

Dungeon S 1311

Chapter 1311: China's Finest

As the door of the golden train opens, a strong mix of aura was unleashed into the public space, causing people near it to be slightly taken aback by the menacing aura. They did not need to know who it was but the aura being emitted was rather clear that the people who were exiting the train were no mere high grade cultivators.

"Let's give a round of applause to welcome China's finest, The Royal Zodiac Heads!" Jin shouted as the background music in every train played in sync and every single one within the event island was stunned to see them.

"Are you serious?!" Bu Dong shouted as he did not expect that the Pandawans were on the same train as the heads of the Royal Zodiac group. At this point, the bewilderment turned into giddy excitement as the audience saw almost every single Royal Zodiac Head at the centre of Jin's store.

Some even began to question whether they were really the authentic Royal Zodiac Heads especially when the only time they ever got together was during the nation's National Day. Even so, people know that they were forced to come together as a show of unity and some said they hardly ever come together unless it was a meeting of urgency.

However, right now, in this particular PandaVerse event, where only budding cultivators were here to enjoy their time, the Royal Zodiac Heads are now here in flesh and blood right in front of their eyes. As if they could sense the doubt in a few people, almost every single Royal Zodiac Head that was present with the exception of the Dragon Royal Zodiac clan showcased their aura to display to the public that they were indeed the real deal. It also seemed that each and every Zodiac Head were taking turns to show they were better than the other, making the centre stage to be a performance that everyone would not forget. The emergence of the rat and subsequently, the Bull and then the rabbit, so on and so forth.

Among the audience, there was a mix of subsidiary clans as well as minor clans of these Royal Zodiac clans that came just to enjoy what Jin had to offer but as they saw their representatives at the centre stage, they could not help but cry in joy. But the loudest cheer came from the Royal Zodiac army personnel as they shouted at the top of their voice when their respective Royal Zodiac Heads came forward to display their menacing aura.

Just as the Royal Zodiac Pig Aura came out, everyone was clapping as if to thank for the appearance of the Royal Zodiac Heads that came as special guests to Jin's event but suddenly the clouds above them started to turn dark for a sudden.

"Looks like someone is a tad too shy to show their face," Jin said while the clouds began to crackle with thunder a silhouette of a huge serpent like dragon was seen flying around them. Everyone immediately knew that it was none other than the Royal Dragon Zodiac and the crowd simply went wild. For the first time in the history books, all twelve Royal Zodiacs had come together for one event that was even considered official in everyone's eyes. (Even though Kong Rong was still hiding since he could not show his face to the Public way too often.)

And these made everyone wonder what kind of clout Jin had pulled to bring the Royal Zodiac Heads to his event. Now the reviewers and reporters who were in the media embargo finally understood why Kiyu had demanded such a high level order not to release any information about the event. If intruders of China knew that all twelve Royal Zodiac Heads were gathered in one particular place, it meant that the whole of China was 'not guarded' from both external and internal threats.

Thus, with this realisation, all of them finally agreed to adhere to the embargo even though Kiyu was still keeping a close eye on each and every one of them. After all, she too could feel the excitement in their eyes and the feeling of wanting to send out this amazing piece of message to the entire world.

"Despite their busy schedules, they have decided to put down any differences they had among each other and me included to come to join this epic event. However, time is precious to them and seeing how I had promised them a load of fun in exchange for their presence, let's not let these super VIPs wait!" Jin said and everyone once again gave another round of applause as Jin told them to stay in their seats.

All of the trains that were present on the event stage began to bring the seats back to their original position and a few had already started to move out. In the meantime, the Royal Zodiac Heads took their time to return to their golden train. There was an announcement within their train for all sponsors to be seated and not bother the Royal Zodiac Heads. There were even attendants and Panda Guards to ensure that there was no interference even though the Heads were powerful enough to ignore them.

Still, it was a sign of courtesy and everyone on the train tried to take a glimpse of the famous figureheads of China. And with the Heads seated, the golden train had also taken off along with the rest. Jin smiled that all of the Heads had kept their promise that they would come for the PandaVerse Festival and that included the Rat and Tiger.

"Looks like no matter what, the allure of money is still quite a strong factor," Jin said to himself seeing how satisfied the entire group of cultivators were elated by their presence. Although he had to pay millions to get them to come, that amount did not matter much considering all he spent could be earned back in a fraction of a day in the interdimensional stock market. (Of course, with the help of Claire.)

And with a satisfied and encouraged army of cultivators in his palm, the offensive on the Great Demon Rat War could finally begin.

Chapter 1312: The Siege

"All Trains in the first wave are ready to depart into the Farming World." The System reported to Jin as he had returned to his Dungeon Maker to oversee the situation.

"Good. Set all trains into combat mode. Get the passengers to have their seatbelts on. If they do not comply, it is at their own risk." Jin said and the System immediately sent out an instance wide announcement.

"To all Pandarens and fellow new customers. Please have your seatbelts on. We will be departing shortly to our assigned destination." The PA system in all trains had sounded the same warning again and again

while also showing the seatbelt sign right above their heads, just like how most people would notice them on planes.

Most Pandarens adhered to the instructions with only a few excited ones who could not wait and stuck their heads out of the train to see the commotion. But all they were able to glimpse was just a portal right in front of them. But at that moment, it felt as if their senses were telling them to get back to their seats as the trains were moving faster and faster.

In the meantime, there were Security Pandas at the front carriage of the trains setting up magical barriers which caught the curiosity of the Pandarens but their views were eventually blocked as the Pandas also started putting up a magic veil which obscured what they were doing behind it.

“All trains are moving close to max speed. Deploying siege equipment in the front carriages.” The System said and Jin pulled out the live camera footage of the main Northern Capital City right in front of him. There was nothing that was out of the ordinary, with the walls continued to be manned by countless numbers of Demon Rat guards.

