

God level 186

Chapter 186: The Shadow of the Human Demon

Da Fei's team entered the enemy's range, and of course, the enemy's team also entered Da Fei's range. The difference was that Da Fei's troops could easily knock out her standing in the front line, but she definitely couldn't take down Da Fei hiding at the back. Having the main commander fighting at the front was a big taboo in the game. The saying "Those who fight brave battles are always in the front" basically translates to "Only fools fight at the front."

In reality, she was originally standing at the back. It was just that Da Fei appeared behind her, turning the backline into a frontline, and she didn't retreat to the back either. In comparison, Da Fei's courage was one step behind.

Right now, the entire Star Command Center was tense, everyone unsure of what Bu Feiyan intended to do.

Nothing happened, and Da Fei's troops arrived beside Bu Feiyan's troops.

Bu Feiyan stepped forward, reached out with a smile, and said, "Hello! I'm really happy to have help during the toughest part of the mission."

Looking at her outstretched hand, and the beautiful Elf in the game with skin as fair as snow, Da Fei couldn't help but swallow. I'm shaking hands with the goddess of my dreams! Even though it's just in a game, this makes my life worth living! Da Fei felt his outstretched hand tremble slightly!

Whoa, whoa, whoa! Too much of a loser! This isn't good! The goddess will just laugh at me! I've got to show some manly charm!

Da Fei cleared his throat and said, "Aren't you afraid of me? I'm notorious."

Bu Feiyan chuckled, "Not at all!"

Damn! Da Fei's eyebrows jumped: "My reputation is really bad, I PK people like cutting grass!" Heh, can you feel the tremble in my arm? Scared yet?

Bu Feiyan laughed, "But do you know me?"

Da Fei chuckled, "Seen you on TV." Not just seen, I've even fantasized!

Bu Feiyan's smile grew even sweeter, "Exactly. I am playing games for a large guild. If soldiers die, it's the guild's soldiers dying. If equipment breaks, it's the guild's equipment breaking. If the mission fails, it's the guild's loss. My boss has a big business and doesn't care, so why should I, a hired hand, care?"

Ah, splloosh! Da Fei and the entire Star Command Center laughed out loud! Eternal Star was so angry he trembled!

Well, I must admit, her thinking is just like Da Fei's! What's the company's loss to me? As long as I don't lose anything! So, she's a kindred spirit, huh? In that instant, Da Fei felt the goddess before him was even more endearing! Truly, it's not the same to meet someone in person as it is to just hear about them. But isn't it a bit inappropriate for you, as the spokesperson for Star, to be saying this?

Wait, is she hinting something to me? That's right! She's hinting that Star isn't afraid of any lone players! Just like when Da Fei worked at the company before, there was no real company loyalty. Lazy and disrespectful, treating clients like dirt, and occasionally feeling gleefully malicious like, "What if the boss goes bankrupt because of me?" Would the boss go begging for food? Wow, the thought is just exhilarating!

So, killing as many Star members as possible isn't a big deal, but as for me? I can't afford to lose! Like right now, what if she suddenly throws a tantrum and takes me out in a PK battle? I'd really be done! For a time, Da Fei couldn't help but feel a chill.

Bu Feiyan smiled and said, "Alright, let's cooperate now. I just tested, and this tree is beyond saving. It's easier to just kill it!"

At that moment, the twisted face on the tree's trunk struggled and wailed, "Save me! Don't give up on treatment!"

Da Fei nodded, "That's right, it's beyond saving!"

Compared to saving it, which seems to require crossing countless lines of fire, simply shooting it from afar is much easier. Plus, being able to relax while shooting monsters and chatting with the goddess, what could be more carefree?

And so, Da Fei's Druid Forest Goddess Army and the Goddess's Jungle Hunter Corps stood far at the perimeter shooting, while Da Fei mingled and chatted with the goddess.

The goddess giggled and asked, "By the way, what's this golden Flower Demon soldier of yours? It's ranged and its damage isn't low!"

Da Fei chuckled, "It's a system reward. Seems like a special unit from the World Tree."

The goddess nodded, "I see. Then how did you get here so quickly? It took me a day to enter this scene."

Da Fei was surprised, "Was it really that hard to enter?"

"Yes, it's quite troublesome."

Da Fei laughed, "I didn't think so..." Heh, if a man wants to win the goddess's heart, he must show his abilities, make her admire him! But while showing off, he must also remain mysterious. That's right; I won't tell you I have the God-level Reconnaissance Technique!

At this moment, the ancient tree got irritated by the shooting and roared, "Why give up on treatment! Why!!"

Suddenly, a horde of mutated monsters came howling from the top of the tree!

The goddess cried out, “Be careful!”

Heh, perfect! Facing a crisis with steadiness, this is truly the time for me to show off my expert style and manly demeanor! Da Fei chuckled, “Don’t worry, I’ve got this!”

Just then, Da Fei’s information beeped. Who the hell is this? Da Fei saw that it was Lei Huolong!

Lei Huolong: “Brother Fei, do you have time now? Can we talk about the inheritance matter?”

Damn! Da Fei replied impatiently, “I picked up a task and haven’t come out yet.”

Lei Huolong replied, “I see, then Brother Fei, take your time, but please try to be quick. The bank will be very busy during the New Year.”

Damn! It’s not like I’m withdrawing cash, what’s the bank got to do with it!

Suddenly, Da Fei remembered something: “Oh yeah, Brother Lei, do you know what hobbies the top beauty in the China Region, Bu Feiyan, has?” They’re all top professional players in China and part of the same circle, these otaku surely know more about an otaku beauty like Bu Feiyan, right?

