

Dungeon S 1361

Chapter 1361: Losing Against Gunndam Aegis

“Now! FEEL MY WRATH!!!” Gnowbones said as he used his magic to mimic the controls of the Gunndam Aegis. It managed to turn into the mobile armour and humanoid form seamlessly after a few attempts and the Air Force General had begun to send his new toy to destroy Pandarens just as Deng Long had done it when he was controlling it.

Thankfully, Jia Le was able to intercept it because she was preparing it ever since the moment Deng Long told her that he might have lost control of it. To be honest, she had never expected a contraption of Jin’s could be so easily controlled by the enemy but there was no use crying over spilt milk so she had already started to prepare her kunais with the much needed chi to block the attacks.

Walls of Bellflowers emerged from the ground stopping Gunndam Aegis’ energy beams however, they were instantly destroyed, rendering them to be a one time barrier against the attacks. She had roughly expected that as she had already seen the machine in action against the Demon Rat Elites so the Breathtaking Bellflower Cultivator knew she only had a few tries blocking it especially when it took quite a lot from her to create those walls. (She might be able to create more but the long stretched battle had caused her to already be fatigued.)

On the other hand, Shi Zuo leapt to action when the robot flew towards his ‘battle zone’. He managed to break a few armour plates but it was nothing the Gunndam Aegis could not handle. And after getting hit, the Mobile Armour had sent its beams flying towards the centre of the pillar hoping to destroy their chance of a proper fight.

Suffice it to say, Sheep Captain Mian Ling had to stop her typing process because it was way too close for comfort when the beam skidded a few centimetres away from her. She took a deep breath in to recover from the shock as well as the intense heat that was emanated from the beam blast. “Oh my god... Now I understand why the Sheep Head wanted me to gain experience...” Mian Ling said to herself as she continued typing while not realising that the beam could have already killed her if not for Shi Zuo disrupting the mobile armour.

Some of the Pandarens wanted to attempt to find the controller who was operating Gunndam Aegis but with the pressure made by the former, the Demon Rat Elites had long recovered their formation and continued to strike fear into the Pandarens with every step forward, surrounding them ever tighter.

On the other hand, Deng Long managed to recover from the major injury and was able to at least stand with the help of his weapon. “Assholes. Not only did you injure me but you Demon Rats dared to steal my robot away??!” Deng Long shouted as he expelled a large amount of chi aura to vent his anger. The Demon Rat Elites were not taken aback by it but it did have some effect on the other Demon Rats who were hiding behind the Elites.

Even though it was momentary, the split second respite felt by the Pandarens was a welcoming breather for them to collect their thoughts. Gnowbones was giggling at the back of the lines seeing how the original user of the robot was raging mad. “If you want me to return it to you, come and get it yourself,” Gnowbones said but he did not realise that the magic he used to control Gunndam Aegis had caused it to repeat the very same words as if it was some microphone.

“Very well then. I shall do that!” Deng Long said as he gathered his chi within his legs so that he could jump as high as he could to hit Gunndam Aegis. Gnawbones laughed when he saw the human do such a foolish action. Initially, he thought that the owner of the Gunndam Aegis could possibly call out a new robot out and had a fight with the one he was controlling.

But he had disappointed Gnawbones so much that the Air Force General decided to both infuriate and shame him by pulling Gunndam Aegis away from the ground even further, rendering Deng Long’s jump useless. However, Gnawbones had no idea that the other humans were assisting him in his mad endeavour. Jia Le threw a kunai close to him and a stalk of bellflower grew right beneath his feet, allowing him to not only rebound but assisted him to go closer to the Gunndam.

No doubt, Aegis had retaliated by shooting at the Bellflower but Deng Long stood his ground (on the bellflower) and blocked each and every shot away. He did not care about the repercussions caused by him deflecting the attacks since some of those bullets strayed and hit both allies and enemies. All he cared about was either getting back Gunndam Aegis or destroying it to prevent Gnawbones from using it.

“Enough of this charade!” Gnawbones got irritated that the human got even more gutsy and cocky that he decided to change into the mobile armour form.

“Now!” Deng Long thought to himself as he materialised not one but two heavy duty anti tank sniper rifles and shot it towards his Gunndam Aegis. There was not much time to aim but given that he had enough experience from both his police training and dungeon fighting, he decided to gamble.

The moment the anti tank snipers landed on his arms, he pressed the triggers and the shots fired even as the Bellflower continued to grow. It was an impromptu plan Jia Le and him created and they did not have much confidence it would work but Deng Long was banking on the fact that he had a 100% level of understanding of how Gunndam Aegis worked. The super robo nerd understood the strengths and weaknesses of his robots to the point it was imprinted in his brain.

He knew for a fact that it was the weakest when it was transforming into the mobile armour and he was betting that the anti tank rifle could hit the discharge area of the beam or maybe if he was lucky enough, the engine or the processing chip.

But if the Wombat Cultivator was not, perhaps he could say goodbye to his life.

Chapter 1362: Day Two Overview

As the second day of PandaVerse Festival came to an end, the Pandarens finally knew this rate was not as easy as its predecessors. All the other activities were still ongoing but the Pandarens who participated in the raid were knocked off their feet.

Many took the opportunity to get out of the raid instance to enjoy the simple joys in life as well as the many service instances that the Dungeon Supplier store had to offer. Food was without a doubt the main attraction for most of them as everyone was famished when they logged off from the raids whether voluntarily or through death.

But one thing was for sure, they all knew the battles were going to be even harder than ever. Even though there were already Demon Rat Elites fighting at the front gates of the base camp, they had a feeling that this was not the end.

However, many were relieved that the stolen Gundam Aegis was ultimately destroyed after the base camp went up. General Gnawbones initially tried to withdraw the Supa Robo away from the battlefield but it exploded as it was returning back to him. The internal timer which the System had placed had finally activated, causing the controlled robot a reactor engine meltdown. It did help to destroy a portion of the rats that were gathering close to the Pillar Base Camp, allowing Deng Long to earn some 'extra' points even though he was out of the raid. (It was not substantial but extra raid points were better than nothing.)