“All Gob Teams are ready to act on your command.” Flame Ripper, The Dagger Goblin Commander said and Jin instantly gave the approval to start their operation. With his command, several Goblin Teams that were hiding along the outskirts of the Northern Capital City Walls started firing a barrage of smoke canisters right toward the enemies.

At first, the rats had no idea what were those popping noises and but when they realised that a wall of thick smoke was being emitted right in front of their city walls, they knew that an attack was coming, Searchlights started to pop out and alarms began to ring through the entire city.

Yet, before the alarms could be fully activated or when the searchlights were up and running, dozens of portals were appearing beneath them, under the cover of the thick smoke. And there, the trains that were running at full speed were dashing out of these portals, smashing their front carriage which was equipped with breaching siege equipment against their city walls.

These acts of simultaneous breaches shook their entire city wall despite the Demon Rats’ consistent reinforcements of their walls. They thought they had taken into account the human abilities in destroying town walls as their ‘sample’ to create stronger, thicker walls. The Demon Rats even placed anti siege equipment on their walls hoping to destroy and they were seen coming to the walls.

In fact, they had Demon Rats specialised in detection so that they could sortie their armies in time to counter the humans. But this particular ambush was something that they had never thought of. Almost each and every Demon Rat that was on guard duty were stunned by the scene when they saw snakes of metal come crashing through their walls and penetrate into their outer capital.

And if any trains were unable to break through the entire city wall, the front carriage would explode in a forward direction so that there would hopefully be a break in their wall, allowing the Pandarens to continue the siege. Thankfully, as the trains were moving at high speeds, the System did not keep the cultivators in the shadows and shared information in an infomercial way, telling them what to expect as the train reached their ‘destination’. Many could not believe this was Jin’s way of doing an offensive,

No doubt it was refreshing but at the same time scary especially for the new Pandarens although the Royal Zodiac Heads were pumped with adrenaline when they heard of the plan. They were contracted

to stay for an hour of the fight to show how the high grade cultivators were supposed to battle. However, from the look of things, they might be willing to stay longer than they were contracted to even though Jin told them that there would be no extra money given.

Thus as the trains breached through the city gates, the rush of cultivators startled the Demon Rats as they were faced with an onslaught so fierce, that there was not enough time for a counter attack. To the Pandarens, they were 'programmed' to see all these Demon Rats as enemies and they have to kill any on sight, especially when each rat is worth a point or two depending on their class and speciality.

It did not take long for the rats to understand the situation and regroup, forcing a desperate retaliation against the horde of cultivators that came through their city walls. Even so, the assault was not as messy as one might think. The System had purposely given certain missions to various groups of Pandarens. If they complete the tasks and objectives in their missions, they too would be rewarded with extra raid points and so while it was a little messy at the start, there were masses of people targeting key checkpoints. The Royal Zodiac Heads were allowed to rampage however they liked and so they had decided to move inward as they knew that the bosses of a dungeon instance would be in the castle.

They were not off the mark but instead of bosses, Demon Rat Abominations started to emerge to protect the second city walls from being breached. Projectiles and bombs were also seen being shot indiscriminately as usual from their second city walls, hoping to do the maximum amount of damage to any large group of cultivators seen.

In short, it was a hell of a mess like any war would be.

Chapter 1313: Situation in the East and West

"I have to admit, I am actually having fun." Se Chang Chang, the Royal Snake Zodiac Head, said as he slid through the defences of a particular guard abomination and attacked it from behind. In the meantime, Royal Zodiac Tiger Head Yuan Ba took the opportunity and smashed its head with just a fist of fiery chi when it got distracted from the trick attack Chang Chang did.

"I will not deny it." Yuan Ba mumbled as his face grinned widely at the kill. It had been a long time since he had a satisfying time fighting against monsters in a dungeon instance that was worthy of his strength. Shu Tiao Xiao, the Royal Rat Zodiac Head, then took the opportunity to cut down the soldiers that were assisting the abominations.

"Pssh. That Jin probably did this on purpose to incite me." Tiao Xiao said and Mu Ji, the Royal Zodiac Rooster Head chuckled.

"To be frank, his dungeon instance is definitely better than yours by a whole lot. It will probably take you more than a thousand years to reach this kind of quality especially when you are scheming to cheat money off your customers." Mu Ji said and Tiao Xiao ignored her.

"But still, I am rather surprised you are here after all that commotion that happened with you and Jin." Mu Ji added as she released a flurry of arrows that struck true to the rats that started crawling out of the debris of the broken buildings.

“He paid me enough to come. Besides, he had treated my policemen here more than any other landlords.” Yuan Ba gave such a bad excuse that the other Royal Zodiac Heads was snickering at his dishonest feelings. He always knew how awesome Jin’s dungeon instance had always been and this was his excuse to come here to experience it first hand.

Even if he had hated Jin for the things he had done, there was nothing wrong in getting enjoyment from the service he provided. After all, if the dungeon instance could get him to be stronger, he might take the chance to do so without any hesitation. This is especially true when there was not enough impetus in the current setting they were living in to do so and the threat of the Banned Emperor did make him slightly anxious after seeing his kids losing to Jin.

This was because he could already feel Jin might be on par or even stronger than him even without direct confrontation. And the ability to create this particular dungeon instance was a testament to his strength. Everyone also felt the same as they all knew how hard it was to create such a realistic dungeon instance if he did not have that kind of experience. Even if did not go through such an ordeal, the talent to create such an immense dungeon instance was without a doubt a feat that people would envy.

But as the Royal Zodiac Heads were singing their praises to Jin, (Be it reluctantly or not) Jin was too focused on the situation at hand to bother about their words. As expected by the System, the Demon Rats had been alerted to carry on with their digging operation at full force. The Spirits of the Land were doing their very best to provide minute to minute information to the System as well as the coordinates where they were emerging from.