At this moment, Ma Yinglong, who was on the Lei Huolong account, suddenly froze, Brother Lei!? The shift in attitude was too fast and disgusting! Could it be that Star was using a Babe Trap to win over Da Fei? Damn! I’m going to ruin you!

That’s right, in important negotiations, Ma Yinglong would often act all relaxed and rich by sending subordinates to negotiate, but it’s usually himself in an alternate account! Though dirty, it works well. He can ruthlessly haggle, scam people, and if there’s a complaint, just say subordinates didn’t handle it well. If it can’t be negotiated, just blame the higher-ups. Effortlessly strategic.

So wearing Lei Huolong’s disguise, Ma Yinglong probed: “Brother Fei, you wouldn’t be trying to court her, would you?” Damn it, Brother Fei, using an alias has its downsides.

Da Fei quickly replied, “No way, this is just a toad wanting to eat swan meat, asking just for fun.”

Ma Jialong chuckled, “Brother Fei, do you know that when professional experts go into battle, they have a whole group of people watching the TV wall as advisors?”

Da Fei was startled, “Ah, that sounds very sophisticated.”

Ma Jialong laughed, “Brother Fei, do you know what time it is now?”

What time? Da Fei checked, it was 2 AM! Damn, another day passed without realizing it! Da Fei was surprised, “What do you mean, Brother Lei?”

Ma Jialong laughed, “I only know that Miss Deng is actually a social ace, not an otaku, meaning her account is managed by the company’s people. It’s this late, I think she’s surely applying a cucumber mask and sleeping. Staying up late is a big enemy of beauty. Anyway, aside from a few people in their company, who knows if it’s her on the account? It might even be a foot odor demon man!”

— Ah, sloopsh! A foot odor demon man! One that cons money and love? Da Fei shivered all over!

Ma Jialong laughed, “Anyway, that’s all I know; Brother Fei, take care!”

In an instant, the mood of Da Fei, who was soaring, plummeted. However, confirming if it’s a demon man is simple, this game allows live video connections! But there’s still a problem; there’s a whole bunch of advisors watching behind her! Are they watching me like I’m performing tricks? And if I ask her for a video, and she asks me back, then what? After all, she’s frequently on TV and doesn’t mind being seen by others, but I’m always ready to accept an award and care about being seen! Once again, Da Fei’s mind was tangled.

In the face of Da Fei’s heavy firepower from afar, the ancient tree’s monstrous attack was trivial, quickly swept away.

Bu Feiyan smiled as brightly as a flower, “Not bad, not bad, very strong!”

Da Fei said woodenly, "So-so."

Bu Feiyan smiled, "No matter what, we're comrades in arms now; let's add as friends?"

— System Prompt: Bu Feiyan would like to add you as a friend, do you agree?

The goddess actively wanted to add as friends! Isn't this supposed to be something to make Da Fei overjoyed? But no matter how you look at it, it felt like the demon man had sinister motives to con money and love!

Da Fei dispassionately clicked agree.

Bu Feiyan smiled, "Where were we just now? Oh right, your ship is world-famous, I would love to have a chance to go on board."

Da Fei's heart tightened! The demon was probing my secrets! Da Fei sighed, "Ah... better not mention the ship."

Bu Feiyan was surprised, "What happened to the ship?"

Da Fei pretended to sigh, "If I don't have the ship anymore, would you still consider me a com... comrade?"

Heh, once there was a wealthy, handsome man pretending to be a loser, pursuing the goddess: "If I didn't have money, would you love me?" The goddess flatly refused, "Sorry, I'm not in love with money, it's your personality that really puts me off, we're not right for each other!" Then, the wealthy, handsome man would come out in a helicopter slapping faces! My personality is indeed off-putting, come fly and slap me! What a pleasing scenario!

Bu Feiyan solemnly nodded, "I absolutely would."

Damn! But I have no interest in playing scenarios with unknown personalities. For a moment, Da Fei was silent, focusing on fighting monsters.

Bu Feiyan understood and comforted, "Actually, it doesn't matter. At your level, the ship has become unimportant. If you're interested, I could recommend you join our Star Guild!"

Excellent, good eye, but I'm not interested! Da Fei casually said, "I'll consider it." Then he said no more.

At this moment, the Star Command Center was bursting with laughter.

"Wow, wow, the big beauty personally recruiting and still failed!"

"Is his notorious reputation good for recruitment?"

"Haha, is the ship more important than a beauty?"

"Burned by fire, hit by storms, even a god couldn't withstand that!"

"See him still so proud! Deserving!"

Bu Feiyan angrily retorted, "What's so funny, his sunken ship is a huge loss for the China Region, okay!"

Everyone laughed heartily, "Yeah right, soldiers, equipment, and missions belong to the guild, so who cares, but the ship isn't; it's a big loss!"

"Shut your bird mouths!"

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Da Fei, immersed in “grief,” did not speak anymore. Bu Feiyan felt she might have brought up a sore subject with the ship and sensibly didn’t speak again, after all, they weren’t particularly familiar.

The ancient tree, after a few futile attacks, was beyond saving. This mission’s difficulty lay solely in finding it, after all, it was just a tree.

“Why give up on treatment!” With a reluctant wail, the ancient tree collapsed with a thud, its huge trunk kicking up a cloud of dust. And with the disappearance of its twisted will, the illusion of the Ancient Tree Space vanished, turning into a desolate grassland.

— System Prompt: You have obtained the mission “Purify Nasir Wisdom Ancient Tree Space!” Please return to claim your reward!

A Teleportation Gate appeared on the grassland.

Bu Feiyan chuckled, “Thank you! It’s great knowing you, let’s stay in touch.”

