Even the customers were kind enough to allow the granny to have a good view of the dungeons.

Bin Yong defended against another strike from the Black Stone Lion before it stepped back and blew a breath of blackish fire at Bin Yong. "Shit, they can breathe fire too?" Bin Yong briefly remembered the time when he fought against a Wyrms Ant in the Zither Mistress Dungeon with some random cultivators since his friends Luo Bo and Shi Zuo were not available to accompany him.

He remembered how demoralising it was to have to fight fire and ice at the same time. If Bin Yong was not mistaken, the White Stone Lion would be able to shoot ice projectiles at him too. As a test, he tried to harass the White Stone Lion. As predicted, it shot out shards of ice at him.

This was when Bin Yong grinned a little. "I guess this mantle was a good investment after all." From his storage ring, he took out a mantle and wrapped himself with it. The mantle had a fire absorption talisman inscribed, which cost him about 80 bronze panda medal coins. After that, he also took out an

accessory band from his storage ring and wore it immediately. The band was inscribed with an ice resistance incantation that cost 10 bronze panda.

Compared to cold, he was actually more afraid of fire since he remembered being burnt alive in the Zither Mistress instance and the freezing cold was merely damage he would try to avoid if he had sufficient resistance. The rest of the panda medal coins he had received from his multiple dungeon playthroughs were spent on upgrading his simple buckler into a bronze beetle shaped shield.

It looked way cooler on Bin Yong especially since he was a beetle style cultivator. Thankfully for him, the red panda in the weaponry store said that he was the 100th customer to use their services so they also slightly tempered his sword, which gave his sword a small power boost for free. The appearance did not change much but Bin Yong could feel that it was slightly lighter and swung better than before.

"Come at me, kitties." Bin Yong finally dared to face the two stone lions face to face. Meanwhile, the Umbral Minotaur, as he was named by the customers, was having a blast... batting the palace guards with his warclub as they dashed towards him. The Palace guards' armour was strong enough to absorb a partial amount of blunt damage so the guards were tenacious enough to continue fighting against the Umbral Minotaur.

He Bao had enough of being whacked around like a baseball so he summoned his qi into his sword as the other palace guards were distracting the Umbral Minotaur. "If I am not able to finish off this cow, I am not worthy of the title Senior Palace Guard!" The sword was blinding with a whitish blue flame radiating off of it before He Bao shouted out. "Exorcism Blade of Yin!"

He Bao swung his sword and three crescent waves burning bright with whitish blue flame began flying towards the Umbral Minotaur. The palace guards took the chance to rush in and hold back the minotaur to prevent it from running.

The first crescent wave of blue exorcism fire torched the Umbral Minotaur and it howled loudly in pain. Despite all the pain, it was going through, the Minotaur used all of its might to lift two guards that were holding his arms and smash them together with a powerful clap. The second crescent wave burned the palace guards but it also damaged the Umbral Minotaur's arms badly.

With no strength left to defend against the third attack, the minotaur stood there in preparation to receive it and endure the pain. Yet, something flew towards the third wave and the bluish flame exploded right in front of the Umbral Minotaur. The flame had exploded when it hit the Black Stone Lion that Bin Yong had knocked back in the Minotaur's direction with his Shield bash attack.

It happened when the Black Stone Lion was concentrating on spewing black flames and it thought that Bin Yong was being burned to a crisp by its flame since there was little to no movement from him. However, in truth, the fire absorption mantle was actually absorbing all the fire damage as Bin Yong redirected some of the flames with his shield too. During that time, the fire absorbed by the mantle was slowly converting into stored energy for Bin Yong to use.

The process was extremely delicate so Bin Yong could not move too much, or else the fire absorption mantle would just release the fire it absorbed and dissipate it as heat energy into the surroundings. Once Bin Yong thought there was sufficient energy, he used one of his Shield Arts, namely a Shield Bash,

on the Black Stone Lion when it least expected it, causing it to fly and crash into the blue flame crescent wave.

The Umbral Minotaur did not waste the precious chance it had been given and grabbed the other two palace guards that were holding its legs and smashed them into the floor before throwing them towards He Bao like how a baseball pitcher would throw a ball.

The last palace guard who had been holding his tail suddenly backed off and ran away. He Bao managed to dodge the two gyro-ball throws from the Umbral Minotaur and dashed forward. The Umbral Minotaur snorted as he went down on all fours. With his horns aimed at He Bao, the bull clashed head on with He Bao.