Jin then quickly relayed the information to two of his trusted advisors of war. Gold, the Scholar of the East and Zieg, the Dark Templar Commander. While Gold was accompanied by his Werejackals, the WereMice were with him as well. They were the vanguard that would intercept the East’s digging as soon as they emerged from the ground. As for Zieg, he was handling the West alongside the Scholar of the West who seem to have better luck getting more help from the people of her land due to her previous influence as the Scholar.

They were more than surprised that she was alive and the adventurers were willing to pitch in to help. Even though Zieg believed that his Dark Templar Knights had the strength of twenty of those adventurers, it was the quantity that matters since they were pitting against numbers.

But as they awaited the Demon Rats’ emergence, both the East and West had already prepared a ton of surprises for them. As much as nobles on both sides were unhappy with the amassing of troops, they were quickly appeased with sufficient gold and food stock that Jin had prepared, allowing the two armies to have a proper foothold against the Demon Rats. From artillery to traps and mines, they were well equipped to push back the Demon Rats for at least a day before they were wiped out or exhausted.

That was where the Southern Army which Jin had conquered previously would come into play. With the exact coordinates coming through from the System, Jin can finally confirm that the Southern Region was currently safe from the invasion of the Demon Rats which allowed the Southerners to participate in both the East and West campaigns to push the Demon Rats back to the North.

An advanced force of paratroopers trained by Jin’s minions’ finest would be departing first before the rest that arrives by boat. This way, there would be sufficient reinforcements for the first wave to go through the Demon Rat Caves.

“Jin, we saw some movement on the ground. Getting ready for the fight.” Gold reported while Weslie, the Scholar of the West said that their side was still monitoring the situation.

“Very well, the moment you see a break in the ground, do not hesitate.” Jin gave full approval for Gold to take over the battlefield in the East and in less than a minute, he took charge by firing a volley of artillery the moment he saw a crack on the ground through his binoculars.

No Mercy to the Demon Rats.

Chapter 1314: 2nd Wave of Trains

Even though Jin was confident that the East and West regions were under control by his minions, he was more worried about the Northern Region. The news of the ambush to the Northern Capital would have already reached the towns and camps that were dominated by the Demon Rats and they were rushing to form a counteroffensive against the humans.

Yet, Jin was not going to allow them to do what they liked. The second wave of Pandarens who had gone aboard the trains was transported to these towns as a retaliatory force to prevent the Demon Rats from gathering from various camps and striking the main Pandaren army from the back. The trains also served as a rescue platform for those humans who were helpless against the control of the Demon Rats ruling their town.

However, instead of being shocked by the steel carriages emerging from nowhere at the centre of their towns, spies and trained messengers employed by the Southern Stars Organisation had already informed the humans living in those occupied territories in the strictest manner possible. They too had used the System’s contracts during the information trading to ensure that no Demon Rats sympathisers were to leak those plans out.

Also before the trains arrived at their said destination, the cultivators had also been briefed of their mission to escort the humans into the carriages while stopping the Demon Rat soldiers from amassing. But to their surprise, those humans who were escaping were somewhat capable of taking care of themselves too. Armed with World War 2 standard issue rifles, a few of them assisted in the escort of the vulnerable into the trains.

They were none other than the Southern Stars agents that had stayed to make sure that their mission objectives were protected after performing their initial mission of relaying the information. These Southern Stars agents honestly never thought that this rescue mission would ever happen considering how guarded the Demon Rats were. But now that they saw the reinforcements of these masked soldiers annihilating the Demon Rats so easily, the Southern Stars agents believed this was the turnaround that they had been waiting for.

So as they fought fiercely to protect the rest of the innocent citizens, the Pandarens tried their best to push the Demon Rats away from the train when they saw that they were taking their prisoners away, loading them into those steel cabins. Instead of reorganising to travel towards the capital, the Demon

Rats now took offence of the masked soldiers that attacked them from nowhere and decided to fend them off from their territory.

This presented a serious bout of confusion to their main headquarters in the Northern Capital as the towns were asking for reinforcements to combat the threat they encountered. But as more of the towns reported back, the main headquarters knew that this was the major offensive that the Demon Rats had never expected.

Sure, they had skirmishes against the humans near the outskirts of the Town Wecha but other than that, the humans did not move off their fortified town any more than necessary. They only did it when the Rats organised a small raiding party to test their defences and hopefully wear them out through the consistent attacks.

Both their military council and masters had believed that this was more than sufficient to keep them occupied after the major fight where they used the Northern Capital's castle as their object of war against the humans. Yet these coordinated manoeuvres were way too accurate that the main headquarters was caught off guard since they were preparing their main armies to fight against the East and West.

Then again, when they received reports that the East and West digs had been interrupted by volleys of artillery blasts, the Demon Rat Generals could only believe there was a mole in their midsts. A human sympathiser which was unheard of in their army when they all had been fed and clothed well.

"Unless... It's one of our masters that sold us off." One of the Demon Rat Generals spoke out of buried anger that their plans were being shot down one by one from the counterattacks.

"How dare you said that about our masters?!"

"But aren't they humans? Perhaps they are scared that we become too powerful for them to control!"

"We should take this chance to annihilate them."

All these whispers of accusing the North and South Scholars suddenly started to get stronger and it made even the most staunch of supporters of their masters to have their resolve waver at the immense peer pressure.

"Then, let's not dally any longer and remove any human presence and take charge of the Demon Rat Army as how we should have done so a long time ago." One of the Demon Rats General said and the rest readily agreed.

Unbeknownst to Jin and the System, the Demon Rats' coup de tat might possibly be the tide turning for the best for them in the long run now that they had decided to go against their masters. But as of now, Jin continued to run his commands in his Dungeon Maker Console and ensure that the Great Demon Rat War could be suppressed as much as what the best outcomes the System had simulated previously.