Now with this kind of raid difficulty, the Pandarens finally realised the need to be well prepared. The redemption store that was on any Main Store Island was always packed with cultivators when the Pandarens came out of the raid instance.

They previously thought that those temporary inscriptions, potions, quick repair hammers and even quick food rations were nonsensical to be placed in a point redemption store. But now they understood the implication of those items in the store especially now that they were filled with raid points under their belt.

A majority knew that consumables would be a costly but essential component of the fight they had to partake in to ensure that they survive the raid as long as possible while accumulating raid points. However, a lot of them were new to Jin's dungeons and cheapskates, thinking that the dungeon supplier was merely going to rip them off their raid points and ultimately money by putting those consumables in the redemption store.

However, after checking the raid themselves, they finally knew that the raid points to consumable exchange were a necessary 'evil' created by Jin since those potions would cost real life money outside the redemption store.

Many believed that Jin purposely used those consumables in the redemption store as a raid point sink so that people would not be able to abuse the redemption store rewards. He also made sure that only a certain amount of consumables could be purchased to limit the players' greed. (And also made sure that those items were bound to the customers themselves.) And to make it more unreasonable, the Dungeon Supplier purposely used poorer quality or lower grade potions as the majority of redeemable consumable rewards. This was not to upset the money making opportunity his store was getting while ensuring that the cultivators had enough 'compensation' for their raid points.

Not only that, Jin had decided to add a few items that were in the Hidden Gem Night Market as part of the mystery redemption draw. This was to spice things up in the raid as well as give the cultivators another segment of random reward generation. Nonetheless, it was rigged to the System's favour as part of the plan to deplete the customers' raid points. (though it also made sure that good prizes were given out once in a while and announced it to the public so that it seemed as if they were getting a good deal out of it.)

Yet, even with the aid of the redemption store and the recovery of territory by the Pandarens who managed to get back after the major setback, the cultivators no doubt felt a bit of dread, especially

seeing how the battlefield had been split into two portions. One at the Pillar Base Camp while the other was a teleportation crystal at the Third Layer of the Inner Wall. There was no base camp at the Third Layer Inner Wall and the Alligator Spartans were the only ones protecting it now that even Xiong Da had returned to the store island to rest.

And because of his accomplishment along with the 'debt' he had from Jin, the Pandawans were given special treatment when they were either out of the Recovery Instance or logging from the raid instance. Jin had sent a notification to their phones stating that a combined high executive suite was provided to them in one of his hotel chains.

Most of them were delighted that they did not have to return to Xiong Da's apartment even though it was just a fifteen minute walk away from Jin's Tree Mall. Even though his apartment was more than spacious for all of them, why would they reject a luxurious suite that was situated right in the store?

To be honest, Xiong Da even considered negotiating with Jin about whether he could buy an apartment or have a hotel room permanently under his name. However, that Boss was always preoccupied with him and could not stay for much idle chit chat.

However, that seemed to change when everyone had finally settled down at the main hall of the high executive suite talking about any possible strategies that they could use to push forward. When Jin was the one at their door after it rang, the Pandawans were happy to see him, although it did feel like he was not here just to pay them a visit.

"Still, having a face to face with the developer of the raid instance would prove to be a boon that many would not have." Xiong Da said as he welcomed Boss Jin into the room, hoping he and the other Pandawans could have a glimpse of the next stage of the battle.

Chapter 1363: Pandawan's Rest

"Boss!" The rest of the Pandawans who were willing to stay in the high executive suite called out to Jin as a form of greeting.

"Long time no see," Jin said as he brought a bit of snack and goodies including a bottle of wine for the group to partake in as he was being led into the main hall where the rest were. Jia Le went to call out Deng Long and Bu Dong who were discussing the Supa Robos in their room and the other two greeted Jin when they saw him.

"What brings you here?" Bu Dong asked as he knew that the fight between the Demon Rats should still be ongoing with Pandarens who were currently off work participating in it. As the Pandawans and the majority of the Pandarens had taken the time to relax, the humans had ceased their attacks and protected their assets until the next wave.

As there were no guarantees that their assets would remain till the next day, the Pandarens who had invested a lot in this current raid had put up an alert notice in their Pandamonium App, asking it to notify them in case the Demon Rats attacks were getting stronger. It was something similar to a standby mode where they would come in to assist if the Base Camp and the teleportation crystal is in danger.

Right now, all they needed was some R&R leisure before the Pandamonium App called for them to get into the fray once more because no matter what, quality food and rest is the basic desire of all humans.

“Just checking up on you guys and see how are you faring with the current raids,” Jin said as he grab a chair from the dining table and place it near the hall where there was a long cushion sofa and coffee table. He sat comfortably at the side and listened to his Pandawans complained.

“You just raise the difficulty bar again. Can’t you just give me something easier? At this rate, you will be scaring all the new Pandarens that want to try out your raid instance.” Deng Long said as he was still sulky that his Supa Robo had been stolen by the enemy so quickly.

“Heh, I did tell you guys that this would not be an easy fight, much less that you all will be able to clear it within a day,” Jin replied as he laid back and squashed that complaint.

“The numbers are crazy though and that big earthquake is something that we did not expect.” Jia Le commented while the rest were shaking their heads as they recalled the experience.

“Honestly, that was a little out of the planned consequences but it seems the simulated AI had decided that you guys are progressing too fast even though the help I gave you guys was already at the minimum,” Jin replied as he opened one of the snacks and told the rest to partake in the food.

“So, you mean that we could have gone and attacked as per usual with no earthquake scenario?” Bin Yong asked and Jin nodded his head although he knew it was a lie since he was not in control of the Demon Rats. The break in the ground wa

s something he originally wanted to do in the first place, as he knew that fighting the surface was practically a waste of time.

However, if he were to factor in the possible money making opportunities in providing sea and air options to the Pandarens and more importantly the Royal Zodiacs, he could be rolling in money which he ultimately did. The first day of profit was unexpected with the Royal Snake Head Se Chang Chang investing so much in his raid instance when all those items he had bought were inflated greatly by the System.

