

Dungeon S 561

Chapter 561 Signing a Life Contract

Rei managed to get the Core Unit booted up and move around in it for a little before Qiu Yue made a call on her phone for another portal that appeared right in front of the open cockpit.

"Get in, it's time to get back to business." Qiu Yue ordered, and Rei obediently followed.

They were back at the same well lit room, and the items on the table were still left intact. Qiu Yue reconnected her phone, and everything booted up in an instant. The big difference was that Qiu Yue had messaged Lynn to bring up two cups of blue mountain coffee and leave it on the table for them. Rei now seemed even more ready to talk after experiencing the products that they had created.

"First, let me sincerely apologise once again for the rough introduction. I hope you can understand that we needed to verify that you were indeed from another world, especially one of the...robotic nature." Qiu Yue emphasised the last two words.

"Are you guys some sort of secret tech organisation? How did you even know that I was from another World? Did you already know that before or are you guys abducting anyone who is drawing Mangas with Robots and Mechs in them?" Rei asked as he took a sip of the coffee.

"We are in fact just a dungeon supplier store...with some particularly talented individuals running the place." Qiu Yue tried to phrase it nicely.

"What? Dungeon Supplier store? But that thing I saw, seemed too real to be something out of a dungeon supplier dimensional instance!" Rei replied. He felt a little bit disappointed if that was merely a dungeon instance. He vaguely knew about the limits of the dimensional instances in Japan.

He had tried a few dungeon supplier stores before, hoping they will create what he saw in the Star Cross Hangar Bays. Though this hope had quickly left him since he learned that it was not only complex but not possible with the current technology. Most importantly, anything designed could not be taken out of a dungeon instance.

"Don't worry what you saw was indeed real. As I said, we have some particularly talented individuals." Qiu Yue replied. "I doubt that you know anything about the current events of your world so let me begin by bringing you up to date. Your world, which we refer to as the Mecha World, seems to be in danger. According to our information, skirmishes have already broken out, and it's only a matter of time before it blows into a full scale war."

"That... does not seem too surprising." Rei sighed as he heard that news.

"However I would need some more proo-"

Suddenly, Qiu Yue turned her laptop towards him showed him a channel of the Mecha World. The System had managed to capture a segment of the news and broadcast it live for Rei to watch.

"You...are not kidding. I've never leaked any of my knowledge except for minor bits and pieces on my Manga." Rei said as he recognised the United Federation and Xeon Union on the news.

"So, our proposal is as such: Give us your everything and work for us. We do not care if you continue your manga work, but we need ALL your blueprints and every bit of knowledge on the Mecha World you can give us. In return, we will pay off your current debt's interest." Qiu Yue offered. She gave him a moment to consider it, and when Rei was about to say something in return, she added another part.

"If we deemed your blueprints useful, we might be gracious to assist you in paying your debt too. Also, once the situation has calmed down a bit, we should be able to help you to return to the Mecha World."

"Wait, wait, wait! So why do you want the blueprints? To improve that dimensional instance of yours? Or do you wish to give it to the other faction to gain their favour assuming you can travel to Mecha World."

"Because all I can say is that what I have in my head is at least 20 years old. I don't have anything which can compete with whatever new they came up with. Naturally, I've only received access to normal blueprints for teaching so I can't exactly offer you any super weapon or something like that." Rei rebutted, and Qiu Yue shook her head.

"You were willing to sell the blueprints, so you shouldn't care what we do with them afterwards. If you like the condition, then sign the deal, and perhaps we will reveal more information to you." Kraft who had at some point appeared directly behind Rei (without him noticing) got another shock of his life.

"Oh come on! You got to admit that was fun just now? Wasn't it? So, have you made up your mind?" Kraft came closer and held onto both of Rei's shoulder making him this close to peeing his pants.

"What ...what if I refuse?" Rei trembled as he asked that particular question.

"We will be forced to erase your memory about all of this. However, you should know that tampering with memories is a delicate procedure, so if you are lucky, you will still remember how to draw afterwards..." Rei could see Kraft's smile at the corner of his eye until he released his shoulders

"Probably." Kraft added promptly.

"I mean, you will understand that we cannot let other people know that we have knowledge of interworld travel and don't plan to share it, right?" Kraft whispered into his ear.

"Kraft." Qiu Yue called in a deep voice as if telling him off. The Original Bellator slowly stared at Qiu Yue for a moment (a long eternity from Rei's perspective) and slowly backed away from the mangaka artist.

"So, I do not have a choice at all..." Rei said to himself seeing the predicament he landed himself in.

"You do, though Kraft should be far more capable than he gave himself credit for. Still, you should earnestly consider what happens in the case we release you. I think you'll agree that it's the lesser evil working with us than meeting those Yakuza without having any memory of why you even ended up there? Right? " Qiu Yue calmly cautioned Rei.

"There is also the matter of us already having a way to get to your world... unless you prefer to loan more money from the Yakuza and take your chances with the teleportation scrolls." Kraft chimed in at which point he sighed in defeat.

He picked up the contract and read it thoroughly before clarifying a question.

"You say I can continue with my Manga? Can I at least have a guarantee for that?" Rei requested humbly towards the person who seemed to be the one holding on to his life by a thread.

"Sure. In fact, we can provide you with certain perks which will make your Manga career all the more fulfilling. That I can guarantee with my heart crossed." Qiu Yue replied sincerely while putting her hand at her chest.

Rei's head drooped for a moment before nodding. Qiu Yue specifically reprinted another contract that stated his manga career would not be jeopardised a single bit and in fact, they would provide him with anything he desired to continue it.

Satisfied with the new wording of the contract, Rei signed his life to the System with the persuasion of Kraft and Qiu Yue. He would never learn that they had been so desperate for his help that they would pull off such a stunt to recruit him.

However, one thing was for sure. With that signature penned down on that piece of paper, the manga career of 'Amuro Sensei' (his pen name) would never be the same again.

Chapter 562 For His Family Members

With that permanent contract signed, Rei was officially under the care of the System and Kraft who had been acting all hot headed resumed being nonchalant about the whole issue. With his expertise no longer needed, he decided to return to the Goblin World and check on the progress of his Night Foxes.

Meanwhile, Qiu Yue revealed to him that he was no longer in Japan but in China, shocking Rei. "But your ...grasp of Japanese is terrific! How did we get here? Was I out for that long?" Rei exclaimed as Qiu Yue allowed him to exit the dimensional instance and see for himself.

Instead of their terrace house where the body bag lay outside of Kraft's room, they had been teleported to the Store's instance instead. Amura Rei was astonished by the vast difference and quality of the dimensional instance that he could hardly believe it was an instance.

There was also no doubt that Rei had indeed been teleported to a completely different place, considering that he was being surrounded by Chinese nationals. If he had his phone with him, it would be more believable, but the crowd and the atmosphere around him told him as much.

Qiu Yue escorted him out of the instance and told him that he was currently in the newly built Tree Mall of Shenzhen. "Wait, you mean THAT Tree Mall of Shenzhen that has been all over the news in the morning?"