"Yawn. Where is our turn?" Kraft said as he was sitting right beside him and the league of Night Foxes were all standing behind him waiting for his orders to be given when he felt like it.

"As much as I like to send you to the East and West Digs where their main attacking army should be, it's not the time right now. The Demon Rats had yet to show their true colours and seeing how they had

once massively modified the Northern Capital Castle for their drilling, they might have some other crazy stuff that they are hiding especially when this is their main capital where all their supposed magic is to happen.” Jin said as he continued to prepare the third wave of trains to fight the hideouts and camps that served as the Demon Rat Outposts.

“Then just send a freaking nuclear missile right smack at the centre,” Kraft said as his mouth was wide open once more from yawning.

“And lose hectares of fertile farming?”

“Better than wasting time fighting with small fries,” Kraft replied and surprisingly told his Night Foxes to sit on the floor while standing by for his orders.

It looked like he was not planning to go anywhere until he annoyed Jin enough for a proper deployment spot.

Chapter 1315: Se Chang Chang's Excitement

As the Royal Zodiac Heads rampaged through the Demon Rats with utmost dedication to destroying every single one in their way, both the Pandarens and Pandawans were amazed by the sort of strength that was displayed. In fact, it even inspired a few to do better at this current Raid.

Xiong Da was one of such cultivators as he saw how he could finally have something worth pursuing. Sure, the Hippo Cultivator might not be able to be at their level in years to come or even in his current lifetime but if he was able to reach a new grade because of his inspired new goals, it might definitely be something worth chasing for.

Initially, he did want to go after Jin but the dungeon supplier had been too elusive in hiding his skills and only coming out occasionally to show them off. Not to mention, the times he displayed his brilliance were always in the dungeon instances that he was sadly not around or too far away to witness. But compared to the Royal Zodiac Heads who were currently on the same battlefield as him, they were a shining example of what it was to be a true high grade cultivator.

However, he was not the only one in awe by this crazy display of techniques and one shot kills. Kiyu finally allowed the streamers and reviewers who were waiting patiently for the media embargo to be lifted to set the entire internet into flames. And because of Jin's requirement for all the invited streamers and reviewers to come into Dungeons and Pandas, the media embargo could be handled and lifted easily. There was no need to worry about leakages when the reviewers were considered 'hostages' in Jin's shop. (Of course, the reviewers had been treated well with a luxurious wealth of information and services that could make six star hotels pale in comparison.)

And to the reviewers, this was like a test that had the fastest fingers to shout out into the internet and attract the most attention. It was as if Jin was trying to give both big and small time reviewers a chance to get the audience they wanted. No one had exclusive rights and everyone was equal until the embargo was lifted.

True enough, the piece of information about the gathering of the Royal Zodiac Heads spread like wildfire. It was to the point it was considered as breaking news in a few certain mainstream media channels the moment they pick them up. (After all, Jin did not invite any mainstream media to the festival since they were too troublesome to work with.)

But by the time the news of the Royal Zodiac Heads was out in the open, most of the Royal Zodiac Leaders were already close to their contracted one hour mark to Jin's surprise. He honestly thought this would be considered boring for these super powered fiends that had secret training since young. And yet, here they are in the Farming World wrecking to their heart's desire. Some even took this opportunity to work together with their subjects as there were quite a few Royal Zodiac Soldiers that came for the PandaVerse Festival.

In fact, almost 3/4 of the Royal Zodiac Snake Platoon came to give their support and Se Chang Chang the Royal Snake Zodiac Head had the rare chance to command his troops to victory. He even told Hou Fei the Royal Snake General that this was way better than any military exercise that he had joined before. "Wait, till the main dish arrive." Hou Fei chuckled and Se Chang Chang had his eyes wide open. He thought that this current assault would only consist of cultivators and he had not realised that they were only this to create a foothold so that they could assault the capital earnestly.

"How did you get all this information? Is it because of that military exercise that you took part in previously?" Se Chang Chang asked and Hou Fei nodded his head while replying to his boss in code that his colonels and he had the privilege to bring in some extensive equipment like tanks and artillery into the picture so long as they were able to provide more money. "That cunning little Panda. Looks like he is not as naive as people made him out to be. Do you need more cash for other 'equipment'? I saw from afar there's an ocean that we can make use of. What about the aeroplanes?" Se Chang Chang said and it seems like Hou Fei had managed to get the jackpot for Jin when it comes to earning more money.

"But are you supposed to only be contracted for an hour? Last I remembered talking to your assistant that you had quite a few agendas to clear for today." Hou Fei questioned although he knew beforehand that although they were only contracted for only an hour, they were not only obliged to stay any longer in Jin's Dungeons and Panda store but able to stay as long as they want. If needed, the Dungeon Supplier had promised a one way portal back to their territories once they had enough of the fight.

"Agenda for today? Screw those stuff. This is one dungeon instance that felt so real that I could not believe I did not trust you enough to come for the first one! Postponing those administrative for tomorrow will be fine." Se Chang Chang laughed as he told Hou Fei to give him advice if he did anything wrong with the commanding while telling him to get at least a destroyer or airship carrier and a few planes in their possession. If they were going to play this for some time, might as well go all in with the fight.

As for the others, a few of the Royal Zodiac Heads already had their fair share of fun and decided to return since leaving their territories empty after being exposed by the mainstream media had left them a tad anxious. But for Se Chang Chang? The fun had just barely begun as Jin already approved of the Royal Snake Zodiac's urgent request to acquire additional items for their 'entertainment'.

Chapter 1316: Coup d'état

"What are you all doing here? Can't you see that we are being attacked?" A loud stomp from his precious metal staff reverberated throughout the entire room with magic power resonating from it.

"You think that will scare us away, Master Nathan Welihelm? Just because you created us does not mean that we are not equals." One of the Demon Rat General said as his axe scraped the floor with a loud clicking sound. And soon, the rest of the generals followed suit and surrounded the Scholar of the North, Nathan.