Da Fei said woodenly, “Yes, next time.”

This first intimate encounter with the goddess ended just like that, under the threat of ominous suspicions of the demon’s shadow.

Chapter 187: The City-Building Task Begins

Da Fei watched in a daze as Bu Feiyan’s troops disappeared into the Teleportation Gate, feeling a mix of emotions. Then, looking at the fallen giant tree, he couldn’t help but shake his head and sigh silently.

To be honest, if he were playing a single-player game, Da Fei would usually choose the highest difficulty to get through to the extent possible, because a higher difficulty means higher rewards. That’s a hallmark of a skilled player, right? Yet, this tree died unjustly.

However, seeing such a massive piece of timber, Da Fei felt irresistibly tempted. The Wisdom Ancient Tree! This timber must be extraordinary, right? At the very least, it's special ship material, isn't it? Can it be salvaged?

With that thought, Da Fei immediately passed through the Space Gate and returned to Lake Island.

All the officers applauded enthusiastically, saying, "As expected of a Super Hero, you solved the problem in one move! You can directly go to the Military Department to collect your reward when you leave."

"Now that the final threat to the World Tree has been eliminated, it can finally rest. From now on, the barrier of the World Tree will gradually disappear. The disappearance of the barrier will bring many security and defense issues afterward. In short, our future tasks are not light."

"Yes, so we must quickly build the fortress to prevent new challenges!"

Da Fei nodded and asked, "Since the higher-ups require us to collect resources as close as possible and build the city quickly, I think the timber from that Wisdom Ancient Tree would be great. Is there any way to get it out?"

The officers were taken aback and then sighed, "Your idea is certainly excellent, but with the World Tree just entering hibernation, it's already a hard task just to send people underground from the Main City, not to mention transporting such massive materials from Nasir Space without any support."

Damn, the Elf Clan's teleportation technology is indeed weak! The Hell Race easily sent thousands of players into that space!

Da Fei asked urgently, "Is such a piece of timber to be wasted just like that? Isn't there any way at all?"

The officers sighed, "As long as we have strong base support, anything is possible. Therefore, our urgent priority now is to build the base."

Da Fei shook his head in silent sighs. He just hoped that the tree would not be refreshed away like ordinary monster corpses by the system.

Da Fei said, "So, is there anything else I need to do now?"

The officers happily said, "We've been waiting for this from you. We've already surveyed the terrain, and we have engineering plans. It's just that materials are extremely scarce. Please have your big ship patrol the shoreline of the Pool of Radiance and tow back all the available ships and materials! Rest assured, with the recent storm baptism, the Demon Camp along the shore has been destroyed, and there shouldn't be any major danger for now."

—System Prompt: You have received the task of building a city, "Construction of the Lake Fortress"!

—Newcomer Hint: There are two modes for city-building tasks. One is being hired by Great Kingdom forces for territory development. Upon completion, the kingdom appoints you as a lord who must pay taxes or resources equivalent to the tax value to the kingdom and will be protected by the kingdom's troops. The other mode is players developing unknown world territories to become independent forces without paying taxes to any kingdom but not receiving any protection. The prerequisite is to have a Sealing Order. For details, players should refer to the game rules.

Finally, a city-building task! Da Fei's heart settled. Just as he thought, he couldn't escape city-building with this task.

Building a city is undoubtedly the core gameplay of this game. Having a city means players have their own population, barracks, factories, and a real home!

Of the two city-building modes, the most stable is to help the Great Kingdom develop. Although the taxes are heavy, at least 50%, it is better because there's protection from the kingdom's troops, allowing players to focus primarily on production. In reality, such large-scale projects to help the kingdom build a city aren't available to just any player. At the very least, a player must be like Da Fei, a Super Hero deeply respected by NPCs.

If players cannot bear such heavy taxes, then they should go to the New World. However, the threats there aren't just from national players, as powerful monsters are the nightmare of lord players. During the public beta, most lord players eventually returned to the path of pledging allegiance and tributing to their kingdoms. Unfortunately, the power of New World kingdoms is often limited, unable to ensure the safety of players' territories. However, taxes are non-negotiable. In summary, it's far less comfortable than roaming in the Old World.

In Da Fei's current situation, it's difficult to say how much protection he can get from the kingdom. But no matter what, he certainly wouldn't miss this opportunity. Da Fei immediately thought of the dozens of Abyss Lords stationed under the Flower Demon camp before the storm and the dozen giant paddle ships tied up there. He wondered if they had been cleaned up. He decided to check them out while on route.

Now, thousands of Flower Demons circled around Da Fei's Flying as it set sail once again.

A level 0 troop is the most important production unit for any force. During peacetime, they can perform various non-specialized tasks. So, picking up scraps and building a city this time relies entirely on them. Although Flower Demons cannot build cities themselves, heroes or NPCs with Construction Skills can still direct them. Construction Skills involve the skills of Lord System heroes. The higher the Construction Skill level, the better the commanding speed and effect. It was said that God-level Architects could direct Great Angels in construction—yes, that was in the game's promotional trailer CG advertisement. But building houses doesn't need Da Fei to worry. The dozen officers likely all have Construction Skills. Da Fei just needed to gather level 0 Flower Demon troops.

In reality, during siege wars between players, the first target is the opponent's level 0 troops. Even if the siege isn't successful, it can disrupt the opponent's development. So don't think that the Elf Clan's heaven-defying flower demon and tree spirit golden combo guarantees safety without worries. The opponent's blade will slowly attack, targeting the Flower Demons, fatties malnourished and then dead.

The Flying reached the camp of the stationed Abyss Lords, and Da Fei couldn't help but let out a long sigh.