Rei hurried to the lower floors and out of the mall, and the mangaka artist was still in awe. But he certainly confirmed that this was indeed the Tree Mall that was trending all over social media online.

This only helped him believe that they must have saved him from the Yakuza. Despite the torture Rei had to endure just now in order to find out his origins, what they claimed might have an inkling of truth.

There were various rumours spreading like wildfire online about the landlord who created the Tree Mall within days after what could only be called a terrorist attack incited by the underworld gangs. Not only it had resolved it on his own, but all these rumours also portrayed him as nothing short of magical genius.

Perhaps, going back to the Mecha World was indeed possible with their help. "If the war hasn't broken out yet... Could my family still be around?" Rei thought to himself.

Thus, the mangaka artist returned back to the dimensional store instance with haste and found Qiu Yue again, who was waiting at the side of the island bar talking to Yun. "Let me introduce you. This is Yun, one of the co owners of the Dungeons and Pandas. She is like the Mothe- *cough* Big sister of all of us. You should always listen to her and not make her angry in any way."

"Qiu Yue, you told me that you may have a possible passage to the Mecha World, right?! If there really is a war, I want to know if my family members are still alive. If they are, I was hoping that we can bring them to this place instead." Rei asked with some anxiety in his voice.

"Sorry, I cannot help you with that aspect. We only have a way to go there, but we don't know where we will come out. With the threat of an impending war on the horizon, it's not really the ideal time to extract your family." Qiu Yue replied as she was drinking a cup of Bamboo juice.

"Besides, we haven't really gained anything from you so far, but empty promises."

"But didn't you tell me that you guys are willing to help me via the contract? According to your terms, you have to take my well being into account as well!" Rei countered as he took out the folded copy of his contract from his pocket.

"Please don't leave out the part inconvenient for you. At the very top, it reads; 'In return for his services.' You have not rendered any services as of yet. Nothing is barring me to aid you. If you want help, show us some results, then I will ask our Boss if we can try to fulfil your wish." Qiu Yue shrugged.

Rei knew she was right, he had nothing tangible at the moment, and it would take time to draw up the blueprints. In fact, he was the one who needed help more than ever. With the Yakuza chasing him, it would only be a matter of time until they catch him again and demand the loan interest. The longer he waited, the worse it would be for him.

And while he did not promise to use his upcoming movie as collateral, having the Yakuza's hounding at his back would definitely backfire in the final few months of preparations leading to the film release. The lie he used previously was just an excuse considering that he was aware that the movie needed more post production work before it could be pushed out.

What's more, it was supposed to be a secret project, teased to the masses that "something major" was to be shown at the 20th anniversary of the creation of his manga by the early spring next year.

Therefore, Rei could not use the movie's budget even if he wanted to since the studio solely needs the money.

"...Please, help me." Rei went down to his knees at the centre of the store instance, and everyone who was walking by was stunned by his sudden begging. Even Qiu Yue was shocked that Rei was willing to go to such lengths to kneel in front of her at such a public place.

"What the hell are you doing. Get up." Qiu Yue ordered quickly. Her body language indicated that she did not want to be involved in this particular sighting.

"Please, I just need your help to get my family to safety. That's all. After that, I will spend all my time on the blueprints!" Rei begged loudly (in Japanese), but before he could say anymore, Yun walked to him and slapped him.

"If you have the balls and time to beg, you should take the matter into your own hands and do something about your current situation." Yun then pulled him up and threw him through another portal. As the mangaka artist had already been contracted with the System, the System was able to pull up the coordinates of his house and teleported him there instead.

When Yun threw Rei back at his place, she threw two metal suitcases from her storage ring after him as well. "Get your life in order here before we can talk about getting your family. Do what you need to do before coming to find us." She then flicked a business card at Rei before closing the portal. "And you better hurry, my interest rate is 10 times higher than those Yakuza loan sharks."

Rei held on to the side of his face, which was burning with pain as he saw the name card and noticed that it was the number to call the Dungeons and Pandas. He then opened the suitcase only to find millions of yen stashed inside.

There, he quickly counted a stack and estimated the amount of money within the two suitcases to be sufficient to repay his loan interest and the remaining loan he had incurred.

Rei realised that this had to be an advance payment for the blueprints and what Yun was telling him to do was to hurry up with the blueprints if he wished to save his family too.

There and then, Rei turned to the direction where the portal was closed and prostrated in gratefulness. "I promise to get it done as soon as possible."

Chapter 563 Ayse's Assistance for Peppers

Peppers came to the Laboratory Instance after dinner to find Ayse who may have the ability to help her in the plans for blowing up the entire city in Giant World.

"Ayse! I need your help! I want to blow up an entire city! Do you have any Lost Tech available that can do that much damage or help in achieving it?" Peppers shouted at Ayse from afar which broke her concentration from analysing the Steam Tech.

"Can't you see that I'm busy? How many times do I have to repeat not to disturb me while I am working?!" Ayse rebutted, and Peppers frowned.

"But you are ALWAYS working. Last time you told me not scare you by tapping on your shoulders from behind you. So, I shouted. How else am I going to get you to respond? You lose track of everything once you dive into your work?" Peppers asked, and Ayse sighed with her shoulders feeling like they were going to be burdened with another of Pepper's requests.

"What exactly do you want now, Peps? Shouldn't you be capable of blowing a city up without my help?" Ayse stopped what she was doing and looked at the little Fiery Demonic Sage Queen. Peppers told her about the plan Master, and the rest had discussed.

"Hmmm, a destructive force for a 'city' that is about the size of Mexico? Even Jin's current Earth technology could never achieve that. Their nuclear bombs would not be able to reach such explosive impacts. Far reaching effects, yea but that's not you want." Ayse told her as she browsed the System's projected console right in front of her.

"According to my calculations, I believe my full powers can be stretched to the limit to reach that potential." Peppers replied eagerly. "But I was hoping you have anything that can strengthen me so that I won't...you know faint and stay in a coma for months. Achieving such a potential milestone in my career as a Demonic Sage Queen, you can say that's always my goal in life."

"So, you'd rather be useless for the next few months just because you want to be selfish in pursuit of your own personal goals rather than be useful to Jin? If I am not wrong, with all the inter world troubles awaiting us, he needs you more than ever. Please do remember your place, Bellator." Ayse folded her arms as she berated the 'kid' right in front of her.

"I know...but that's exactly why I want to be more than just 'useful'. Lately, he has been relying on Zeru and Kraft and maybe even Milk far more than me. I feel that at some point I've been left out of the loop. My most recent accomplishment was the Aegis Barrier, which I only powered up... It's as if he does not want me to overstrain myself after all the multiple...erm rainbow vomit." Peppers voiced her concerns out to Ayse.

"But! I have been trying to train myself too! I asked Milk Big Sis for help in training. Dragged her out of bed in the morning so that we can do some laps on the Panda Muscles running track. However, I feel that my body isn't improving to handle the strain whenever I practice my explosions spells."