Although he did wonder why would Se Chang Chang and the other Royal Zodiac Heads even invest in it so willingly even though they should know that it is just a temporary fixture in a raid ‘instance’. If he was the head of a clan, he would not readily spend this much money even if it is by a recommendation from his General. “Perhaps, it is his way to fund me indirectly? But if that’s the case, why were the Monkey and Sheep Clan willing to splurge too?” Jin thought to himself but he could never figure out why.

“Needless to say, it would be an uphill battle from today onwards and that depends on whether the Demon Rats had decided that you are a threat to them or not. But it seems like they will continue to press the offensive to take you out as soon as possible.” Jin added and the rest sighed. Even if they know a little bit of strategy and tactics, how could they possibly flaunt it right in front of the person who created the raid instance?

“So you are warning us that an attack would be imminent tonight?” Bu Dong asked and Jin shrugged his shoulders.

"I could only say that that would be a possibility given how they had decided to destroy their land so that they could inflict the maximum amount of damage towards you guys and the rest of the Pandarens with the earthquake attack. But if they know that the number of Pandarens had decreased with the creation of the Pillar Base Camp, they would not hesitate to crush you guys once they prove their theory is right." Jin said as the others seemed to understand where he was coming from.

Even though it was just day 2 of the raid instance, the Demon Rats were working and thinking like humans as well. If they had noticed a pattern in the Pandarens' attacks, they knew that it would be disastrous once the Demon Rats launch a retaliation to destroy the Base Camp and teleportation crystal.

"Haha, Boss. Are you sure that this isn't a ploy for me to spend money so that we can protect the teleportation crystal at the third layer inner wall?" Xiong Da asked and Jin laughed.

"I am not stupid. I can see why you did not bother adding extra stuff to protect the teleportation crystal since you believe that it could be destroyed within a day or two if the Demon Rats wished to do so." Jin answered and Xiong Da merely returned with a smirk.

"But I am not here to promote you to buy any items. Instead, I a

m here to ask you guys to let me help you all. If you wish." Jin said with a big smile that everyone knows that he had something up his sleeves. But without a doubt, everyone was excited to hear him.

Because whenever he wish to request something from the Pandawans, it would always be filled with excitement and the possible allure of additional rewards as well. However, knowing Jin he would always make them do something crazy mainly due to the fact that the Pandawans comprehended that they were like human subjects in an unethical experiment for some digital money. Still, they knew that rejecting him outright was something that would be considered stupid so they all kept quiet and ready to listen without complaints.

Chapter 1364: Jin's Request to the Pandawans

"What do you mean by doing you a favour?" Yue Han asked as he was munching on the snacks that Jin brought. "Also, where did you get these chips?" He asked as he looked at the transparent packaging, meaning it was not any major brand but probably home made or by local stores.

"Ah, those are just some chips made by our fellow penguins. They were testing out a new batch of products and asked me to try it." Jin responded before also answering to the expected questions from the Pandawans.

"Don't you think that the raid had been made to be far too difficult? I mean sure, the Pandawans and even now the Royal Zodiacs had participated. But something is missing, right?" Jin asked and everyone knew the answer being long term fans of the store.

"The monsters." The Pandawans said together as they acknowledged the fact that they were having fun raiding previously because of the aid of Jin's monsters helping. They might be powerless at times but the monsters will always come to aid them whenever things get too tough. Even for the past two days, the

Pandawans were hoping that the monsters would appear like a miracle and yet not a single one had emerged to help them at all. They were all by themselves fighting against the Demon Rats.

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Unknownst to the Pandawans and the rest of the cultivators, the Demon Rat Generals actually thought the same as well. They had seen monsters and humans going hand in hand fighting in the Eastern and Western tunnels but there was none in the capital. Therefore, it made the Axe General a little more than annoyed.

He was holding back the bulk of the Demon Rat soldiers, his advanced weaponry and even the fighter planes which Gnowbones wished to command so desperately. He was waiting for the monsters to appear in the main capital but they didn't. Many thought that the monsters had broken with the humans but that theory did not hold much water considering they were doing that in the other regions.

That was why Cinderclaw was puzzled as to why the monsters were not appearing yet. Mainly because Jin was technically still planning for it. He had sent one of his trusty associates, Hou Fei to scout the insides of the Undercity. While Peppers had already done a primary scan along with the aid of the Spirits of the Land, what they do not have was the actual numbers and situation that was brewing within the Undercity.

In the meantime, Hou Fei was also planting bombs along the way so that he could wreck some damage that would hinder the Demon Rats if need to. Else, he kept moving forward to the Undercity's largest building, the Black Tower as the humans dubbed it for being so ominous. If Jin and the rest of the Pandarens wished to win, they need to have additional information about the Demon Rats.

Right now they have almost nothing on them and Jin had been using the Pandarens as bait, hoping to see some of the elites that the Demon Rats were hiding. Else, the cultivators were good fodder killing machines. By now, the Demon Rats would have known that the humans would be useless to defeat because they will keep coming back but the variety of monsters they had encountered was too many so they could not know whether they had the same features as the humans. The Demon Rats could only assume that some of the monsters have ressurective abilities as well compared to the truth where all of them do once they were under the System's command.

"Are you implying that you will lend us monsters?" Yue Han replied and Jin chuckled a little while shaking his head. Initially, he did plan for the Pandawans to have their own team of NPCs and monsters under their care but as he learned more about his own minions, he decided to not give such a privilege to the cultivators. In fact, the monsters should be the ones leading the cultivators but Jin knew that the monsters had to prove themselves as formidable before any humans would want to follow them. He knew that a few of such monsters already had such a level of respect and influence in the community, especially the goblin trio.

"Hah, please. If anything, we should be following the monsters." Bu Dong had decided to try the chips since Yue Han was munching them in handfuls. That sentence alone was enough to change the flow of the conversation greatly to Jin's favour.

"You know how we used to have those Wide Active Response Events (WARE) in the Demopolis rates?" Jin said and the Pandawans who had participated in it knew of its existence as it was those events where

they could earn quite a fair bit of extra gold and points. "I am planning to see them as a comeback for the third day onwards. That way, you guys do not feel too aimless as well and I can finally bring my monsters' AI in."