Unfortunately for He Bao, he had underestimated the power of the bull's charge. His sword broke into smithereens and one of the horns gored through his palace armour. That moment of recklessness was the greatest mistake He Bao had ever made, or would ever make. The Umbral Minotaur proceeded to drop him and stomp on him continuously with his hind legs. Within minutes, all that was left was a battered mess of metal and flesh.

To Jin's surprise, the customers actually cheered for the Umbral Minotaur even though it was just an 'NPC' in the dungeon. He did not expect it to receive an ovation. "Man, that Umbral Minotaur was wicked, just look at how it tore the Palace Guards apart!" A male customer shouted.

Meanwhile, in the same station where the same instance was being played by four other cultivators who were playing as a group, the situation was different. Those cultivators actually chose to help the Palace Guards, though Niu Lang still summoned the same Umbral Minotaur out to protect him.

However, one of the cultivators received the same fate as the senior palace guard in the dungeon Instance Bin Yong was in, before they brought down the Umbral Minotaur, but not before sustaining severe casualties "Serves those cultivators right for trying to go against Niu Lang!" One of the customers was filled with angst because the four cultivators decided to blindly follow the palace guards.

"So the system is also giving cultivators choices like how I did in the Bank Heist Instance. Interesting!" Jin thought to himself while telling the customers to simmer down a bit. They apologised to Jin before continued enjoying the show.

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Chapter 140 Battle Weaver

"I do not want to fight, but I will if I have to!" From her sash, Zhi Nu took out a box of needles and swiftly took two needles out. What could not be seen by the naked eye was that two strings were attached to the needles Zhi Nu took out and she held it in her own fighting pose, unique and something that could only be created by a distinguished Weaver.

"I will assist." Jia Le took out her kunai from her bag that contained her stock of kunais. Jia Le even had a thick nylon sheath bag attached to her legs for a quick draw of kunais if needed. She showed off her Breathtaking Bellflower cultivation and displayed three flower silhouettes slowly waving in the air above her.

Niu Lang suddenly felt like a burden for he was just a mortal with a specially made leather hide cape and an extra ox horn. Somehow, Niu Lang felt that he should not use that horn at this particular moment but he would use it if he had to. "Go hide!" Jia Le shouted and Niu Lang quickly obliged since he knew he would just be a burden if he remained.

"I will strike first!" Duke Zhuang, the Left Divine Guardian, spoke as he smashed his two handed mace down towards the ground and caused a large crack to appear in the celestial ground. Jia Le smiled at this as cracks in the ground meant that a growing flower could struggle through and blossom under hardship, ultimately coming out stronger.

"Kunai Art! Entrapping fields of Bellflowers!" Jia Le sacrificed the kunai she had been holding and threw it into the crack that was created by Duke Zhuang previously. Within moments, a large series of vines appeared from the crack and wrapped themselves around Duke Zhuang, entrapping him in a tangle of vines. Zhi Nu wanted to attack Duke Zhuang too but was a step too late because Duke Zhong Wu, the Right Divine Guardian, swooped in and broke the vines.

However, the experienced Jia Le took this opportunity to throw another Kunai at them. "Kunai Art! Rising Thorn of the Earthly Bellflower!" When the Kunai touched the side armour of Duke Zhong Wu, a large spike of chi burst out from the kunai, which simulated a spike growing out from the ground, wounding Zhong Wu's right shoulder.

Seeing Jia Le's actions, Zhi Nu did not hesitate and moved her arms around with a needle in each hand. The invisible strings of death tied around the kunai's handle and with a pull, the kunai plunged deeper into Duke Zhong Wu's shoulder. This also caused the large spike of chi to pierce all the way through and render his right shoulder useless.

At this point, Duke Zhuang broke out of the vines and threw his mace at Zhi Nu. To his surprise, the two handed mace was left hanging in midair right before it hit Zhi Nu's enchanting face. Cold beads of sweat flowed down the side of her face as she let out a sigh of relief. Zhi Nu had been dexterous enough to weave the strings to create a shield that was strong enough to stop the impact of the flying mace.

This time, Zhi Nu smiled, because with a weapon at the mercy of her strings, she was extremely deadly. She moved her hands as if she was dancing and the two handed mace flew back at Duke Zhong Wu, who had an injured right shoulder.