"Hmmm...Then perhaps it isn't the body's condition that affects your magical potency?" Ayse thought for a while before answering her. "Have you considered that it's possible that other factors may be affecting you? Like the recital of your magical spell? Or the efficiency output of the explosion to the amount of magical power you need to use?"

"Are you implying that I am not talented enough as a Sage? You questioning my abilities??" Peppers asked, and Ayse nodded her head.

"I am. Even the most brilliant scientist like my dad tends to make the simplest of mistakes. If you have developed a certain mindset over the years, you can become enslaved by it, unable to see any other possibility. Sometimes a fresh outside perspective is just what you need. Like I remodified his equation to a theory he had and my Lost Tech now works twice as efficient." Ayse replied bluntly, and Peppers had no way to argue about that.

"So if you wish, I can dedicate half an hour of my time off to help you with tweaking your explosions. Scientifically measuring it so that you can improve step by step." Ayse suggested with a sly smile. "But you know Peps that I won't do that for free. For all my time is precious. I could be watching the new season of Mythbusters rather than doing experiments for you."

"And what do you plan to do? Just see how much explosions I can do in a day?" Peppers struggled with her answer for a bit as if pausing to think, but in the end, she asked hesitantly for Ayse's help.

Ayse shook her head at her question and decided to tell her a brief overview of the methodology the Head Researcher was going to use. Besides, it was not an everyday occurrence to be able to witness and measure the powers of a Demonic Sage Queen.

"I will methodically run down the list of what you need to cast your explosion spells. Things like how much the enchantments you are wearing that affect your spell power, the weapons you hold, the casting time and much more. Once we have identified all the possible factors of your body strain, we can see if we can increase the potency of the explosion by changing a factor and see how much change do you need." Ayse replied with a string of examples.

"Oh, and we also have to factor in your age. You better tell me truthfully how old you really are." Ayse grinned as it was always a topic which Peppers actively avoided.

"Arggggh! Why did I even ask you for help? Fine! What do you want in exchange?" Peppers knew that she wanted something.

"Owe me five favours which you cannot refuse," Ayse replied, and Peppers frowned at that number.

"You kidding me? Half an hour a day for five favours? You think you are some sort of big shot? I read books on your so called scientific procedures. It's like maths, I can deal with it!..if I have to." Peppers gave a slightly annoyed look, and Ayse laughed.

"Hahaha, to see you pouting always brightens my day, even though I hate that you always interrupt me. Fine, let's make it two favours which you cannot refuse." Ayse knew that her demand had been absurd and Peppers realised that she had been played with.

"I agree. Two, but with 45 minutes per day. And I better have results before the end of the month!" Peppers said.

"That is assuming Jin can't find any other solution before the deadline you arbitrarily set on yourself. Hahaha. Goodbye, Peps." Ayse grinned as she began to return to her work that Peppers had interrupted.

The status quo of a silent laboratory returned for a while.

However, it wasn't until a few minutes that she heard a sudden shout from one of the rooms within the laboratory instance.

"I DIDDD ITTT!!" Weslie came out of her room with her hair all flustered, oil stains all around her face and shouted out loud with bated breath.

Chapter 564 Taking a Break

The shouting of the Scholar of the West had alerted not just Ayse but the other researchers in the laboratory instance as well. They hurried towards her allocated lab as she happily showed everyone the prototype she had managed to reverse engineer.

It was not as small as the previous Steam Tech and instead had the appearance of a box with an antenna on it. For this particular research, Gold had personally gone out to help capture a few live Demon Rat samples (by killing all but a dozen and beating the rest to an inch of their life) that were placed in a prison cell and fed regularly while the System strictly monitored their behaviour.

No one was allowed to be near the Demon Rats in case they tried to do something like overpowering them and running rampant. The System did not wish to waste any souls resurrecting the researchers because of some simple blunder, so it had created a four wall prison cell where the food was thrown from the ceiling.

The walls were made of thick concrete which rendered the Demon Rat's attempt to escape futile. Not only that, they were at least twenty metres tall with self repairing features. Even if they spent all their time and frustration to make a dent on the wall, it would be restored soon after. So far, those Demon Rats had not reached such a point of desperation, despite the many attempts.

The concrete wall was too smooth to be grabbed, and soon the Demon Rat captives realised that it was useless wasting energy and they more or less accepted their fate mostly by spending large amounts of time sleeping. However, today was special. The ceiling was fully open with a number of humanoids looking down at them.

Their hearts were boiling with rage as they shrieked loudly at their captors until one of them pointed a pointed stick at them. Soon their raging attitude was soothed without any assistance, and they started to become passive and returning to their lethargic lifestyle.

"See, it works! It managed to pacify them, but I haven't figured out how to input the commands to get them to move like the Steam Tech prototype." Weslie sighed, but Ayse congratulated her for managing to duplicate the signal used.

"Although I know it is not complete, I could use further input from engineering experts to be able to insert commands for them to move," Weslie said as she threw a few baskets of food down while closing the ceilings and leaving them to the dark corners of the prison cell.

"I've received confirmation from the System that it had managed to convince a foreign engineer into our ranks, but it will take some time before he starts working for us. Meanwhile, give me the schematics of the Steam Tech. I'll see if I can find a way to include Lost Tech into it. If I succeed, we might not even need the new engineer's help." Ayse replied.

Weslie began to send the data via the System's projected console.

"But do you think wireless is the best? Since we have the Bug Steam Tech prototype in our hands and the signal, why not make a remote control that controls the Bug Steam Tech instead?" Orwell, one of the Elfish Humanoid Researchers who were there to witness the demonstration questioned.

"Yeah, we can perhaps use the Lost Tech for that, if I am not wrong... We should still have the Lost Tech Signal Amplifier blueprint lying around." Geddie, another Elf researcher, commented upon hearing Orwell's opinion.

"But I am not very sure how the Demon Rats will react to the signals produced by the Lost Tech amplifier. We will have to try out to learn if the Litoride Ore played an important part in this mind manipulation technique." Weslie said.

According to her, Litoride itself was still a mysterious ore which had yet to be thoroughly researched. Even the analysis from the System was insufficient as it only indicated multiple unknown elements that were not yet discovered by the Scholars.

"We can give it a try. Orwell and Geddie. Recreate the Lost Tech Signal Amplifier and see if the signal from the amplifier works on the Demon Rats. Oh and tell Gold to get more fresh batches of Demon Rats too. We need a control group as well as to see how many Demon Rats can the amplifier be used on." Ayse ordered, and the two other researchers began to work on it.

"Weslie, take a small break. Focus on other things instead. Perhaps a breather will give you better ideas on how to tackle the situation. Again, you've done well in replicating the signal source." Ayse said as she dispersed the entire group of researchers off.

"But Ayse, one less hour devoted to this will mean that the Demon Rats have an upper adv-" The Head Orc researcher placed her finger on Weslie's lips.

"Melis, bring this little girl to the Dungeon City Fortress and show her the Agriculture Sector 1 and 2. Let her familiarise herself with how the System raises the cattle." Ayse pressed on an announcement speaker option on the projected System console.

"Now."