"And? Can't you see that we are busy discussing what we should do about this mess? The Eastern and Western fronts had somehow been discovered and they were all more than ready to attack us. More importantly, they even knew where the exact pinpoint locations of the digs were and had us in a pinch. And you guys are wasting your time – WHAT?" Nathan who was busy digesting the list of text from the Eastern and Western frontline did not notice the severed head that the Axe Demon Rat General was holding.

Immediately, he put up a shield right in front of him and demanded an answer from the Demon Rat Generals. "What is the meaning of this?! How did Master Douglas die and why are you holding his head in such a manner? Explain!" Nathan shouted as he tried to rummage through his desk to find the commanding ring that was supposed to cause all Demon Rats regardless of ranks to obey his questioning.

But before he was able to find it, the shield right in front of him started taking damage from the Demon Rat Axe General as his axe was no ordinary weapon. Like a rotating pinwheel, the axe continuously pounded onto the scholar's makeshift energy shield and roared as it ground through the layers.

And this was merely just the Axe General doing his part where the others were smirking at how easy this whole ordeal was to perform a Coup d'état. They had no idea that the command rings could be overwritten with just a simple loophole. By wearing one of them by themselves.

The Rat Generals forcibly took the command ring from Douglas, the Scholar of the South who was preoccupied with boosting the defences of the main headquarters further into the capital. But in reality, Douglas was mainly boosting his room with traps so that anyone coming in would be killed. He however disabled the traps for the Demon Rats for very obvious reasons but Douglas had no idea that as he was enchanting the room, he would be stabbed in the back by various Demon Rat Generals, killing him almost instantly. And as if the Demon Rats knew the impossible possibility that he might be resurrected, beheading the head before he could make any further response was the most appropriate choice they had selected.

And as if the beheading was not enough, the Demon Rat Generals demanded that his body would be cut into pieces and burned in the midst of this chaos. And in the meantime, the Generals looted his body and gave most of them to the Mage General of the Demon Rats since he had previously been bestowed powers by the Scholars themselves.

As for the beheading, it was also used to serve as a conduit for the Mage General to obtain whatever knowledge Douglas had withheld from him previously and also preserved his remaining soul within that

beheaded piece so that the Rats can control play with fire by controlling the scholar even from the dead.

The Mage General believed that if he was able to do so, controlling the humans outside might be a feat that could be achieved too and this war could end sooner than they might expect. Simultaneously, having the tortured soul of Douglas in their possession also allowed the Demon Rats to utilise the Command Ring as if simulating the effect of Douglas controlling the current group of Demon Rats General.

But the control was still under the Mage General and thus creating a loophole that enabled the Rat Demons to move so boldly against the stronger of the two scholars. And since the Demon Rat Generals were under the effect of 'Douglas' the commanding ring used by Nathan was rendered useless and all he could do now was to defend himself.

"Why!? Why! After all that we did for you! You know that we are the only two that you can trust!" Nathan shouted as he attempted to prepare a lightning spell to zap the Rats into oblivion, hoping to buy time by learning their reason.

Yet, the attack got fiercer and more of the Rat Generals took part in the destruction of his shield, causing Nathan to fire the lightning bolt prematurely and also doing some damage to himself from the feedback. And still, the Demon Rats did not fall back but rather pressed forward, going into melee range and slashing the two arms away from Nathan's body, disallowing him from even holding a wand.

Nathan retaliated despite the loss he suffered. Even without hands, he was still able to chant, allowing him to regrow his hands with black magic. Although it might lessen his lifespan, Nathan knows that his life will end in seconds if he does not use them and soon after, cast a necromancy spell that provided him with the ample amount of buffer that he could potentially need to fight against a group of well trained, well armed Demon Rat Generals.

"Raise the dead!" Nathan shouted after his quick successive rows of chants. Swift casting the spell enabled him to raise a few death knights at his behest and yet he was bested once more by the Demon Rat's Mage General who cast a holy smite to break a pathway for the Demon Rat Axe General to plough through. The rest instantly blocked the remaining Death Knights, allowing the Axe General to shove the entire axe through Nathan's body, causing him to be in shock and major loss of blood.

And with that opening attack, the Demon Rat Generals continued to eviscerate the last scholar who created them so that this entire race of Demon Rats will be led solely by Demon Rats

Chapter 1317: The Dead Scholars' Aftermath

"So what now Cinderclaw?" The Demon Rat Mage General asked the Demon Rat Axe General as he picked up Nathan's beheaded piece and chucked into his belt like some trophy ornament alongside Douglas' severed head.

"What now? Get your ass working. Get all the transmissions but send it to the main communications area immediately rather than have it filter through this stupid room." Cinderclaw said as he checked if

the Scholar of the North had any other artefacts that could be used against the humans. "And also, Prideblood, be sure to get all the spells and knowledge from those two heads before they expire."

"Yeah, yeah. Just be sure to be victorious in your fights. The humans are not pushovers when they are bunched up like grapes." Prideblood said and Cinderclaw chuckled.

"So, you are of the opinion to teleport them into various places?"

"Well, yeah? Just let me get those spells from the scholars and we should be good to go. It will disrupt their formation and we can overwhelm them solely with numbers once we break them apart." Prideblood said and the other generals who were nearby liked the idea a lot.

"Also, I suggest we do mass teleports and bring the other Demon Rats along with them. It will save on our mana since I do not need to care how many to bring over."

"Yeah, just do that and we will take care of the rest," Cinderclaw smirked at the new way of punishing the invaders. It seems as if the rats had underestimated how coordinated the humans were and as well as the number of talented people in their midst.