Unfortunately, the door guards were not going to be taken down with just that. Duke Zhong Wu managed to catch the two handed mace barehanded even with his injured right shoulder. It was then that Zhi Nu grinned and Duke Zhong Wu noticed something was amiss. There were still strings attached to the two handed mace and the strings were released immediately when Duke Zhong Wu realised it.

A barrage of needles burst out from the layer of strings that was wrapped around the handle and Duke Zhong Wu was immobilised. "A weaver does not just know about needles and strings. Acupuncture is something I learned while I was in the mortal world with Niu Lang!" Zhi Nu shouted and Duke Zhong Wu could barely move.

Duke Zhuang, on the other hand, grabbed Duke Zhong Wu's halberd and cut the strings attached to the needles, but the Zhi Nu's acupuncture needles had already paralysed him. It was also at that point that Duke Zhuang noticed a bright light coming towards him.

"Intermediate Kunai Arts! Booming Blooming Bellflowers!" Several kunais were thrown in succession in his direction and when the Kunai came into contact with something, an explosion was ignited in the shape of a Bellflower. With that, Duke Zhong Wu had fallen but Duke Zhuang was still standing, albeit precariously. He took Duke Zhong Wu's Halberd and swung it around him continuously, which caused a mini hurricane to appear right in front of him. Debris was moving around the hurricane, which was a boundary to stop for both kunais and needles from reaching him.

Within the eye of the hurricane, Duke Zhuang finally thought that he was safe for a moment before he heard an incantation shouted out from above. "Sword Art! Flying Bombardment Dive of the Bombardier Beetle!" Bin Yong was seen flying into the eye of the hurricane with the help of the Umbral Minotaur that threw him into it. It appeared that Bin Yong and the Umbral Minotaur had finished their fight and rushed to aid Zhi Nu and Jia Le.

Duke Zhuang was not giving up a single bit as he pointed the halberd towards Bin Yong's direction and did a high jump. "Rising Lion Strike!" Duke Zhuang's halberd displayed the silhouette of a Lion. Through the fuzzy hurricane, all the bystanders could see was the silhouette of a beetle flying down into the mouth of a lion.

"Blah! Another Lion! Enough with the Lions!" Bin Yong shouted as he remembered duelling the white stone lion. The ice shards were surprisingly fast and all Bin Yong could do was block them with his shield. There were no openings since the White Stone Lion always kept its distance since it had seen the fate of its counterpart.

It was at that moment that Bin Yong remembered the gift he had earned in the mini game he had played in the Emerald Mountain Hot Springs Service Instance. He actually received a mixed set of smoke grenades and flash bombs. From his storage ring, he quickly pulled one out and there was a white label, which indicated that it was a Flashbang.

"Perfect!" Bin Yong thought to himself as he quickly threw it at the White Stone Lion, which the Lion instinctively targeted, causing a large flash that blinded the lion. Bin Yong, who covered himself with the mantle before the flashbang exploded, used that opportunity to dash in and stab the White Stone Lion through its mouth causing it to die when the ice shard it had been generating exploded within its mouth.

The hurricane dissipated when Bing Yong and Duke Zhang clashed, but the bystanders could only see a large explosion of chi happening right in front of them. Only right after the explosion could the rest of the group see Bin Yong lifelessly drop from the sky along with Duke Zhuang.

"Bin Yong!!" Jia Le reacted quickly as she saw him crashing down. Bin Yong had succeeded in his attack but it nearly cost him his life. With her kunai arts, vines grew in time to catch Bin Yong and Jia Le quickly rushed towards him. "Hahaha...looks like I underestimated the enemy this time round." Bin Yong whispered.

"Shhhh, do not talk. Drink up." Jia Le took out a high grade chi regeneration potion which she had bought from Jin's underground store and let him sip it bit by bit. Bin Yong coughed and he tried to drink the potion's content slowly.

When Jia Le was attending to Bin Yong, the Temporal Gates of Heavens opened, indicating that the group had passed the test. Zhi Nu called out for Niu Lang to come out from his hiding spot but there was no answer...and she assumed the worst.

"Yes...assume the worst, Zhi Nu." The Heavenly Empress walked towards the group as she had her palace guards hold onto a heavily bruised Niu Lang.

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