For Brother, a smooth sailing life seemed unscientific. True to form, all the Abyss Lords and Demon ship workers were gone. What was all that fighting for back then? In the end, wasn't the Hell Race rewarded with many Abyss Lords? Ultimately, it was all for nothing. Perhaps all these things were arranged by the system from the start, and it never intended to let players have that many level six troops?

Fortunately, four ships were still wedged in the tree roots' cracks, so it wasn't without any gain. However, this place is at the edge of the Pool of Radiance; if level six troops didn't make it, I'm sure the Demon Camp didn't have many soldiers left.

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3 a.m.

Deng Jiayi took off the facial mask on her face. After finishing the last form at the computer, she stretched with a long yawn. After a day of laboring, she could finally rest. This time she planned to give herself a few days off. To be honest, Deng Jiayi had long been unable to hold on, but the appearance of Da Fei did rejuvenate her and lifted her spirits. Truthfully, she didn't have any other intentions, purely driven by curiosity.

This was the legendary "shame of the national service, trash Da Fei." However, judging by their conversation tonight, there's actually no difference in personality from regular players. The only difference is his unfathomable strength. This is a newcomer standing on a white halo without class change!

Yet, this newcomer was the Super Hero that the Elf Kingdom had high hopes for and who successfully completed the mission of attacking the Abyss Blood Pool for the Elf Kingdom and returned triumphantly. It's unimaginable how much stronger he'll become after submitting the task.

For now, let's put the future aside. The strength he displayed in tonight's battle alone was already shocking to Deng Jiayi. Though she superficially chatted and laughed with Da Fei, as a professional player, she constantly deduced his attributes and skills by analyzing his Druid's damage.

In short, no matter how you calculate it, something's off! In one word, unfathomable! Not to mention these rapid entries into Ancient Tree Space, it'll definitely take Master-level Reconnaissance Skill!

Such an account's strength has already far exceeded all Star professional players, deserving special attention. It was worth spending an extra hour listing and archiving his analysis data. Now, finally, she could sleep.

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The ruins of the Demon Camp in the Pool of Radiance. A once-mighty Magic Tower lay collapsed on the ground, and what was once a lava-heating Lava Lake had cooled to a glassy surface. Hundreds of giant paddle ships and leaf craft lay scattered on the shore. Sure enough, Da Fei's radar mini-map didn't show a single red dot. It was, indeed, time to scavenge.

The Flower Demons immediately got to work. Their small bodies in great numbers, functioning as precisely as bees in teamwork, unleashed an astounding efficiency akin to ants moving houses. In no time, the few giant paddle ships Da Fei had towed were filled with scattered stone materials. Meanwhile, Flower Demons tried to push the storm-blown giant paddle ships back into the lake.

Seeing the busy orderliness ahead, exhausted from a day's battle akin to a lifetime's change in a movie, Da Fei could no longer hold on.

Da Fei found Catherine, "I need to rest now. Can you handle the task?"

He wanted to know whether the several insect nests destroyed after sleeping yesterday were the old lady's capability or Catherine's. If it was Catherine's ability, it was practically an in-built cheat, too exhilarating!

Catherine laughed softly, "As the First Officer, of course, I should assist the Captain. Rest easy, Captain."

Wow, hahahaha! It can be done! If an NPC says it's fine, then it's fine! For a moment, Da Fei was almost moved to sleepless excitement!

In any case, sleep!

Da Fei logged off to sleep, but news of his big ship quickly spread through Star Headquarters member chats and swept the internet overnight. The sight of Da Fei's burning warship was witnessed by national war personnel from various countries. The added storm only increased the credibility of the information. In no time, countries celebrated heartily, enjoying the New Year festival.

Chapter 188: Deirdre Assumes the Position of Artillery Commander

Da Fei slept until noon the next day. About 4 or 5 days must have passed in the game, right? Hurry up!

He quickly made instant noodles, brushed his teeth while squatting in the toilet, and then came out to eat cold buns with pickles and noodles before logging into the game. As soon as he entered the game,

he saw the Flying slowly moving towards Lake Island, dragging a dozen giant paddle ships loaded with stone and other materials. It worked! Katalina really made it! Haha, wow hahaha!

In the midst of his ecstatic joy, a flurry of system prompts appeared.

—System Prompt: The barrier of the Pool of Radiance has disappeared, you and your vice heroes can level up!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have leveled up to 31! You have gained 1 free attribute point, 1 point added to attack from your Basic-level Ranger profession, 1 Skill Point, and your life has increased by +2, Command Power by +1.

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your vice hero Katalina levels up to 31! ...

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your vice hero Serbia levels up to 31! ...

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your trial vice hero Deirdre levels up to 14...

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—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your trial vice hero Deirdre levels up to 20! You have gained 1 free attribute point, attack increased by +1, 1 Skill Point, life increased by +2, Command Power by +1, and Personal Damage by +1.

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Da Fei was momentarily stunned. He thought he was awesome for smashing out dozens of 100,000 experience point insect nests at the Pool of Radiance and then causing a tremendous explosion at the Abyss Blood Pool with millions of experience points stored, but after sharing the experience with three vice heroes, he only went up one level! He even thought he would instantly leap to the world's top level with a flash of gold!

In the end, that's the disadvantage of having multiple vice heroes.

When a player hires vice heroes, if the level up does not achieve an effect of $1+1$ being greater than or equal to 2, then the value of hiring these vice heroes becomes questionable. That's why players rarely hire vice heroes at this stage, just to avoid holding back their leveling up. Exceptionally strong heroes or beautiful women are exceptions. Better fewer, but better; that's why players from all countries rarely bring vice heroes in this national war.