"Aye, Mdm!" Melis, who came rushing into Weslie's lab, grabbed the Scholar of the West by the waist and teleported her to Agriculture Sector 2.

"Ow." Weslie seemed to knock her head on the ground, but when she looked around, the scholar was surrounded by many cattle from Jin's world. The cow right beside her was chewing the grass nonchalantly as it snorted towards Weslie and Melis.

While the scholar showed off reflexes slower than a tortoise, Melis had already put up a barrier, stopping the snort's phlegm in time before it reached them.

"Oops. Did not mean to teleport you straight here. When I heard Ayse's instruction, this was the first place that came to mind. Right beside Sally." Melis gleed as she stood up and hugged the cow right beside her.

"You could have given me some time to pack my stuff or something before coming here." Weslie sighed in defeat and yet couldn't be angry at someone who obviously loved animals so much.

"Nope can do. When Ayse tell you to take a break, you have to take it no matter what. She doesn't care if the brain of yours is working 24 hours, but she demands that you are out of your lab every now and then." Melis explained Ayse's way of working.

"She knows that if we were to say later, the work in our labs will once again attract us to their side and consume us again. This is to ensure that we are not overly obsessed by our research, especially now when we have an immortal body by the System. We have all the time in the world. There's no need to rush, unlike the days where our time was limited." Melis said as she rubbed Sally's chin.

"I see...I shall take your advice and listen to Ayse's command then." Weslie smiled at Melis as she stood up to take a stroll around for a moment.

"Oh, if you have time. Pick the farm products on the ground if possible. The System already marked them with a slight glitter, so it's easier for you to see one. Don't want you to accidentally step on an egg that was left on the ground." Melis smiled as she threw a storage ring towards the scholar.

Weslie nodded her head and proceed with the menial task as a way to relax.

Chapter 565 The Figure In The Tree Lines

While Weslie was strolling within the wild fields of Agriculture Sector 2, she vaguely started to reminisce about her old farmland and the animals she tended to for farming and later research purposes.

Weslie recalled how joyful the townsfolk were in her previous hometown. Walking around greeting the scholar, and always ensured that Weslie had enough to eat throughout the day because of all the work she was shut herself to work on.

"Oops, nearly stepped on an egg." Weslie noticed the slight glint became a bright shimmer the closer she approached towards it. "Wouldn't it be funny if these eggs are coated with diamonds? Hahaha." As she picked the egg up, the glittering disappears. At that moment, Weslie noticed that there was another person other than Melis in the sector at the tree lines in the distance.

That figure was quietly rubbing the fur of an alpaca as it was sleeping under the tree. Weslie then realised that the person saw her and nodded his head towards the scholar.

"Melis did say that everyone here is still part of the System...I guess I should introduce myself then." Weslie thought to herself when she did not want to be seen as anti social when she could possibly be working together with this person in the future.

As Weslie walked closer, she noticed that the human had a hood on him, and while seeing that his demeanour towards sleeping alpaca was more than just gentle, she lowered her guard. As a fellow animal lover, it was apparent to Weslie that the alpaca liked him a lot. So much that it was willing to place its head at his lap and snore loudly.

At a closer look, Weslie found there was a second alpaca merely resting its head at his opposite side. It was currently wide awake, only wanting to spend more time with the hooded figure.

"Am I disturbing your rest here?" The Scholar of the West asked in a quiet tone, not wanting to disturb the scene, and the hooded figure shook his head.

"Not at all. I am out here for fresh air, spending time with some of my friends too." The hooded figure said in a low, deep and somewhat tawdry kind of voice. "Never seen the likes of you around before. I assume you must be one of our latest additions?"

"Oh. Hi, I am Weslie. From the Farming World. A colleague of Gold, he saved me recently." Weslie kneeled to introduced herself with a handshake. By coming closer, she managed to see what was underneath the hood.

Derek's outer appearance was grossly disfigured.

She suffered a slight shock as she had not expected this. She tried to hide it as quickly as possible, yet the hooded figure still noticed.

Surprisingly the hooded man did not seem to mind at all and instead raised the hand he used for petting the alpaca to accept her handshake.

"Derek. From the Zombie World, at least that's how Jin and the others refer to it." Derek had a good look at Weslie and his frown into a smile.

"I see, so you are the rumoured girlfriend of our dear Gold. Glad to know that he managed to get the love of his life." Derek said before bringing the hood further down as if to cover himself.

"Ah, please! I do not mind at all. I...was an undead too before Gold managed to get me into the System. I do not know what you've been through, but I vaguely know what is like being back scrutinised. So please, be open with me." Weslie exclaimed, and suddenly there was a period of silence before she heard an amused snicker.

"Pardon me, I was merely adjusting my hood. It got a bit uncomfortable at the back that is all." Derek replied, making Weslie immediately blush for mistaking his intentions. "Nevertheless, that sincerity was welcoming. Especially for people who do not know me."

Derek then removed the hood and showed his face to Weslie, and she did not feel uncomfortable at all. In fact, she felt envious (and at the same time ashamed of herself) that he was proud of what he looked like not minding other people's opinions or if they had a prejudice towards.

However, she did not dare to share that with him and instead changed the topic entirely, asking him about the Zombie World and what it was like before he was transferred to the System.

"Heh. You think it's interesting? To know that there are worlds out there other than the one you lived in?" Derek asked, and Weslie got the feeling that she accidentally stepped on another landmine in this conversation.

"I erm..."

"Hahaha, I am just pulling your leg." Derek lightly slapped on the resting (awake) alpaca to move aside and asked Weslie to sit beside him. But even when Weslie sat right beside Derek, she could see his slightly pained expression as he remembered about the past.

"The Zombie World...I guess it's a very fitting name. Though we also used to call it Earth. In fact, it was not that different from our Master's." Derek started to paint the picture, but Weslie apologised saying that she had yet to see the Master of the System nor his world.

"Now, that is a little hard to visualise. Hmm." Derek looked around a little and spotted that Melis was around, so he whistled for her instead.

"Oh Derek, you are here for your break?" Melis walked over and greeted the Half Ghoul Lord.

"Melis, do you still have that System tablet which Ayse lent you? I want to help Weslie learn a bit more about how Master Jin's world looks like."

"Sure. Just pass it to me before you are returning to your lab." Melis said and did not interrupt Weslie. Instead, she asked for the storage ring back as she went ahead to grab the farm products. (Even though the System was capable of using the Robot crawlers to collect them more efficiently. Melis somehow managed to convince the System that the animals would prefer having people they knew interacting with them and thereby producing higher quality goods.)

"There, we go." Derek showed the various images of modern Shanghai via the internet through the use of the System's tablet.

"All these tower looking buildings are used to house the inhabitants? So our Master Jin lives in such an advanced society?" Weslie asked innocently, and Derek chuckled at the innocence.

"So yeah, my world was nearly the same as his. Though we were more mundane and nobody could use any sort of magic. To us, chi was merely a concept of the mind and body but not tangible and usable like Master Jin's. We were basically like your commoners but with the same technological level as Master Jin's Earth." Derek explained.