"Well, what does that have to do with us and your favour? If you want us to join the WARE, we would join in automatically without your request at all. It was a good way to get some pretty good raid points." Xiong Da said and Jin shook his head.

"Don't tell me you want us to be your WARE initiators?" Shi Zuo who was at the far end of the group's conversation spoke up. He believed this was in line with Jin's possible request since more of the WAREs were created by the instance's AI and Jin laughed as if he was right on the money.

"Yes, Shi Zuo, you got it absolutely right. I want to be you Pandawans to be my WARE initiators. If you had not noticed, the Pandarens are lacking leaders. The Royal Zodiac Soldiers might be organised and Pandarens do follow them from time to time, but in an overarching picture, everyone is doing what they want. I want you guys to take the lead since you all have a higher status compared to the rest of them. And as a reward for completing WARE, you guys can not only get Coins and Raid points, my monster AIs can come in to help. Take it as a condition to make the raid instance a little easier," Jin said and Shi Zuo began to feel there was a hidden agenda in all of this.

And this time around, Jin ignored Shi Zuo's glare and ignored the hunch he might have by continuing to insist that this was his request. This was mainly due to the fact that Jin would like to recruit his group of loyal customers as part of his Royal Zodiac Clan when the push turns to shove in the future. This was one of the tests to see if they had the leadership to do so now that almost all of them had proven to be capable cultivators.

But for now, he was merely giving them the impression that he was doing it so they have a better immersion for the raid instance.

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Chapter 1365: Second Night Report

After some hesitation as well as clarification, the Pandawans finally agreed to it. All of them were given a new sub module within the Pandamonium App and Jin was delighted that it was completed.

To his surprise, the night for the second day had gone rather peacefully contrary to his worries. He assumed that the Demon Rats will continue with their attacks but the soldiers that were thrown into the fray were just the rank and file.

It was to the point that many of them were using armour that was broken on the ground and fresh new rats that did not seem even mature enough to carry a weapon. However, one thing did change. All the new rats were not given swords and shields, instead, they were given rifles.

Some cowered behind the nearby buildings and shot at the magical barrier. It might prove ineffective to show a bullet or two. But imagine having hundreds of rats doing the same thing repeatedly over an

interval of a few seconds, and then continue with the next batches of rats. It was practically a hell hole that the Pandarens would not even dare venture out from their energy barrier. Not to mention, the batteries for the energy barrier needed to be replaced at a faster pace than before when they were holding onto swords and shields. The machine gun installations were not very useful against targets that were further out of their range and thus they were soon abandoned.

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Thankfully, the humans can play that game at a better pace considering their familiarity with guns, not to mention how modern they were. Suffice it to say, the gun weapons trader in the Hidden Gem Night Market was flowing in lots of cash that some of the limited and more powerful weapons had to be auctioned on the spot because of the quantity that was available. But those weapons the defending Pandarens had picked from the Hidden Gem Night Market were never a doubt a major boon in the current situation.

One could say that it is practically target practice for the humans while the rats randomly shot their rifles to destroy the magical barrier. However, luck did not last long for the humans that much as the Demon Rats somehow managed to calculate the amount of damage needed to be done for the magical barrier to be broken.

This short interval of vulnerability caused the Demon Rats to fire more in sync and even able to kill quite a few humans with their suppressive fire. Meanwhile, the more hot headed Rats had decided to try their luck to get close to the Pillar Base Camp. If not for the defences, the Pandarens would have long been overwhelmed by numbers alone. It gave them enough time for the Royal Zodiac Sheep Soldier to switch the barriers battery for it to be up. And even the regeneration of the barrier did not deter the Demon Rats to continue to move forward as the barrier tried to activate. They rather risk being cut into two by the barrier and attempt to move forward to annihilate the humans.

Not only that, the Demon Rats were clever enough to adapt and sacrifice themselves so that they could sabotage the defences of the Pillar Base Camp. Some of them threw bombs into the spear shooting emplacement, destroying them so that they were rendered useless against the Demon Rats while others hurled a ton of bombs over the walls while using body shields in an attempt to break the other installations as well.

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It was pretty obvious that they were using very barbaric and crude tactics to overcome the Pillar Base Camp with just numbers. It might be terrifying for the Pandarens who had to fight against overwhelming odds, but to the commander in chief, Jin took this as a good and peaceful night.

As for the situation at the Third Layer of the Inner Wall, things were not as hectic as one had thought they would be. Ever since the Pandarens had managed to clear the wall from the Demon Rats, they were able to utilise the guard towers and set up a defensive parameter with whatever equipment that they had. And also because the Demon Rats need to use the great elevator to transport their troops, their enemies would be able to hold them off from overtaking the third layer once more.

To their luck, a few of the Pandarens manning the Third Layer happened to be somewhat wealthy and they 'donated' a few defensive installations that aided with the defence such as a large repeating arrow

emplacement as well as two mediaeval cannon emplacements. Not to mention, the Royal Snake Soldiers who were out in the sea were bored enough to give some bombardments that aided in fending off the Demon Rats away. Otherwise, the commanding officer of the ship continued to pour lead onto the shield that was covering the Undercity. "General's orders" or so the commanding officer said.

The Royal Snake Soldiers would routinely send their planes to bombard the Demon Rats and the remaining payload would be used on the shield. All of them know that it was pretty futile but wasting the magical energy of the Demon Rat mages was the whole point. If they were too busy handling the energy barrier, that means they would not be able to engage in battle. Besides, this also gave the Snakes to clock in some training runs so they were happy to do so. (After all the Royal Snake General told them to splurge.)

But when the sunrise on the third day, things are about to change.

All of the monsters and minions that were not fighting in the Eastern and Western tunnels were told to get ready once more. Most thought that it was a 'drill' again since that was what they were told since Day 1 of PandaVerse Festival, but both Jin and the System had assured them that this was it. They were going in by the third day.

This was all because of Hou Fei's efforts. The Elite Snake Shadow had managed to accomplish his mission to infiltrate the Demon Rat's headquarters.