He could only assume that these humans were from either the other regions or maybe a region that was unheard of or even kept as a secret by the Scholars. After all, they were keeping secrets till kingdom come and refused to share anything unless it was necessary. But now that the Demon Rats are not under the rule of these pathetic masters who had spent their lives idly and treated them as mere pawns in the game of chess against the rest of the humans, they are going to carve a name for themselves.

Cinderclaw knows that if those ex masters of theirs only wanted power and luxury of life and to be able to do so behind protection of a race would only further solidify their comfort zone. So what if they were to lose a few thousand Demon Rat soldiers? All they had to do was to make even more of those once the battle had ended. And at most, the scholars will send a retaliation attack to ensure that the humans within the Northern regions would suffer even more losses after this attack.

However, they did not realise that the Demon Rats had far bigger ambitions to invade the East and West regions. The scholars thought that it would be stupid of them to branch out of the Northern region but their insistence left them no choice but for the Demon rats to leave with their own devices.

Naturally, this brought even more headaches for the scholars when they found out about how coordinated the attack in the morning was when they realised the scale of the ambush. Being targeted when the Demon Rats were about to reach the regions through months of digging? The only regret was that they gave the Demon Rats too much freedom and death was the price they had paid for being oblivious to almost everything.

Even through this attack, the North and South scholars wanted to hide as much as possible without providing much support, hoping to ride off the tide since they thought that they had the entire Demon Race at their behest. But they never thought how the Demon Rats had decided to use this confusion as an opportunity to remove them.

To think all this was because both the North and South scholars got a bit greedy once they had created a new plant based on the Demon Seeds and were drunk with power conquering the entire Northern Region for themselves.

But all this did not matter now that they were dead and the Demon Rats were in command of everything. The Demon Rat Generals who used the excuse of the masters collaborating with the humans were excited with their new command of the entire Demon Rat race and they are eager to show these humans that they had messed with the wrong people (or rats).

Prideblood eventually managed to learn how to mass teleport via the remains of the dead Scholars and the Demon Rat Generals had already assigned a few kill zones for that to happen. This move was the game changer for the current battle that the two sides were experiencing. The Demon Rats that were engaging against the cultivators did not have any idea what was happening and thought it was a spell from the cultivators, causing them to enrage while some who had the basic knowledge that it was a Demon Rat spell went berserk to keep the enemies occupied before the spell activates...all for the glory of the Demon Rats.

In the meantime for the Pandarens, they knew it was not a support spell as any friendly spell cast would be indicated in their Heads Up Display (HUD) via their masks and some who were at the edge of the spell managed to move away from it while the rest who were caught in the crossfire continued their fight against the Demon Rats until they realised that they were teleported instead of being blasted into pieces.

Jin was surprised when the System reported that the Pandarens had been moved to another location deep underneath the current city that they were fighting and the dungeon supplier demanded the HUDs be brought up to the main screens of the Dungeon Maker instance.

There he saw Demon Rats armed not just to the teeth but with steampunk equipment that was close to modern fantasies. Armoured Rats that could give Ironman a run for his money. And the look of grittiness in those Demon Rats' eyes showed that it was not the first time they murdered people. Jin could only deduce that those Demon Rats had fought against each other to reach a rank or experience that he could not have imagined.

And yet, those poor Pandarens were sent to these 'slaughtering houses' to be killed right on the spot and for the next batch to come in.

Chapter 1318: Demon Rats Battle Report I

"The number of dead cultivators is going up." the System said and Jin started to scratch his head. He knew that there was nothing he could do unless he decided to put up an anti magic barrier to protect the cultivators from being teleported into the rat's kill zone.

Thankfully, the cultivators did not think that way and assumed that it was part of the dungeon instance's design. The Pandarens who were killed mercilessly by the Demon Rats could only assume that they should not be in those magic circles and decided to write it in the forums.

With the Royal Zodiac Heads leaving the dungeon instance and returning back to their respective workplace (with the exception of Se Chang Chang), there were no strong supporters to assist the rest of

the Pandarens other than themselves. So by writing in the forums, people who were defeated and resting in the Luxury Recovery Instance knew what to expect when they went for their second round.

It was as if the Pandarens were learning not only about the Demon Rats but teaching the rest who had yet to enter the dangers they could encounter. And the infamous Mr Know It All had already begun to compile all this information and put it up as a major big post for everyone to view.

Now that Jin knows the true identity of Mr Know It All as well as he being part of the Panda Inc Executive, the dungeon supplier had bestowed him the title of a Super User, allowing him to use the System to help edit the posts and giving everyone information that was required for the fight. Normally, Kong Rong would need to spend lots of time editing and pasting the information into the forums but with the aid of the System, the changes in the forum's posts were fast.

When one wonders why Kong Rong, the upcoming Royal Zodiac Dragon Head had the time to play the role of Mr Know It All, the only answer he gave was that it was his hobby. But since Jin knew his other job aside from being the Head of the Royal Zodiac Clan, he understood that it was to keep his information gathering skills up to date.

"What do you think of this mass teleport skill that the Pandarens are up against?" Jin asked Kong Rong when he learned that the latter was updating his forum posts.

"Not outside our expectations. I mean, we did use something similar with those crazy train attacks. Teleporting trains from our world to their world and forcefully assault them without going through their external defences. It's a tactic I too would like to use in the future and since they have the means and abilities to do so, the Demon Rats copied what we did and used a divide and conquer method to kill us. It's not surprising at all." Kong Rong said while adding contributions to players who had updated the forums as well as tipping them a little for their information. (which he had verified alongside the System.)

"Besides, it's not our fault that our Pandaren are weak. Most of the new ones never went through any war or real life battles before and using this platform to allow them to experience war is one of the fastest ways to let them grow." Kong Rong added and said that everyone could only believe that this is a 'damn real dungeon instance' and not another world.

"To them, it's just another game while we know that this is not the case." Jin sighed as he was only worried that the 'difficulty spike' was too high for them. Yet he had forgotten that aside from the realism his dungeon instances were infamous for, so were the challenges that his 'dungeons' had provided.