"While we did not have Orcs or Demon Rats in our world, the humans themselves were a monstrosity. Fighting wars based on religious grounds, for natural resources and for more power. Perhaps in hindsight, it was only right that the humans turned to the living undead." Derek continued, and Weslie asked how it happened.

"Believe it or not, Aliens. If my memory still serves me well. Extraterrestrial beings that called themselves 'Our Creators'." Derek answered as he bitterly relived the scene in his mind of degenerating into a zombie.

Chapter 566 Extra: The Incoming Asteroid

'Creators' - That was how the aliens that came intruding introduced themselves.

Initially, the inhabitants of Zombie World thought that there was an asteroid that was on a collision course with Earth. "We normal working class were never supposed to learn the whole story until the space agencies were pressured to tell the entire truth from their side." Derek began his story while he stroked the sleeping alpaca on his lap.

What seemed like a defect in their numbers when their probe was on their way to Uranus, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) spotted way too many anomalies of the incoming debris and the subsequent loss of their probe.

Afterwards, the Russian Space Agency (Roscosmos) who had a probe near the area was annihilated as well, sparking a debate if the asteroid was even more significant than anticipated. With highly advanced scanners and cooperation between the Chinese National Space Agency (CNSA) and the American Space Agency (NASA), they finally had a glimpse how large the incoming rock would be, and the probability of its projected pathway hitting Earth was higher than previously predicted.

With those findings, NASA and the other space agencies, as well as astrophysicists, were rushing to calculate a method to either defend Earth or escape from the planet. Some of the agencies proposed to do both under the veil of secrecy and disguise of a possible upcoming war between the Chinese and Americans.

They used the war pretext to lie to people and using it as justification for building additional underground bunkers, producing a superweapon that seemingly appeared to aim at each other's throat but all of this was just a hoax to prevent the anxiety of the entire world.

It was surprising that the Chinese and American governments had been able to get together without too much conflict and manage on that plan unilaterally.

However, the war construction efforts also led to the prelude of a pressurising space race. With the seven major continents secretly cooperating with each other, the countries of the other five space agencies had already begun building space shuttles and fuel rockets at record time.

Some of the most vocal critics who did now know much only fuelled more distrust among the people that were involved in it. But the rest of the world remained in their uncaring state and went on with business as usual.

Derek was part of that.

He thought it was absurd that everyone was preparing to fight another meaningless war, but work had to go on, so he could only hope and pray that it did not happen.

The leaders, on the other hand, may have understood that it was dangerous to dangle the 'War' card, but it was the fastest way to get budget approvals from the unsuspecting politicians that were not involved in it. Only the highest level of command and a few select individuals were supposed to know the truth as they prepared their way to destroy the meteor.

Derek, at the time had not known what was actually happening behind the scenes. It wasn't until a whistleblower decided that enough was enough and leaked it to the masses via the internet.

That snitch was, unfortunately, a genius in the use of technology, rendering all the database to be open to the masses. Even the government top dogs in security defences were unable to stop it nor curb the information leak.

There the war pretext was officially over, and the leaders of various countries like China and the USA finally revealed the true reason.

As expected, it caused a full blown panic to the entire world, and it led to severe unrest in many countries. The military had to enter to assist the police in the riots, and that was roughly about a hundred days before viable military plans could be taken into action to reduce the size of the meteor coming down on them.

People started to buy their ways into the bunkers which the countries had specifically made if their Plan A (Destruction of the Meteor) or if Plan B did not go as scheduled. (Which was lifting people into space and to the moon base which the Chinese and Russians had expedited in their construction of it.)

"Multiple rocket shuttles had already been sent to space in order to preserve seeds of life as well as the soil needed for the growth of viable plants should the worst case happen in the scenario where the asteroid manages to destroy the entire planet." Derek reiterated the plans to Weslie while showing her how rockets and such looked like via Jin's internet access. Some other stuff he had to explain with just words and hope that the scholar's imagination was vivid enough.

"But...since you said that you met with these creators, all these plans your leaders created were all for nought?" Weslie asked with sadness in her tone, and Derek nodded his head heavily.

"Our plan to destroy the meteor failed. Considering that we have no telemetry or imagery of the process and based on the sensors on the rockets, we know that we failed since we lost signal far sooner than it should have reached it." Derek vaguely recalled the live broadcast on TV while everyone anticipated the news.

Thus, Plan B was initiated and selected elites who were grudgingly approved by the mass population to be sent up into space, allowing them to survive while the rest had to stay in the bunkers and hoped for the best.

However, an hour even before the first scheduled shuttle was able to lift off, there was already chatter of bad news in the social media. Eventually, the official press stated that the meteor was moving faster than anticipated.

That was sufficient to cause even greater unrest throughout the world, and the governments had already been contemplating through a live conference to use all their mass destruction capabilities to destroy the meteor, reducing it into minor debris.

"'At the very least, it would give Mankind some fighting chance to live through it. The rest will be remembered'...I always hated that line. How the hell can they dictate who may survive and who can't?" Derek, at the time, had realised and detested how the small number elites perpetually made all the decisions for the rest of the world.

And that was when he too took part in the ongoing unrest, apparently minutes before the extinction of humankind.

Chapter 567 Extra: Going Nuclear

Without waiting for the approval of the masses, the Western leaders had proceeded to empty their nuclear arsenal towards the speeding meteor in hopes that there would not be total annihilation of humankind within the hour to come.

Yet at the same time, it was predicted that the meteor debris would split into hundreds of pieces, and most of it would be hitting the eastern hemisphere, causing widespread panic in Russia, China, the APAC and even the eastern European countries.

At that crucial point, Russia was also considering firing their own nuclear missiles in hope to bring the American's missiles down so that everyone would become extinct as a whole. To the Russians, what made the West so special that they could be allowed to survive while the rest of the world had to die for their sake?

However, the Americans had already been a step ahead of them and had deployed their Navy on the probable sites which Russian would fire their missiles off. The American Navy was not giving them any chance to defy their plans, but the other countries were not putting this selfish thought of the American's leaders aside.

For once, Japan and South Korea had shared intelligence with China and Russian, giving them the contingency battle plans which the Americans were following. Her allies were asked to step aside for the greater good of humankind, and in return, they ensured that their fellow counterparts in the United States would be sent back to Ground Zero to rebuild their civilisation again.

Enraged by their 'kindness' in envisioning the post-apocalyptic Empire of their own, Japan and Korea had sent all the information they had on them to their comrades awaiting death by a meteor strike. With all the new reports coming in, the Chinese deployed their own Navy without hesitation, and the Russians immediately proceed in creating solutions in intercepting the American's nuclear missiles.

And yet all of this scheming to see who could succeed and triumph for the post apocalyptic scenario was useless as the said comet rock suddenly disappeared from the space agencies' radar and instead appeared directly above China soil.

"They claimed they were the creators of our kind, and that they had watched us all babbling about who would survive. To see it escalating into a scenario where everyone preferred to drag others with them instead of coming together as one to unite against a common threat was more than disappointing in their eyes." Derek said as he leaned back onto the tree.