Of course, the main reason is that Deirdre, who is at a lower level, gobbles up more experience, leveling up multiple times herself. At this rate, to safely get Deirdre to level 50 and become an official hero is going to take ages. There's still a long road ahead.

Overall, now the battle is over, and he is awake from his sleep, it's time to plan for the future properly. First of all, of course, is to arrange a job for Deirdre, no questions asked, she must be the Artillery Commander.

—Artillery Commander: The Artillery Commander can at least increase the artillery morale in the Gun Cabin by +1, life by +10%, and stamina by +10%. The Artillery Commander must be appointed a hero with Basic War Machine Science.

Among the several naval deputy roles, the Artillery Commander might be the most boring and least prominent. Mainly because the Crossbow Cannon, being an inanimate machine, is not affected by equipment or other skill enhancements. So, the role of Artillery Commander is hard to make a mark on the Crossbow Cannon. Anyway, it probably just involves staying in the cabin all day, playing cards, drinking, and fishing with artillery buddies. But the advantage of this role is safety—nestled in a heavily armored protective gun cabin, without the need for close combat, survival chances are the highest.

But maybe Deirdre, being a specialized Artillery Master, might make a difference? Anyway, she's back, and Da Fei can finally get a glimpse into this hidden profession of Artillery Master, which he hasn't had time to look into due to the continuous events of yesterday.

At this moment, Deirdre's attributes are as follows:

—Deirdre: A mysterious Banshee following the Hero's Road.

Level: 20.

Profession: Master-level Gunner, increases Crossbow Cannon damage by 100%, each level up adds 1 point to attack, and 1 free attribute point.

Hero Special Ability: Banshee Leader. For every 2 levels the hero is elevated, adds 1 point to both attack and defense of the Banshee army. Also, the hero has the ability to train Banshees.

Professional Skills: Iron Maiden, Ballistics, Rapid Fire Skill, Smoke Bombs, Incendiary Bombs, Poison Gas Bombs.

—Iron Maiden: The hero's Crossbow Cannon gains an explosive effect, causing a total magic damage of $5 + 5 \times \text{Magic Power}$ to the nearby area around the impact point.

—Ballistics: Master-level Gunner increases the range of the Crossbow Cannon by 25%.

—Rapid Fire Skill: Gunner can increase the Attack Speed of Crossbow Cannon by 50%, and under this skill, the Durability of Crossbow Cannon will continuously decrease.

—Smoke Bombs: Gunner can produce and release Smoke Bombs, confusing the enemy's vision.

—Incendiary Bomb: Gunner can produce and release Incendiary Bombs, creating chaos among the enemies.

—Poison Gas Bomb: Gunner can produce and release Poison Gas Bombs, creating chaos among the enemies.

Hero Skills: Master War Machine Science (Crossbow Master), Advanced Dark Magic.

Command Power: 100

Attack: 40 (Base 17, Treasure +3, Upgrade Points +20)

Defense: 42 (Base 13, Treasure +29)

Magic Power: 10

Knowledge: 10

Damage: 21-35

Health: 413 (Treasure +102, Upgrade +40)

Magic Resistance: 50%

Fire Resistance: 75%

Attack Speed: 11

Hero Skills: Flying Creature, Charm Master, Chain Shooting, Transformation Skill, Banshee Training Master

Hero's Treasures (Note, these treasures are personal items of the hero; misuse by players may reduce hero's loyalty):

– Dwarf King's Armor: B-grade strategic treasure, Defense +10, Troop magic resistance probability +15%

– Dwarf King's Helmet: B-grade strategic treasure, Defense +5, Troop immunity to blinding magic.

– Dwarf King Rune Shield: B-grade strategic treasure, Defense +8, Troop magic resistance probability +20%

– Dwarf King's Iron Fist: B-grade strategic treasure, Attack +3, Defense +3, Troop attack speed increased by 5%.

– Dwarf King's Leggings: B-grade strategic treasure, Defense +3, Troop immune to Delay Magic.

Dwarf King Set additional reward: Troop health +2, Hero health +100.

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Da Fei took a deep breath!

A tier-4 unit specialization that is valued at a million US dollars in the market, inherits the Divine Skill “Iron Maiden” from the Epic Hero Delib, this is the Banshee Hero that several major countries are crazy about! And this Banshee Hero, having kidnapped all of the B-grade treasures from India, finally returned to my embrace, haha! Muahaha! I’m taking on nations single-handed!

But! Must not get too carried away, first off, she lacks personality and loyalty attributes! And she automatically allocates her own Skill Points and attribute points, which means until the completion of the Hero’s Road, she still remains an incomplete hero, and even her allegiance is still undecided?

Ultimately, to prevent betrayal, is to not give her the chance to betray. I won’t be taking any nonsensical tasks anymore. As for her treasures being personal items, I certainly can’t touch them. Indeed, some special heroes join the player’s team with treasures, and these treasures cannot be touched or they’d turn hostile.

At this moment, Deirdre came to Da Fei with a big grin on her face: “Thank you, master, for appointing me to such an important position, I will definitely work hard and show off what I’ve learned!”

Show off what she learned? Da Fei vaguely feels expectant, grinning and said: “Being an Artillery Commander is not easy, can you introduce me to the skills of an Artillery Master?”

Deirdre smiled and said: "Of course, normal War Machine Science is just one person operating machines, but an Artillery Master can command all the gunners in the army to operate machines together, it's entirely not just tactics!"

Indeed! Da Fei excited: "So you mean, the skills of ballistic science, rapid firing, and smoke bombs affect all the Crossbow Cannoneers?"