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Chapter 1366: Extra: Snake Spy

"This place is more than just a maze." Hou Fei said as he had managed to stay hidden if not for Ayse's specially made invisibility suit. The suit was made to ensure that even magic users were not able to detect it but the only problem with it was that it was running based on the crystal energy that Peppers had made. Even though the System would notify Hou Fei when the battery of the suit was going low and it was time to change, the Snake General had already anticipated that it might cause some problem and asked for an invisibility cloak as well as a backup.

And even if that is not enough for Hou Fei for he feared that the Demon Rats being beasts might be able to detect via their other senses aside from sight so he made sure to bring a few odourless temporary inscriptions to ensure that he would not be sniffed out.

"But to think that I can still participate in an infiltration mission. I do not know whether the boss wanted to make sure that I break my back and have an early retirement or he was trying to find out if I am bluffing or not." The Snake General said as he had already released the listening 'bugs' into the first and second floor of the Dark Tower.

Because of the filthiness of the Dark Tower, Jin and the System deduce that there might be some critters living within the place. When the Snake Shadow had managed to get access into the Dark Tower, he had confirmed that there were indeed spiders and lizards crawling around the place. Thus, he had released those few mechanised insects that were proudly created by Rei. With the help of Weslie, he and the

Scholar of the West had managed to fuse mechanical parts and biological bodies together. Those insects would be their ears and eyes for the subsequent part of their plan to invade the Dark Tower.

To Hou Fei's surprise, the security was rather lax and he was able to traverse up to the highest level of the tower without many obstacles in the way. He thought that he had to go through vents, assassinate some Demon Rats or even unlock magical doors. It seemed as if he over prepared the items as he reached the main communications bridge where it was filled with consoles to the brim. The number of screens and keyboards could even rival the main communications room in his world and the Rats were busy relaying information.

He did not know whether it was because they were so busy that they could not detect him or the security was just too low level that the Demon Rats had no way of detecting him. In any case, he checked the corners of the room to make sure that there were some 'inhabitants' before releasing the mechanical insects once more. A total of fifty listening 'bugs' had been installed and they also had extra listening devices on them so that they could crawl into places where the Demon Rats would not realise and leave them there in case those creepy crawlies were found out.

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Even though the mission had been completed, Hou Fei felt that it would be great to have an additional backup plan and had decided to try his luck in hiding a few explosives in a few places. One of which was their resting area mainly due to the fact that those Demon Rats that were working in this place seemed to be more intelligent than their usual rank and file brutes. Killing them would put a dent in their communication system and modern warfare tactics had always put an emphasis on information first.

But the main problem was that the walkway to their resting area was used on a regular basis, a single nudge out of nowhere might prove to create suspicion if he was not careful even with his invisibility gear on. Even if he had boasted to be one of the best Snake Shadows, the ability to reach the Dark Tower was already considered a miracle for his lack of practice in recent years.

Thus, he decided not to risk his luck any further and decided to walk away...until he 'accidentally' pondered to their generator room. After all, it would still be a wasted trip if he did not throw away all of his explosives when he brought many extras, "I guess this should work quite decently too. Shutting down their power would cause them to panic a little but this would be useless if I do not destroy their backup generator. System, do you have any clue where it is?"

"Apologies, the System is currently occupied and does not have sufficient resources to look into it.

"More like, because the mission objective is completed, you did not care anymore what I am doing, right? As maddening as ever" Hou Fei sighed and then he felt that breaking their generator was more than enough for a backup distraction plan. He took out an empty crate from his storage which he picked up on the way to the Dark Tower and decided to place it in the corner of the Generator room. After which, he neatly placed all the C4 brick explosives into the crate and covered it with a huge rag which was in his storage ring as well. (One wonders what kind of junk he would keep in his storage ring but it seems to be useful.)

Once that was done, he did not teleport back but rather proceed to the escape route that was preassigned to him by the System as Hou Fei did not wish to have any possible magical signal being left

by him. But because of his efforts, the System was already busy analysing the number of troops, their movements and even the real time commands given out by their commanders.

Information gathering was indeed the most important portion of the war.

Occasionally missing content, please report errors in time.

Chapter 1367: White Demon Rats

"They are really not as stupid as we thought them to be," Jin said as the System continued to take note of all the conversations and the commands that were given to the Demon Rats on the ground.

"The knowledge of tactics command is equivalent to those in World War 1. However, there were some modern commands which even surprised the System."

"But now that we know what they are plotting, it should be fine, right?" Jin asked as he was trying to choose the plans that his minions and the System had created before to see which one was the best match.

"If we managed to intercept each and every fight, the Demon Rat Generals would know there is either a mole or we had accessed a backdoor of sorts." The System replied. "It would be wiser that we pick and intercept the bigger batches or set a trap of sorts."

"Well, either that or we just teleport all our minions in one go when they appear. Now that we know where their production factories are as well as the bases they kept their motorised units on standby, it would be an easy feat. We destroy their supplies and force them to be surrounded via a pincer formation." Jin suggested and the System calculated the odds.

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"Not worth it. There would be major losses and it would be better if we fight to suppress the Demon Rats instead." The System replied and Jin sighed.

"Are you still insisting that they could be negotiated with?" Jin asked and the System did not comment on that particular question and coincidentally Jin's phone started to vibrate on the table.

"Hmm? Xiong Da? I thought he said that he wanted to reinforce the transportation crystal, why would there be any problems with that?" The Dungeon Supplier said to himself as he requested the System to bring up the location where the Hippo Cultivator was. As expected, he was located at the Third Layer of the Inner Wall and the System's magic eye had brought the live video stream of him on the screen for Jin.

"Boss, ehh the Demon Rats, you programmed them that way?" Xiong Da asked as he was confused, thinking that all Rats were supposed to be enemies.

Jin had no idea what he meant as well until he saw on screen a batch of white rats on his screen. This was the first time he saw white Demon Rats since all he encountered were black and brown ones. There

might be a few dark maroons but never had he seen a blatant bright coloured Demon Rat. A number of them seemed to be severely wounded and they were carrying a white flag as if to announce their surrender.