"They announced their presence? How?" Weslie asked as she played with a broken branch nearby.

"As I recall, they spoke through our minds," Derek added that the Creator who gave the announcement called himself Ares. The God of War from Greek Mythology.

Even though it could be just a coincidence, the asteroid that they predicted removed their optical illusion as if to prove their point. Lo and behold, it was a gigantic spaceship with all the ancient Greek designs on it. All these stories about the Gods of old, Derek would have probably believed them now.

Of course, the government leaders and their military throughout Earth stopped their bickering and immediately banded together shooting their nuclear missiles at them. Russia was the first to fire it towards them since they were the nearest to China.

Yet with just one response from the spaceship, it destroyed all the nuclear missiles in the air, causing a nuclear electromagnetic pulse that disabled only the electronic equipment on Earth.

Shanghai City went into a major blackout because of the nuclear EMP blast, and the mothership did not send any troops down at all. Instead, it sent a wave of a particular electromagnetic pulse which crippled the entire city, shutting the minds of everyone in the vicinity, causing them to be brainless.

Then, a squad of space soldiers came down to capture those who were able to withstand the mind wave attack. Derek was, unfortunately, the latter as he got his mind wiped out. "If not for the System's recovery magic, I might not have remembered all of this," Derek said.

Weslie could feel his powerlessness when he spoke of the past, but even now, she could sense that as well. "Still, with the System and the Master that we are serving, things should change, right?"

That was when Derek smiled a little.

"Indeed. The 'zombies' that Jin captured, a small number of them seem to be regaining sentience. I may have been a simple man in the past, but as luck would have it, now I am their leader. I shall guide them and help them grow in strength. Hopefully, if things permit, I might gather enough powerful comrades to take revenge against our 'creators'."

"You sure revenge is the right way?" Weslie asked, and Derek frowned back.

"I know it might sound petty, but that is the only thing going for us. They destroyed our homes, left us in ruins, and treated us as toys. And for what?"

"Because after they left, more than 99% of us never really had a say in the whole matter. So much for the gods wanting to show salvation. The first scene that I remembered was about Ares, who was showing off why he was named the God of War. Heck, even Lord Wolte feels more like a benevolent patron than a demon to me."

"I know how it feels, or at least some of it... I always hoped that achieving revenge against the North and South Scholars will bring me peace. To a certain degree, I still think so. But after hearing your story, I am not too sure of it myself." Weslie replied as her head was facing the ground.

"Still, I will work hard to help my people get out of agony. That's the least I can do to move on." Weslie confessed.

"Are you sure? I sincerely believed that you can never forgive them after all the things they did to you," Derek replied with agony in his words.

"...I can try." Weslie understood where he was coming from.

"Don't act so magnanimous. You are not the one currently sacrificing your life at the frontlines. You-"

Derek then realised that he spoke out of tune and apologised. "At the very least, you still have a chance to save your people. I was among the first few to turn into a zombie. I do not know what happened next in my world. Did they conquer it? Did they leave us to die? Master Jin only told me that everything was pitch black and in ruins."

"I am honestly not even sure if I have anyone to save," Derek said and Weslie grabbed on his left shoulder.

"Yes, you do. You said yourself you are hoping your undead comrades can regain sentience. As long as you can guide them back, you will at least moved a step forward. Maybe, in the long run, you could find something that will help return the sanity of the undead that are still stranded in your old world. And that goal is definitely better than mere revenge."

Derek only sighed in reply and adjusted his hood back to cover his face. Weslie unconsciously shook her head, and suddenly Melis came walking towards her. "It's about time we go back. Ayse says enough of a break. Your boyfriend has gotten you more samples to test on."

"I see." Weslie stood up and thanked Derek for his world's story until he murmured the following.

"I shall think about you said."

Chapter 568 Dinner Reviews

In the next few days, Jin had been spending all his time working on a secret project, and this time he did not allow anyone to disturb at all. He denied every visit from the likes of Ke Loong and only entertained the requests after he was done with his work since they were left as reminders by the System.

Even Yun was not given any permission to visit him and the only times he came out was for Dinners prepared by Lynn. Only on the table, did the Sub System Users and the bellators get a chance to report to him if there were any anomalies they had.

He was pleased to learn that the crucial component of Operation 'Piped Piper' had been created, even if Weslie along with the other researchers required more time to refine and fine tune it.

The Salamander Edwardio was given permission to return back to his clan but with a twist. Kraft along with Evon and Kiyu had brainwashed him of all the details and instead implanted fake memories into his brain. At the same time, he became the double agent who would monitor the Salamander's clan progress with a believable story that he managed to escape from the grasp of the Panda Monster.

What Kraft crafted was the Panda Monster was one of the latest Giants which somehow used the powers of teleportation to catch its prey. And that itself should prove enticing for the Salamander king to seek for it.

Also, if any magical entities or relics were used on Edwardio, the Salamanders would most likely not able to get any information and instead find those memories of him trying to escape the Panda Monster that Hamatarou managed to mimic. (He had a bloodied scar and broken tail to prove it although Kraft wanted to chop his arm off for maximum effect.)

This should allow the other tribes to get a breather from the slaughter that King Salamander was initiating since the power of teleportation would be a great boon travelling distance in this forsaken kingdom.

Other than that, Peppers reported that she was putting that thought of exploding the entire giant kingdom on hold. With Ayse advising her and taking scientific approaches to increase her threshold, Jin had secretly ordered Ayse to put the most stringent criteria before allowing Peppers to pass.

In a way, this was like a training exercise for Peppers to learn how to control her powers and use them even more efficiently despite the fact that she had unlimited mana at her side.

In the meantime, Qiu Yue was proud to announce that Amura Rei had officially entered into the System's database of minions. However, he was still being treated as a guest, and the System occasionally kept tabs on him to ensure that he was not being harassed by the Yakuza.

"Yeah, you better. That amount of money...could have been used in other places ..." Jin sighed as he said that but Qiu Yue flicked his forehead.

"Considering the amount of money, we are earning from the Dungeon Cave as well as the Tree Mall? We can earn that much profit back in around two days. Can you stop harbouring on it?" Qiu Yue furrowed her eyebrows.

Indeed, the Tree Mall was getting so popular that the store owners started having a difficult time coping with it. If not for Jin's introduction of monster helpers like the Penguins and Deep Ones, the owners would not be able to continue with the success they got for Day 1.

Jin also allowed the store owners to join other respectable delivery services and even the Pandafull delivery for a small monthly subscription fee. However, a disclaimer was placed on those food items in order to not misplace people's faith that it was Lynn's cooking.

Yet, people still buy from them. Some claimed that the food those stall owners cooked now had some spiritual power in it, making the dishes more palatable as well as revitalising. However, none of them could be compared to Lynn's new Grade 2 Dishes.

The Four Clawed Meat and the Horned Chicken Drumsticks.