Deirdre smiled: "Exactly! The more cannons the master has, the more effective I can be! Especially when the master owns a giant paddle ship with a gun cabin, or a city wall filled with gun towers! As for the smoke bombs and incendiary bombs, the master needs to fund the materials, which I can craft."

So that's it! This is what it means to be an Artillery Master! Truly a cut above, a profession that can become a hero profession! Definitely not on the same level! Following this logic, if my Sailing Skill gets fully developed, it must also be far superior to regular sailing skills! And yes, just with my Storm Navigation alone, I could blow many sailing skills out of the water!

Da Fei burst into joyful laughter: "Great! Absolutely fantastic! You're truly a hero tailored for my large ships!"

Deirdre also smiled: "Of course, only by following a heroic and martial master like you can I fully utilize my talents!"

So, that's it! That's why I stole this beauty from the hands of so many countries! Deirdre, as a Trial Hero, not only has personal safety concerns but also career aspirations, and looking at the world, only I can satisfy her! Haha, Muahaha!

Now, Flying has arrived at Lake Island, from a distance, Lake Island has already developed into a fortress, so fast! Has so much changed while I slept? Muahaha! Right, I should commend Katelina, without her how could I sleep so peacefully!

Chapter 189: Running a Business to Build the City!

Da Fei arrived at the steering floor to recognize Katelina's achievements.

Katelina laughed and said, "I should really thank the Captain for giving me such an opportunity to command on my own. I've always wanted to command a ship by myself, but my dad just wouldn't trust me enough to let me do it."

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Father's love runs deep!" If it were in reality, with the relationship Da Fei had with Katelina, he'd probably be calling that burly, scar-faced man 'dad' right about now, wouldn't he?

Katelina smiled and said, "This should be the last trip. The Demon Army has begun moving in on the lakeshore again, but they don't have any ships or facilities yet, so they shouldn't be a threat for the time being."

Da Fei nodded, "Just as expected." It seems the time left for brother to develop peacefully through this city-building task won't be much. Now that we've exhausted local resources, what's the next step?

The Flying drew closer to Lake Island, where building materials were piled high. A simple stone pier made of stacked stone had been completed. Hundreds of level 6 Tree Spirits were slowly and orderly building a fortress under the command of military officers.

Damn, who said it was hard to transport troops from above? Isn't that a batch right there? It's a pity that those dozens of Abyss Lords went to waste – they would've been strong laborers.

The arrival of the Flying was met with applause from the officers.

Da Fei disembarked and greeted, "Everyone has worked hard!"

The officers laughed and said, "Congratulations, your Excellency, the Kingdom's appointment has arrived. The Kingdom is very satisfied with your quick and effective actions and has officially appointed you as the Lord of Radiant City!"

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have received the appointment of Lord from the Elf Kingdom and officially became the Lord of Radiant City!

What was meant to come has finally come! Da Fei laughed out loud, “Please rest assured, your Majesty, I will definitely do my best.”

The officers smiled and said, “Considering Lord lacks manpower, although we are not particularly special, we would like to serve as advisors for the Lord, assisting in city construction!”

Da Fei laughed heartily, “Welcome, welcome, absolutely necessary!”

—System Prompt: Kingdom Officer Tarion became the Military Advisor for Radiant City.

—System Prompt: Kingdom Officer Serenna became the Economic Advisor for Radiant City.

—System Prompt: Kingdom Officer Farina became the Diplomatic Advisor for Radiant City.

—System Prompt: Kingdom Officer Rasio became the Population Advisor for Radiant City.

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Crap, these dozen or so guys have taken control of all domains like military, economy, population, sanitation, education, culture, diplomacy, logistics, production! Alright, good, the Kingdom has thought this through, saving the players the trouble.

Advisors are essentially staff officers, strategists, sources of wisdom – they don’t hold specific official positions. However, they often provide very valuable advice to the King, and hence they possess power that surpasses that of all officials, notwithstanding their lack of power and responsibilities.

To convince a King, one must first persuade his most trusted advisors.

In the game, advisors act as tutors for new players, teaching them how to build cities and greatly assisting them in becoming familiar with city facilities, ensuring newbie players do not make low-level mistakes. Of course, the suggestions from novice advisors are very by the book; if a player considers themselves a veteran, they can completely disregard the advisors’ suggestions. For instance, the

aggressive military development strategy during public testing, which the advisors strongly oppose, is indeed very effective in the chaotic environment of the New World. Therefore, one may choose not to heed the advisors' words.

Also, in the absence of officials in a player's city, advisors can act in their stead. Of course, it is perhaps only in a situation like Da Fei's, where he is appointed by the Kingdom, that the Kingdom would provide such an ample array of advisors for him. If a player goes to the New World on their own, they would not receive such favorable treatment. However, new Lord Players need not worry; after receiving the Sealing Order, players can apply to become an Apprentice Village Chief in a small village within the Kingdom, getting a taste of what it feels like to be a Bright Lord.

Da Fei opened up the city overview interface, and the general attributes of Radiant City are as follows:

—Radiant City: Level 3 City.

—City Population: 3,539 Flower Demons.

—City Facilities: Level 3 City Wall.

—City Construction in Progress: Level 1 Fortress.

—City Officials: 13 part-time advisors.

What a poor city indeed. City Level is a direct reflection of a city's prosperity. The city advances in level for every new building added or any building that is upgraded. Some special buildings can only be constructed in higher-level cities.

Right now, Da Fei has no clue about the next steps for city development, so of course, he should consult the advisors.

Da Fei asked, "Ladies and gentlemen advisors, now that the Demon Army has gathered at the edges of the Pool of Radiance again, what should our next steps in development be?"