But what concerned them the most was that there was a batch of black Demon Rats chasing after them as well and even shooting at them.

Jin could assume there was some story behind it and told Xiong Da the obvious. "Seriously, this is such an easy scenario to depict, do you really need to call me because of this?" Jin lied through his teeth.

"Ah. I can hear that tone of yours and the sentence's phrasing is way off your standard speech. You are lying, aren't you?" Xiong Da who had been in negotiations with Jin on quite a number of occasions knew how Jin could react and this was certainly one thing that he still had to improve if he wished to be a shrewd and cunning businessman.

"Damn it, I thought I could get away with it." Jin thought to himself. "You got me. Could be the instance's AI doing it. Let me go take a look at it personally. In the meantime, go do what you do best."

"Aye, boss." Xiong Da knew what he was talking about. Annihilate the Black Demon Rats that were chasing after them.

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So as the Hippo Cultivator was busy killing the other Demon Rats, Jin had indeed arrived at the Third Layer to not only greet the runaways but also giving his Pandarens the instructions via their visors and Pandamonium App that this was a WARE event in order to hide the fact that this was an anomaly. The Pandarens did not really care to catch the difference in the scenario just like how Xiong Da did, only to know that they had to take care of the Black Demon Rats as instructed by the WARE descriptions.

At the same time, Jin had also raised a short barrier right behind the last White Demon Rat who was trying to run from the Black ones. "Halt. I cannot let you go any further, but since you raise the white flag, I can only assume you want to surrender to us as well. May I query your reason?"

"Could you please help me- help us? There are a few severely wounded of us that could die without proper medical attention. We will give you all the information and even a tribute if needed. Please help us!" The White Demon Rat said but Jin was mildly surprised that the Rat was talking with such a feminine voice.

"Argh, of course, there will be female rats or else how would they reproduce." Jin thought to himself as he wished to bang his head on the wall for stereotyping all the Rats as males. "Wait, aren't they grown from plants? Wait what?" Jin continued to be confused by the current situation but for the moment, he summoned Milk to the scene and as always she was almost half naked and asleep. "Argh, Milk! Why do you always!" Jin said to himself and thankfully the System was still in control of the bellators, allowing it to transform Milk into her usual battle priest costume while giving her an electric shock to force her awake.

"Arghhh Master! Why do you always make me do things early in the morning!" Milk complained as she instantly used her AOE healing spell and despite the ruckus caused by the humans, the White Demon

Rats who initially felt perplexed by the situation were able to feel relief that their teammates were still alive.

But now Jin wants them to uphold their part of the bargain.

Chapter 1368: Rats Of Ruins

While Jin wished to bring the White Demon Rats to the Dungeon Maker, he realised that the black Demon Rats that were chasing after them were not their usual Elites. Even Xiong Da and the Pandarens who were participating in the fight had some difficulty fighting them. The Pandarens on the defensive installations even chipped in and yet, those Black Demon Rats were throwing out shields that could stop the bullets and missiles with relative ease.

Thus Jin took a more thorough look at their appearances and it seemed as if they had one commonality between all of them. They all had a huge machine arm on their right.

"The Rats of Ruins!" One of the White Demon Rats shouted to her leader who first communicated with Jin. "They are here! We are doomed!" She continued to cry out loud as her legs trembled the way her vocal cords did screaming their name.

"Human! Please, save us from them!" Another White Demon Rat said while she clenched on her cold iron rifle.

"How can all of you be so shameless! He had already aided us to heal! At the very most we should do is to fight back! Pick up your weapons and go into cover!" Their White Demon Rat Leader said back. She instantly thanked Jin and walked towards the back of the group where the Rats of Ruins were coming from.

However, it was pretty obvious that they do not have the training nor battle experience to fight them. Each and every one of them might be holding a rifle but they looked like it would be better for them to use it as a blunt weapon.

"Looks like in this situation, an enemy of my enemies is my friend," Jin said as he looked at Milk.

"Lol, Boss. While I would like to say 'it's my pleasure', you are being too ridiculous! Asking me to heal a group of Demon Rats and now clearing the fray right in front of me. I demand a reward!" Milk pouted as she knew that she had not been getting any praises or compliments from her master for some time.

"Does this count?" Jin took out his phone and sent 5000 System points into her account. "I remembered from somewhere that you wanted a dress from the Inter World Black Market. This should be more than enough with a bit of extra allowance after buying the dress." Jin said and suddenly Milk changed from her Battle Priest set into her Battle Monk set almost immediately. While she does have adequate strength to kill those Demon Rats in her Battle Priest set, her Battle Monk set comes with a pair of war gauntlets and boots that could explosively increase her melee prowess.

"As your Bellator! It is a pleasure to be at my master's orders!" Milk said and she already dashed out at the speed of light.

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Like any other monsters, having a name attached to them meant something special and the Rats of Ruins were not any much different. These named Demon Rats as their features had shown had achieved greater competence in their strength that they were augmented with a mechanical arm.

While Pandawan Xiong Da could withstand and fight against a few of them at once, the other Pandarens were almost immediately annihilated if they ever received a direct blow from any of those Rats of Ruins. And that made the black Demon Rats complacent thinking that this was the average strength of the humans that were fighting against them.

Even their leader felt that this war was already winnable if the incumbent Axe General had allowed the rest of the named Rats, they could have wiped out all of the humans in one shot. "Regardless, the escape of these few Birth Mothers is a boon for me to test out my strength against the humans, so no complaints from-"

Before he could complete his sentence, his entire mechanical arm from trying to strangle a Pandaren had suddenly disappeared completely. Disappearing might be too much of a description and rather, dismantled into pieces.

The Pandaren who was suffocating had managed to recover his breath and stepped backwards while the leader for the Rats of Ruins tried to search which human had the power to destroy his customised mechanical arm. However, once he managed to get a glimpse of Milk, that was the last moment he had before everything went blank.

"Ew. Boss didn't tell me that these rats spewed such stenchy blood." Milk said as she got a few drops of it on her shirt. And as smelly as they were, it was somewhat corrosive as well, making her think that whatever nonsense that was pumped into them to make them stronger than their average elite was somewhat dangerous.