Those were more expensive than the Grade 1 dishes by 1.5x times, but the taste was without a doubt extraordinary. To the point that the Pandafull service was packed to the brim with orders. Oh, and those cutleries that Jin had designed? They were selling like hotcakes too.

On the other hand, Zeru had finally apologised to Jin on what had happened and wondered if it was his ...erm rude behaviour which made Jin throw such a tantrum that he did not let anybody to visit him at all cost.

"Obviously not! It was partly my fault for not bringing up this topic at a more opportune time. I am just busy with some System related tasks." Jin said nonchalantly that the only other person who knew about all of this was Pei and she was extremely adamant in keeping it this way.

She had utilised her strongest mental defences to a point that even Kraft had some trouble getting through at the first try. Yet, instead of being challenged, he figured Jin had his own reasons and gave him leeway for now.

"As for the Dungeon City Fortress, Industry Sector 1 to 5 have been completed. The Military Sector 1 to 3 requires a little more time but are still well within the estimated timeline. " Qiu Yue reported, and Jin could see in his phone app that the necessary infrastructures were up.

Depending on what kind of production they wished to go for, had yet to be concluded. Perhaps Jin might keep Sector 4 and 5 to be reserved for future development purposes.

"The foundation for Pand-Atlantis City are done so the installation reinforced glass domes should be completed within the week too. All that is left is the mass construction of homes. Home Sector 1 and 2 will be left for the ultra rich while Home Sector 3 to 10 can be for the rest with high rise condominiums and common luxurious facilities would be furnished as part of it. We have at least four more Dome sectors, but they are pending for future development." Qiu Yue added, and Jin suddenly realised something.

"Come to think of it, we...do not have any recreational stuff for the people in the Dungeon City Fortress."

"Well, we did only focus on the basics and self reliance was more important than recreational. Besides, we cannot expect the Dungeon World inhabitants to dungeon in our area, can we? We would be losing money rather than earning it." Qiu Yue brought up valid points and looked at Lynn.

"Then perhaps, it's time we look into some. Peps, give Qiu Yue some ideas since you are well read on the Dungeon World's culture. Maybe we can look into implementing some of those as well as our own recreational stuff." Jin suggested as he stood up and thanked Lynn for the food.

"Going back to your cave again?" Lynn asked as she folded her arms as she was both angry and worried what Jin's behaviour. He seemed more haggled than when he was making the shop instances for his Tree Mall, and if not for the extra care Lynn had put in her food to revitalise him, he might have been burned out.

"I promised I'll be done soon. After that, we can start to settle the outstanding stuff that we have." Jin smiled lightly as he teleported back to the Dungeon Maker.

Chapter 569 Evil Santa Boss Raid Instance

On the day of Christmas Eve, Jin finally revealed what he had been doing. Those around him had been worried, but at the same time, they already suspected that he had to be preparing some grand Christmas event for his customers.

The thing was that he was not doing much for the customers at all. Oh okay, actually he did make a 'small' minor event for them. On Christmas Eve, he had released a special dungeon instance that cost 5 Yuan to enter, and it would only be available on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

It was a group dungeon instance fighting against Evil Santa. There was no story theme dungeon to it but just one major Boss battle. (With a few minions to kill as a warmup fight.)

It was the first of its kind Boss Raid type of instance with Evil Santa using such game like mechanics. His attacks had various but specific patterns which the cultivators would have to figure out. There were even different stages to this fight with him naturally changing forms once hitting a certain threshold.

Not only that, but it was also the first time that the Improved Half Mask would be officially introduced for that particular Boss Raid Instance. Jin needed more mass collection of data after tweaking it based on the individual data collected from the cultivators involved in the Plushie Special Challenge.

So, when they were fighting the Evil Santa, there was a visible HP bar for them to gauge its health, allowing the cultivators to play more aggressive. Not to mention, the System included health bars on each of the cultivators too, and that surprisingly increased the usage of chi regeneration potion more than usual.

Perhaps, with the aid of a meter, the cultivators were more worried about them dying. They could possibly be more conscious about their own well being, and whatever the case it might have been, Jin found this kind of feedback very interesting. "Perhaps, I can manipulate that reliance on health bars in future dungeon instances as well....and the sales of those potions too."

The Evil Santa Instance was just one of the many Boss Raid instances which Jin planned to create for the future. But right now, he needed to find out how much strain the dimensional instances could take in a small area as compared to a wide area raid instance.

Tentatively, it was designed as an eight cultivator raid, but in the future, he planned to increase the number of raid participants against a boss if he wished included more Dungeon and Boss mechanics.

As for the Evil Santa, his mechanics were not too complicated for the first form. Still, it was just an illusion, baiting the cultivators to use their most potent attacks, only for the Boss to ramp up its stats and attack patterns on the second form.

There was something distinctly different at the start of the second form. The Evil Santa would begin to use specific AOE attacks without any visual gaming cues for the cultivators to warn them. Instead, they had to rely on real visual cues in the surroundings or judge from his expressions etc.

It was way harder at first, but once a group finally figured that it was the visual cues from its expressions, they immediately posted their findings to the Pandamonium forum.

And it was a major hit.

For some reason, Mr Know-It-All hadn't been around ever since the inception of the Tree Mall, but that did not stop fellow cultivators (his disciples?) from creating a topic on it. Some even suggested that they should create something similar to a Wiki page to facilitate all their findings and Jin agreed to this.

He informed the masses that it would be on his to-do list for January which led to a plethora of likes on his message.

Other than that, the special instance was not without rewards. By defeating the Evil Santa (which no one had managed yet since most were stuck on the hardest second form) Jin would be releasing a cosmetic inscription not just for attire but for their weapons too!

Evil Santa Candy Swords or Candy Axes were the few examples and Jin informed them that those inscriptions would only be possible within his dimensional instances. Although the cultivators could try it in other dungeon supplier's instances, Jin could not guarantee a proper activation due to the state of his own special technology being used.

Other than that, the cultivators who participated in the Evil Santa Boss Raid would be rewarded a certain amount of Evil Santa Raid Points depending on the stage they were able to clear. For example, if a raid team were massacred by Evil Santa's second form, they would at least receive 10 Raid Points for defeating the first form.

Aside from that, Jin also purposely introduced specific achievements for that particular Boss Raid instance. For example, the most amount of damage would receive the Best Attacker Achievement for that particular instance run which would allow him to gain 2 extra Raid points. That way, everyone would be able to earn extra points while excelling in what they did best.

Because of the limited availability of the Evil Santa Instances, the diehard fans of the shop did not hesitate to stop by despite the busyness of the Christmas festival. Some praised Jin for keeping his shop open 24 hours even during the holidays, allowing them to enter anytime they desired for a dungeon.

In addition, the low price made it accessible for Students and Elderlies to try, and it was to the point that the Elders and students even manage to discover some Boss mechanics that most adult cultivators would not be able to find. Thus, Jin also made sure that the sharing of information on an open platform would be rewarded accordingly too.

At the same time, the dungeon supplier ensured that the rewards were not so huge that people purposely withheld such information. While understandably, some wished to withhold information in order to aim for the first clear, The System noted that that did not hinder the overall progress of cultivators at all.