The cultivators who were attracted to his store were itching for not just sightseeing but a challenge that would help them grow from their current slump in cultivation. Upon learning through many people's word of mouth (as well as the internet), most of the new customers know that this would definitely be the best chance to get out of their slump and break through to the next level.

And that was evident when the System collected data of the numerous breakthroughs from Grade 1 to Grade 2s when the Pandarens were defeated and sent to the recovery instance. It was as if they were enlightened when they finally knew how their battle techniques were supposed to work and how to overcome challenges.

The System also did something out of its own 'goodwill' by giving a small reward of coins as if to spur the Pandarens who had levelled up despite being defeated to have another try on the Demon Rats. And so far, it was working rather well as the morale of the cultivators continued to be maintained at an all high, prompting them to continue the assault against the Northern Capital.

On the other hand, with the forums and cultivators sharing information, people started to be more coordinated especially when the Pandamonium App had a new feature called the party finder. The System can either automatically put a group of people wanting to join the raid into one party based on their classes to get a balanced one or the Pandarens are able to set requirements so people can join when they meet their requirements.

As the latter provided some restrictions, some of them had to wait a little longer to join in the fun, else they could allow the System to do some matchmaking for them as well at no cost, although the consequences were for the rest of the party members to bear since they cannot reject any which the System had recommended. At the same time, they could hire the Pandamonium 'NPCs' to do the fight which the System had already fine tuned from previous dungeon instances and they were lower tier minions such as the Southern soldiers that were trained not too long ago which Jin and the System had taken in. (Although they could use the System real 'NPCs', it was cheaper in terms of resource management with their minions.) But with these quick party finding solutions, the Pandarens can finally have a fighting chance with a balanced party.

And yet, Jin was not sending any more of his minions other than the ones who were fighting against the Demon Rats in the East and West regions. This was because he knew that the surface was just a beginning as they have an entire city...or perhaps a region worth of rats right under their feet going with life as per normal.

Chapter 1319: Outer Wall Campsite

"Run! Run!" The Royal Zodiac Snake Soldiers told the Pandarens to escape the incoming artillery that was coming from the inner walls. As a veteran of the battlefield, the Royal Zodiac Snake Soldiers roughly knew where the artillery attacks were coming from and the approximate location where they would land.

Even though they knew that the Pandarens had very little time to run away from the attack, they are cultivators and should be able to at least escape or bring up a chi barrier to protect themselves.

At the same time, Se Chang Chang and Hou Fei had decided to clear the outer walls while waiting for the equipment they had purchased to be put to great use. Unlike the Pandapolis defensive, the Royal Zodiac Snake Soldiers were on the offensive but they required a foothold for a counterattack as they realised that there was no proper base for them to deploy, rest or assault from.

While the major wave of train siege had caught the Demon Rats by surprise, the Pandarens did not have any support equipment that they could utilise from the attack. The major push they had initially was from the Royal Zodiac Heads where they inflicted the most amount of damage and did not press on.

After the adrenaline rush had subsided, Royal Zodiac Snake Head Se Chang Chang could understand why the Pandarens were given a roughly drawn terrain map to them prior to the PandaVerse festival. He had

assumed that those who wished to survive needed to retreat and used the terrain map to escape once the Pandarens were battered. Else, the only way to get out of this dungeon instance was to get killed.

However, if that were to happen, they would lose some points from their death and it was not exactly advisable to do so. While they were given a voucher which they could use to regain their points upon buying their ticket as well as depending on the ticket tier, it was inadvertently that dying too many times was an option they could not swallow.

Hence, Se Chang Chang deduced that this attack was supposed to be just a surprise ambush and those who could see the bigger picture could see that this was to determine how the Demon Rats could respond to the attack. But only Hou Fei and Se Chang Chang who were war veterans know that if they retreat away from the outer walls, that surprise siege would be wasted as the Demon Rats would raise their defences further when they slaughtered all the Pandarens within the vicinity.

Thus, Se Chang Chang decided to use the outer walls as the place for the Pandarens to replenish their stamina and return to battle again. Or as most Pandarens would have dubbed it a 'save point'. It cost a little bit more money than Se Chang Chang had expected but now he understood why Jin had also sold such an item that allowed the cultivators to respawn once they placed the save point down.

Unlike in games where there was a crystal where they could teleport to, it was more like a drop point that could be seen in first person shooting battlefield games. The Pandarens could now choose the Outer Wall Camp as Se Chang Chang had dubbed it to respawn. However, instead of a portal appearing right at the Outer Wall Camp, a train would emerge along the edge of the Outer Walls (the safer side) and they could alight from there.

That means that those who wish to rejoin had to queue for a train which currently had an interval of 15 minutes. But for those who had priority queue vouchers or higher tier tickets, they would be directed to a storehouse where there were Pandas handling a large gigantic cannon pointing towards the sky.

It is somewhat like a siege trebuchet where the Pandarens could hide inside a bubble ball similar to what they rode in the Cultivation Zoo Instance. But unlike that harmless thing, the ball was filled with explosives so that when they were catapulted into the dungeon instance via the cannon, they would be 'teleported' like a comet diving down to destroy the highest density of Demon Rats which would contribute to their raid points. (technically this was how they would earn the points back that they had lost.

But the reason Se Chang Chang did not mind spending more money to create the Outer Wall Camp was that it allowed him to earn points as well. This was considered as support as well and each time any Pandarens entered his camp to rest, recuperate or even replenish their equipment, he would earn some points.

Thus, aside from the requisition of a ship and a few planes, Se Chang Chang had flaunted his wealth and bought licences where NPC Pandas would emerge on the campsite to sell ammunition, potions and even rations. At the same time, the Royal Zodiac Snake Head add put up a large area magic barrier to protect the camp while Hou Fei spent money (and using his VIP privilege since he was a Panda Inc Executive) to set up artillery guns and missile launchers for his Royal Zodiac Snake Soldiers to use.