"Just clean it off after the fight!" Jin shouted from afar as he continued to stand there to watch the entire battle.

"Boss is really slave driver, eh? Good to see you again Ms Milk." Xiong Da said as he managed to bring down one of the Rats of Ruins by himself too but not as quick nor efficient as the Priest Bellator herself.

"Hah, I bet you experienced it yourself as well." Milk said as she tapped on his shoulders. "Save your strength, you'll need it for the rest of the day when your other colleagues wake up. I can clear this up myself." Milk reassured him with a wink.

"That lady... Doesn't she know that she can instantly bring almost every guy down to their knees with that killer wink?" Xiong Da thought to himself as he listened to her as suggested while he watched Jin's first employee decimate the entire batch of black Demon Rats by herself.

"What kind of strength do you all have?" The leader of the White Demon Rats said in bewilderment as she saw the one-sided slaughter by Milk taking place right in front of her eyes. "Is that why the Axe General was so apprehensive in sending the other Demon Rats out?" She thought to herself while Jin walked toward her as if he already knew the outcome of the battle.

"As I said, you have to uphold your side of the bargain and talk. You and the others come with me. I will bring you to a secure place." Jin beckoned the ladies to follow him through the portal as he needed to know if he might have stumbled into a piece of treasure.

Chapter 1369: Birth Mothers

When the portal appeared in front of them, the White Demon Rat Leader shouted for the rest to enter the magical gate. She also stayed behind to ensure that each and every of her survivors entered the portal and that was enough for Jin to see the difference between her White Demon Rats compared to the Black ones.

In terms of battle experience, Jin and his minions did not fight against the Demon Rats for long despite the months of longstanding skirmishes, the Dungeon Supplier had received reports that quite a lot of higher ranking Demon Rats would always be the ones to save their skins. So to see the White Demon Rat Leader doing the opposite, it could mean that they were able to listen to reason and perhaps negotiation between the rats might be a possibility.

Even though the Leader for the Rats of Ruins was killed the moment Milk entered the battlefield, the others were committed to making sure that their duty to recapture was fulfilled. Thus, they raged as their lives depended on it, removing all the Pandarens who tried to block their way to take back one White Demon Rat.

"Have you dim witted rats forgotten about this beauty right here?" Milk asked as she grabbed the Rat of Ruins who was nearest to a White Demon Rat that was trying her best to escape. The Demon Rat attempted to grab Milk so that he could trash her to the ground but her athletics was beyond god-like, allowing her to evade without much help and send the Rat of Ruin into its ruin.

Despite knowing that it might be fruitless to go up against Milk, the Rats thus slammed the ground, creating a smoke screen from the buildup of dust in order to move forward. But, it did not deter Milk a single bit as she could sense the bulky moments of the Demon Rats regardless of the smoke screen.

"Milk, withdraw. We have already provided enough help for the Pandarens. Any more interference and it would be in the streaming news again." Jin said via the System channel and also told the System to end the Wide Active Response Event (WARE) as soon as he entered the portal.

Milk felt that those Rats of Ruins deserved more beating but since her master had rewarded more than she could ever have thought, she listened to Jin with a tad of defiance. With her strength and ability, she stomped on the ground to not only remove the dusty smokescreen but also hinder the Rats of Ruin's passage back to the rumoured giant elevator.

With some magic infused into her stomp, a gigantic wall of rock emerged right from the ground, piercing some of the Rats of Ruins as it grew. However, because it was an indiscriminate magic attack, the Pandarens also got caught by it. Although she did try to warn them just a second beforehand, it was not enough for most of the cultivators to evade it completely. Xiong Da merely used his chi to create a barrier just to make sure that he blocked the magical attack.

He realised it was similar to his ground stomp attack but this was pure brute strength infused with high levels of magic that he could never imagine. The rock wall itself is enough to not just block the Rats of Ruins but also the subsequent Demon Rats who might decide to try to invade directly the Third Layer of the Inner Wall. If they wished to assault the Third Layer, they had to go around the rock wall, allowing the Pandarens to defend the walls some additional time between the usual intervals they had been experiencing.

"That was really unnecessary," Jin said via the System Channel when he saw Milk's byproduct of interference in the Dungeon Maker Instance.

"Bye Master~! Thanks for the bonus!" Milk totally ignored Jin's remark and went radio silent, hoping that her master would be preoccupied with the White Demon Rats.

The White Demon Rats did not know whether they went from one trap into the other but the Dungeon Maker was not exactly the most welcoming place one would arrive and the System had shut down each and every console screen so that the White Demon Rats would not have a glimpse of what they had.

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But as the White Demon Rats were trying to get their bearings of the place, Jin merely walked towards the supposed leader and handed her a stack of papers. "I assume you all can read to a certain extent. Either sign the first one to state that you agree on behalf of your entire or have everyone sign each of those papers. Those who refuse to sign can leave this place and we will put you back where I found you. I will give you my word that my humans and teammates would not hurt you, but we would not save you if the Demon Rats caught up to you again." Jin said, giving them almost no choice in the matter.

The leader quietly picked up the papers and took a quick glance before diving into the details. Indeed, the only difference between the first page compared to the rest was that she was representing the White Demon Rats. She had no idea how they were anticipating this or if they already had surrender papers ready for any Demon Rats that were willing to rebel against the main race.

"You sure it's a good idea? We will be surrendering our rights." One of the White Demon Rats asked as she told everyone the current situation they were in.

"Then isn't it the same as those bastard Demon Rats? What's the point?" Another White Demon Rat filled with grudges said.

"They had written that they would provide us shelter and even ample food and didn't we unanimously agree to work for the humans if needed?" The leader reinforced their past promises and the White Demon Rats whispered among themselves.

"But they also stated that this...entity called the System will invade our brains? And we must be loyal to just one human. Isn't that absurd?"

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"They had saved our lives, we should at least be thankful for that."

"I honestly do not want to go back to that hellhole. I rather take my chances with the Humans."