And yes, those Raid Points could be redeemed at the Redemption counter store (Baby Pandas had Santa Hats now), and this time Jin intentionally made the rewards more multi purpose. Prizes included vouchers for various sorts such as food, weapons, armour and batches of chi regenerating potions waiting to be redeemed.

That was not all! Especially when special limited mini game parts that were listed too as part of the rewards in order to incite the collector spirit in the cultivators.

There was a limited edition Christmas booster card pack for redemption which had the chance of dropping a rare holographic card that could be used for collection purposes or for battle. Jin purposely put two versions in the same booster pack so that the cultivators could frame it up if they wanted. (Assuming they managed to get it.)

The collector version would not have any battle abilities stored within the card since there was no Pico-chip in it. (A Pico-chip was 100x smaller than a nanochip, and it could not be detected with the mere eye.)

At the same time this lead to him being notified about single incidents with people selling their card for real cash, which made Jin unsure if he should be proud that his products finally had enough popularity for scalpers to exist.

In any case, he was looking forward to his Pandawans or perhaps a new batch of cultivators to clear the Evil Santa Boss Raid Instance.

But if one believed that he had used up all the time holed up to prepare for that event for the cultivators, they were dead wrong. This was because there was an event that was way more important than earning money.

It was none other than a Grand Christmas Feast for all of his minions. (and of course, his bellators too.)

Chapter 570 In Need For Food Materials

The Grand Xmas Feast.

Despite his conviction to do everything by himself towards the end, Jin had to admit to himself that he was not able to do it alone. Not even his Another Jins were enough to make up for the overall lack of time and preparation.

Thus, he ended up seeking help from Lynn and Qiu Yue a few days before Christmas. Upon learning the gist of his plan, they gladly rendered their assistance.

When Jin mentioned that he was going to prepare a feast for all of his minions, Lynn nearly fainted by the sound of it. He was not catering to dozens of minions but thousands of them!

The Orcs were the largest number, followed by zombies and subsequently the contracted goblins. Speaking about the contracted goblins, after a month of their work (in Jin's Earth time) Qiu Yue finally revealed the truth of the 'Masked Humanoid's' Origin.

It was so that they could make a more informed choice on whether they wished to stay after their contract would expire to work for the Dungeon City Fortress or return back to the Goblin World.

Most of them eventually agreed to stay along with Jin, given that the promise to bring their family members was still valid. The remaining decided not to work with Jin and agreed to a simple brain wipe and return to their original lives. Qiu Yue informed them that were free to contact her anytime in case they changed their mind one way or the other before their contract ended.

However, not all was lost for the ones returning to back to the Goblin World once they would finish their contract that was an equivalent of Three 'Goblin Years'".

The 'brainwashing' which would eventually be conducted by Kraft was not a full wipe, but only certain details would be erased or tampered with (like the time difference) to ensure that the goblins who had restricted access would not have the knowledge to change the current Goblin World.

Going one step further, should they wish to ever return to the System's contract, all they had to do was to seek out for the Dungeon Cave Town that Jin had finally maintained a presence in that area. (Especially since Jin always welcomed more help.)

Back to the planning of the Christmas Feast, Qiu Yue had assisted by sealing one of the industrial buildings in Industry Sector 5 and started pumping out the mandatory door gifts for the minions. It was a customised miniature model size of themselves which had their names carved at the base of all those models.

Jin felt this gift was personalised and showed them that they are not just insignificant workers for the System despite the number of minions under him. Qiu Yue believed the same but was worried about the cost that he would incur making these door gifts. (Because this was just the start! Jin had modestly prepared other things as presents for all of his minions.)

"Well, you said that Rei's debt was worth 2 days of our gross profit. What is another week's worth of gross profit to our already hardworking minions?" Jin argued back to Qiu Yue, and she rolled her eyes.

The Red Panda Cultivator was rendered speechless when Jin, who had grumbled about their loss of money not too long ago, used this sort of argument back at her.

As for the Feast itself, Jin personally went out hunting with Lynn in the Giant World. It was a great opportunity to personally take a look over the situation in that place too.

He finally met up with the Penguin Village where Lynn's peggies came from, and they gave him tips on where the largest possible Giant Monsters should be located at. (But before that, the penguins purposely made Lynn and Jin stayed for a tea with the Elders.)

But all was not a waste of time. Chieftain Skitter and Elder Colwaski had told them about the possible Giant Monsters that were in the vicinity as well as their habits and tracks, so the two System Users could be on alert when searching for those Giants.

"You sure you can do it yourself?" Lynn asked, and Jin smirked at her when they reached the said location after their tea session.

"I am not as confident without my minions and bellators. Feels strange and unusual doing it all by ourselves." Jin replied as he took a suitcase which contained a customised Gearbox Suit out.

"But I've been working on something that might potentially aid us in the Mecha World." He then passed the suitcase to Lynn and asked her to wear the Gearbox Suit.

"Wait, what? You want me to wear it now? Don't I have to strip or something?" Lynn asked with a blush appearing on her face as she saw the suit and Jin laughed, shaking his head furiously.

"You don't have to do that!" Just put it close to your body, and it will do the rest!" Jin said and assisted Lynn to put on the Gearbox Suit. The moment a piece of the Gearbox Suit attached to her chest, the rest crawled all around her body, fitting a base metallic skeletal support for the entire body.

Jin also brought out his own suit and quickly wore it. "System, any Salamanders in sight?" Jin asked, hoping that Edwardio, the Salamander Guard managed to divert their attention away.

"At present, Edwardio has successfully convinced a majority of the forces to look outside the city for the mysterious teleporting Panda. To make it more convincing, the System had Yun place a one way portal in the middle of a deserted district to lure them."

"From time to time a simulation image of the Panda appears there before disappearing again." The System reported that it had teleported those salamanders who used the portal to city outskirts, providing them difficulty to return back to the castle.

"That's great. While I do not wish to have all eyes watching what we do, it's ironically the best way to attract the attention of those hiding. If you find traces of species other than the Salamanders in our vicinity, do give us a shout out as well. I still prefer Hamatarou to rescue those villagers before any harm is done to them." Jin knew that he contradicted himself, but sometimes, he had to be attention grabbing to get things done.

At that point, Jin and Lynn went into a deserted house to the location which the penguins had recommended. They would use the house as a site to ambush their 'prey'. Thus, Jin began preparations

by using his phone to press a few options, and suddenly a large portal emerged out from the bottom of the floor.

He told Lynn that her job would be vital in luring the giant wildlife into the house so he could engage it. However, Lynn was more than a bit curious if Jin was really capable of holding himself out. (She also wondered if Jin wanted to use that particular large portal on the ground as a way to capture the monsters.)

Because if that was true, she tried to let Jin know that those monsters are at least intelligent enough to not fall into that trap unless he manages to summon it instantly underneath its feet.

Still, it would require something more prominent than the size of the portal she saw. Yet, Jin somehow managed to overturn her expectations.

From the portal, out came a ...Mecha.