The military advisor answered, "Lord, the current strategic direction of the Demons is in the New World, so there won't likely be any high-scale wars at the Pool of Radiance. Moreover, they don't have a base or logistics, so they lack the capability to break through the Pool of Radiance's defenses and launch a war in the short term. The Demons' main goal is still to monitor and restrain our forces. However, if our defense is too weak, we cannot rule out the possibility of them hastily assembling a large-scale attack. Therefore, our military must rapidly build up the city and closely monitor the Demons' movements."

Da Fei nodded in understanding: "I see." As long as there's no immediate war, bro can relax.

The internal affairs advisor said, "Lord, with the resources we've collected now, we can only repair the city walls and construct the fortress. The next step is to build a Military Teleportation Array. Only with this can the Kingdom dispatch a substantial force to garrison here. Both the construction and operation of a teleportation array require a significant amount of funds, so Lord, you must find a way to raise money."

The economic advisor added, "Lord, currently the Kingdom's budget is mainly allocated for the New World, so at best we can only apply for a Level 1 Military Teleportation Array. If you want to further upgrade the Teleportation Array, Lord, you'll have to raise the money yourself. However, Lord, there's no need to worry. The Pool of Radiance contains the purest Life Energy, which is greatly favored by the Great Angels. Once the Pool of Purifying Light is complete, even selling purified water could be a substantial source of income. As long as we withstand the initial difficulties, we can definitely reap rewards later!"

The population advisor said, "Lord, currently with the World Tree dormant, our city has no hope for natural population growth. Hence, building barracks lacks civilian support; we can only rely on external help. Constructing the Teleportation Array is extremely urgent!"

Damn, can't you guys speak slower? After listening back and forth, it seems like the system just wants players to fork out their own money! And they're even teasing bro with the prospect of making money from selling purified water!

Fretting, Da Fei asked, "So you're saying, the next step for me is to make money?"

All advisors spoke in unison, "Yes, Lord, you only need to do one thing, and that's to make money! The more, the better, the faster, the better! And besides, there's nothing for you here, remember to come back and check in!"

—Ah! Damn, really cheeky! But, building up a city indeed is a matter worth the hustle no matter what.

The advisors continued, “Lord, when you leave, you can go directly to World Tree Square to see the Kingdom Chief of Staff, Mapharion. He will personally issue your reward for attacking the Abyss Blood Pool!”

Yeah, it is time to claim the reward for the Epic Quest. Bro has been patiently waiting the whole night and is calm enough now. But expecting to get money from him is definitely impossible. It seems I have no choice but to engage in trade myself. The big ship can't sail out now, so the only option is to settle for a regular boat for the time being. With my current reputation, it shouldn't be a problem to buy a medium-sized ordinary ship. Or maybe I can leverage my relationship with Chief of Staff or Mayor Elorin to bend the rules a bit and get a big ship? Surely he can manage that much?

Speaking of trade, we must mention the Divine Skill of trade “Navigation Skill.” Katelina has been stuck at level 30 for so long and finally got a Skill Point upon leveling up, and now it's time to learn the most bad-ass and crucial skill!!

Da Fei took out the Sailing Skill Book and flipped to the page of Master-level Navigation Skill, and with a flash of golden light!

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Catlin has spent a Skill Point to learn the Master-level Navigation Skill sub-skill “Navigation”!

—Navigation: The speed of the flagship can determine the overall speed of the fleet. Captains or First Officers of the subordinate ships must possess Master Level Navigation and Towing Skills to be able to follow the flagship's lead.

Da Fei breathes a huge sigh of relief, having acquired the Navigation Skill, which really means entering the high-end realm of trading. Although bro doesn't have a fleet now, I could take a cut by roping in other players' ships, right? That's how it was done in the public test phase.

Damn, bro just remembered, I still owe a whopping hundred million! Damn it, this is like running trade till I drop dead!

Chapter 190: The Epic Quest Reward for Being Short on Money

Under the guidance of the advisors, Da Fei, along with Catherine and Selvia, arrived at a clearing in the center of the island, where Mrs. Anwen had ascended. It was also to be the site for the construction of the Military Teleportation Array.

The so-called Military Teleportation Array was one that could transport troops. As mentioned before, the Hell Race is the only race capable of Legion Transmission through their ordinary city teleportation arrays. Although other races lag behind Demons in spatial technology, with enough investment, they can achieve the same — of course, unless it's for a special mission, it's usually not open to players. This was also a reminder to Da Fei that this thing burns through money!

The reason Da Fei left Deirdre behind was mainly because he wanted to keep a low profile, figuring there was no way to level her up by trade runs, and her artillery unit couldn't be taken out. One more person wouldn't make a difference, so he let her stay behind to keep watch.

A green light descended from the sky and the scene changed to reveal a huge square shaded with golden trees.

— System Prompt: You have discovered Farolan City's World Tree Square.

Da Fei looked up, gazing at the gilded misty skies above where the World Tree's canopy was. Looking around, there were tall trees akin to high-rise buildings everywhere, each with numerous wooden houses hanging from them. Ladders connecting the trees formed a dense web of aerial pathways. Magnificent Jade Dragons and petite Flower Demons flew through the city's skies. In the distance, the roar of mountain waterfalls made for wide rivers cutting through the urban forest, and they formed a large lake. Lush flowers bloomed along the lakeshore while vessels from various countries shuttled through the river, and the wharf bustled with activity.

This was the capital of the Elf Kingdom, Farolan City, a city with three-dimensional transportation by land, water, and air.

But before he could fully appreciate this legendary fairytale city, Da Fei's striking red name suddenly caused a stir among nearby players: "A red name entered the city!"

“My God, it’s the legendary Da Fei!”