"Not my best choice, but I think that siding with the Humans also would be better than being tied with chains and working repeatedly for days." The White Demon Rats continued to chatter among themselves while it was pretty apparent that the leader was trying to get them to be optimistic with regard to the deadlock situation they were in.

Eventually, they agreed reluctantly as a whole and the leader signed the first page, giving the rest of the papers back to Jin. And with that signature, the System had the permission to invade their lives as they forfeited their rights to it. They felt a forceful ache across their heads simultaneously as a group mainly because the System was not giving their current enemies any compromises.

If they knew anything about the current Demon Rats that would provide an edge for the War, the System would take every single chance. It also took the opportunity to share some information about the current group with Jin, allowing him to know what this group of White Demon Rats were called- Birth Mothers.

Chapter 1370

Birth Mothers

As the System shared Jin information about the Birth Mothers, he had already ordered a few penguins to prepare some food for the White Demon Rats to partake. But because he needed to 'interrogate' a little more, he continued to make them stay in the Dungeon Maker instance.

The Birth Mothers were surprised when there was a group of walking birds coming their way and they thought that Jin had betrayed them, going back at his word after he took the papers. However, as the penguins came closer, they presented to the White Demon Rats a buffet of food for them to enjoy.

The smell was enough to capture their souls and as the Birth Mothers craved for proper food, they continued to look at their leader as if for a sign for them to dig in. "Why do you need your leader's approval to eat? Just go ahead and eat. There is enough for everyone." Jin said as he told the Birth Mother's leader to meet him after she had her fill.

However, the leader did not and decided to follow him away from the group, knowing that he wanted information about the current situation. While Jin already knew the gist of it from the System's invasive methods to get information, he wanted to see if the White Demon Rats were perpetual liars since they would not have known that the System had the power to read people's minds as of now.

"I am Lisa Von Crustfinger. The appointed leader of the Birth Mothers." Lisa introduced herself with a slight bow of her head while her tail continued to lie low on the ground. The System knew that she was lowering her pride to greet Jin as the Demon Rat's behaviour was to always have their tails up high as a sign of dignity for themselves.

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"Firstly, thank you for rescuing us from the Rats of Ruins, our capturers and jailors. Not only that, you have graciously offered us a sumptuous meal right off the bat. I could not be more grateful than I am now." She said while keeping her head down.

"Do not misunderstand, I am doing this for myself. Upon signing those papers, you are now under my rule for the rest of your lives. The least I could do is to make your suffering a knot more tolerable." Jin suddenly sounded like an evil 'kind' overlord which would cause his other minions to laugh if they were at the scene but for now, his acting was working on Lisa (and that was all that matters.)

"So continue on, don't let me stop you from telling me your circumstances. And also, stand up, I do not need all these archaic ways of showing gratitude." Jin said.

"Yes, my master. We were running away from the Rats of Ruins mainly because of their incompetence in leaving the keys close enough to where our hands could reach. Despite knowing that we were quite powerless because of the nature of our jobs, they did not expect us to rebel in such a way."

"What job?"

"We are tasked to handle the birth of the new Demon Rats," Lisa answered as she brought out a couple of seeds from beneath her fur and revealed them to Jin, stating that these were the offspring of the Demon Rats.

"User, the Birth Mother concept is an interesting subject which causes even the System to stumble. Imagine a living organism with the ability to grow and proliferate without a sexual partner while having the traits of a plant like wheat." The System commented as it stated that the Birth Mothers were capable of growing new Demon Rats because of the seeds that pop out from the surface of their skin.

"With the current war against you Humans, we are being forced to produce more Demon Rats to accommodate the rising loss of Demon Rats every single minute. They force fed us with supplements and injected us with birth inducing hormones to make sure that we were able to produce more seeds for the clan."

Jin could understand what she was talking about because of the imagery the System had sent him. They were literally a birth machine at this rate just to get the seeds growing not from the soil but from these White Demon Rats' skin. All of them here had been overworked (or overbirthed) from the major losses that the Demon Rats were receiving. And to his knowledge, there were many others like Lisa and her group of Birth Mothers all over the Undercity.

They were simply lucky enough to have a chain of events that allowed them to escape almost unhindered by the other Demon Rat soldiers. Mainly because of the fact Lisa and the Birth Mothers gave life to these Demon Rats and that they still recognise the pheromones of their mothers, causing them to hold their hand in killing the White Demon Rats.

As for the Rats of Ruins, they were literally lab bred by other Demon Rat scientists, which allowed them to deny the pheromones produced by the Birth Mothers and thus gave them the ability to not only handle them but also restrain the Birth Mothers' movements. Some of the older Demon Rats even fought back against the Rats of Ruins as the Birth Mothers made their escape and yet it was not enough to resist such elites.

If things had gone differently just by a tad bit, Lisa and the others would not be able to survive the escape and contact the Humans. However, Jin could foresee that the remaining Birth Mothers would not have it easy once the report of Lisa and her White Demon Rats had turned to the Humans for help would be made known.

Stricter enforcements alongside harsher conditions to reproduce more rats? That would spell disaster for the rest of the White Demons but for now, Jin should already be happy or even delighted that he had finally achieved a way to have Demon Rats under his rule. While he was not sure whether the Demon Rats that he would eventually grow would be mainly because of their trait being a type of 'resource' after death, there was some hope that he could grow an army of his own almost as easily as the current Demon Rats that they were facing.

It was a boon that he hoped to receive but he did not expect it to come in so soon in the Demon Rat War or even in such a manner. Yet, it was still quite a bit of shock that that was how the Demon Rats had been producing these many Demon Rats so quickly after learning about their origins although it made sense.

However, now that he managed to get hold of these Birth Mothers, perhaps the Dungeon Supplier could attack even more indiscriminately since the initial plan was to force the Demon Rats into submission if possible, forming a future partnership with them to rule the Northern Region. The Demon Rats would be Jin's vassal and he would have lesser stuff on his hands while handling his store and other nonsensical multiverse issues that he had.

But he could throw that plan off the table and be more brutal in his methods. Perhaps try to save the rest of the White Demon Rats if possible or else, continue to do what his minions do best.

Beat the shit out of their opponents.