An eye for an eye, if those Demon Rats were firing at them from their inner wall, the Pandarens are allowed to do the same too. This also gave the Pandarens a bit of fire support so they would not be overwhelmed by the Demon Rats.

Yet, the Demon Rats knew the existence of the camp since it was set up right in front of their eyes and had also tried ways to thwart it so that it would break their chain of reinforcement. Prideblood had attempted to mass teleport the Pandarens within the camp but Se Chang Chang had seen that coming and already placed an anti teleport magic barrier in the camp. (which was also why no teleport portals were coming from the System too.) And since that was useless, Prideblood had decided to continue to use his magic on other Pandarens while trusting the other Demon Rats to do their job.

Chapter 1320: Roughscream's Bloodlust

"Roughscream, you are up to destroy that Outer Wall Campsite," Cinderclaw said as he sat on the new usurped throne that he and the rest of the Demon Rat Generals had achieved recently. It was approximately a few hours into the war as everything had settled into a stalemate. After the initial explosive act by the humans, the Demon Rats were able to pit evenly against them, causing them to stay within the Outer Town regions of the Northern Capital while the rats fortified the Inner walls as soon as possible.

In the meantime, the Demon Rats had been sending groups of soldiers wave after wave from various directions due to the secret passages they had created previously connecting the Inner Town with the Outer Town but the Pandarens preserved their surprise ambushes and continue to hold the ground, especially with the Outer Wall Camp assisting in their efforts.

Their seamless requests for artillery support allowed the Royal Zodiac Snake soldiers to polish their artillery skills as they gave more precise bombardments as time goes by. With their support, the Pandarens were able to cut the secret passages off and focus on defeating any Demon Rats that came about. However, the retaliation via the top of the Inner Walls was equally deadly. Most of the Demon Rats and Pandarens were using the houses and other building debris as cover from both sides and the battle was literally a zone of attrition.

Even though the Pandarens did not have the numbers against the Demon Rats, their constant reinforcement through the Outer Wall Camp had ensured that they did not lose too much ground against it. But it was a total nightmare for the new Pandarens despite it being a brand new experience for them. If not for the recovery instance that Jin had set up, he believed a lot of those Pandarens would have been scared by the 'realistic' feeling of being in his dungeon instance.

But as time passed, the Pandarens were getting used to the attacks and even devised plans to destroy the elite Demon Rats when they were teleported into those kill zones. All of them thought it was part of the event and did not think much about it thus with the party finder that allowed them to be accompanied by Southern Soldiers, Healers and Mages, they were able to defeat quite a number of Demon Rat Elites before escaping the kill zone and arriving in the Undercity beneath the Northern Capital. It was basically a free for all as they hit and run whatever they could see since to them, it was information which was not available until they had escaped the kill zones.

And even if they died, the Pandarens shared the information through the Pandamonium Forums knowing that Mr Know It All (and the System, well under the name of Mr Know It All) would provide

them incentives and payment for revealing such information to the public. It was like reconnaissance of the entire Pandaren community while trying to survive this crazy Raid Event.

"Cinderclaw, that camp is practically harmless against us. With a few strikes from our volley of cannons, it would be destroyed. You saw how their magic barrier dropped instantly after a few hits before it recovers again." Roughscream said as he held onto his spiked club. The Demon Rat Club General swung his mechanical club and placed it on his shoulder while looking hungry for a better fight.

"Hah, Roughscream is probably more interested in the humans that survived our kill zone." Skydigger, the Demon Rat Pickaxe General said and Cinderclaw snorted at that aspect.

"That group of humans managed to destroy the entire team in minutes and we are allowing them to survive?" Roughscream asked what Cinderclaw was thinking. Compared to that camp which could be bombarded with the number of artillery available, those humans had managed to annihilate one of their elites and it should be a more pressing concern than it.

"Unless Cinderclaw wished to tire out those humans before assaulting them?" Skydigger shrugged his shoulders and Roughscream literally screamed right in front of their new leader.

"You know how those humans are despicable and ruthless in their attacks. Why are we not stopping them right now?!"

"If you can use your brain for a moment, perhaps you will understand why," Cinderclaw said as he ordered Roughscream to look at the footage that the Mage Demon Rats were able to recreate right in front of them.

All they showed was multiple footages of humans getting killed again and again by the Demon Rats and Roughscream could not see anything wrong with them. It was then something caught his eye. There were a few humans with the same type of masks coming back again and again.

While the masks had not revealed their identity, it was pretty obvious based on the attacks they dished out. The same magical (chi in the cultivator's eyes.) attacks were used and they became stronger not just in terms of their attacks but in their wits fighting against the Demon Rats in those kill zone boxes that the Demon Rat Generals had set up.

"You get what I mean now?" Cinderclaw said as he sat more comfortably on the throne. He now understood why the scholars loved sitting on this pedestal of power so much.

"Those humans have the ability to return alive? We should capture them instead of killing them!" Roughscream said and Cinderclaw wished to laugh at his opinion although he was not wrong without knowing the circumstances. The Demon Rat Axe General would have done the same too.

Prideblood came into the throne room upon hearing the initial uproar and replied by saying that they had tried to do so the moment they found out that those humans were able to revive back once more.

"But each time we killed and captured one to experiment, a secret spell had allowed them to explode leaving almost nothing behind. It was as if they know that they would be captured and tortured to learn about them so they decided to suicide and therefore not allow us to do anything to them." Prideblood said. "We tried taking their blood and even amputating them but the results that our scientists had shown were nothing significant."

“So? All we had to do was to kill and kill again until they never come back.” Roughscream said as he walked out of the room and went into one of the Killzone boxes himself.