At that moment, a group of city management officers whizzed over and surrounded Da Fei: “Our investigation confirms you have a criminal record. Accept our judgment!”

Da Fei protested in a hurry: “Hey, wait! Damn, I’m busy here! I’m a hero of the Bright Alliance, okay?”

A flash of white light subsequently switched the scene to a courtroom!

Damn it! There’s no justice! As a hero who completes missions for the Bright Alliance, isn’t killing a few people a trivial matter?

The judge, known as the Judge, struck the gavel with force that shocked the audience: “Are you aware of your crimes?”

— System Prompt: As a red name, you have the following judgments to choose from, and you may accept the following punishments:

...

Damn it, don’t give me such a headache when I’m busy! No choice, I’m in the middle of something, just pay the fine.

— System Prompt: Your fine amount is insufficient. Would you like to pay the remaining balance with treasure?

Argh! Da Fei almost couldn’t help but snort out in disbelief! It’s just that he killed 60 people! He’s a hero! You can’t treat him like this!

Da Fei let out a long sigh, acknowledging that the system rules supreme, and that there’s no reasoning with NPCs, especially those in charge of player management. So-called treasure payment was nothing

more than telescopes. Despite having killed 60 people in yesterday's national war and a dozen foreigners, which yielded a dozen telescopes, he wasn't lacking in treasures, particularly not telescopes.

— System Prompt: You paid the fine equivalent to 26,000 Gold Coins and have been bailed! Your status changed to yellow name.

The judge said with satisfaction: "Please cherish this hard-earned bail opportunity..."

The scene changed, and Da Fei, now with a stony expression, returned to the square, completely broke. Life really has its ups and downs. Just moments ago, he was preparing to hit the trading big time, and now the initial capital was fined away, not even enough to cover it! No matter, he still had the reward from the Epic Quest; he wouldn't be left destitute.

At that moment, a group of players on the square were whispering among themselves.

"He's out, he's out! Turned yellow name too!"

"How much of a fine does one have to pay for killing a few dozen level 30 people?"

"Hey, I heard his ship is gone too."

Crap! Who said my ship is gone? Was it said by that hermaphrodite Goddess? Damn it, I never indulge in the pleasure of my friends' pain! I'll infuriate you all with my splendid spirit!

Da Fei's spirits uplifted, he marched with his head held high, escorting two beautiful Vice Heroines straight to the NPC guards beneath the World Tree: "I want to see the Chief of Staff!"

The guard replied joyfully and respectfully: "Welcome back, hero of the Alliance, please come in!"

Da Fei silently sighed in his heart, NPCs really are different. The scene changed, and Da Fei found himself in a noisy hall.

A voice cried out loudly: "Welcome back, our triumphant hero!"

The hall erupted in thunderous applause.

A portly Great Druid approached with a smile: "Warrior! Thank you for your hard work, on behalf of the Elf Kingdom, I express our gratitude!"

Da Fei laughed: "It was my duty, my duty!"

The Great Elder smiled and said: "This is your reward, warrior!"

A golden flash, and the heavenly sound Da Fei was eagerly anticipating rang out!

—System Prompt: You have completed the Epic Quest "Attack Abyss Blood Pool," rewarded 5 million Experience, 10 Skill Points, and your reputation in the Elf Kingdom has become respected!

—System Prompt: You have completed the quest "Purify Nasir Ancient Tree Space," rewarded 1 million Experience, 1 Skill Point, and gained 1 Knowledge.

The Great Elder led the applause once again, and the hall's clapping went on for quite a while.

Da Fei was stunned for a moment. That's it? This is the reward for an Epic Quest? Just 10 Skill Points and that's all? Although 10 Skill Points is equivalent to a player leveling up 10 times, which could develop two Master-level skills and is not a scanty amount, this was definitely not the outcome Da Fei had anticipated. At the very least, where's the Gold Coins? An epic quest without a monetary reward? Are you joking? It's an Epic Quest! A task that could rewrite history!

Da Fei couldn't help but ask, "My lord, this is my reward? What about the money? There's no monetary reward?"

The Great Elder smiled with squinted eyes, "Warrior, the money has already been rewarded to you in advance! Think about it, the repairs and refurbishments of your ship, the many Crossbow Cannons as

well as spare parts on your ship, the numerous cost-free Forest Goddesses, the position of a Lord given to you, the Level 1 Teleportation Array applied for by the advisors, and the army of Tree Spirits sent by the collective spellcasting of the Kingdom Mages – all of these are funded by the Kingdom's budget, and it has all been spent on you! This reward is worth more than a million Gold Coins, it's an astronomical figure!"

Da Fei's jaw dropped! What? There's such reasoning? Something felt off.

The Great Elder continued with a laugh: "Moreover, this is an exception that the Kingdom made just for you, warrior. Normally, without completing the quest, a warrior wouldn't be able to receive any reward."

Damn! That's where it was wrong!

Da Fei quickly said, "This is clearly an investment that the Kingdom needs to make for the war. How can it be mixed with my reward?"

The Elder's expression darkened slightly: "According to the orders of the Alliance Army, the armed forces do not belong to an individual officer. After the war, the Kingdom has to reclaim the armies and resources, but we did not take back the troops allocated to the warrior, isn't that a reward?"

Da Fei was speechless. It sounded reasonable, didn't it? If they were really reclaimed and converted to money, I wouldn't agree! It seems the economic advisor was right, the Kingdom is short on funds, so they could only use their inventory to pay the rewards? Or is it you who misappropriated and embezzled the cash?

Fine, since you have so much in stock, do you have any big ships left? Dare you toss one to me, and I'll convert it back to Gold Coins for you?