

God level 261

Chapter 261: Leviathan's Egg

Da Fei could easily conclude that this hidden instance was a high-level dungeon. Normally, players wouldn't be able to come here without being at level fifty or sixty. Winning was out of the question, so the only thing to do was to take a sightseeing video to get familiar with the place and pave the way for future strategies. Of course, that's if he even had the leisure to come back later.

Besides, Da Fei's God-level Reconnaissance Technique also provided a good reason for tourism.

Now, Da Fei put on a thick, smooth, greasy Sea Beast Skin diving suit, with a glass tank on his head and an air tank on his back. Let's face it, this was a sci-fi element in a fantasy game setting.

Once ready, Da Fei followed the diver down the rope into the sea. Then he saw a huge skeleton buried deep in the sea floor, and a dozen divers busily using ropes to tie the ribs and spine of the skeleton.

Holy crap! Judging by this scene, the General had quite the appetite, was he planning to drag the whole skeleton back?

No sooner had he dived down when Da Fei's health began dropping rapidly at -1, -1! Then it started to drop -2, -2! Damn, hurry up! Brother only has less than three hundred health, pretty badass among players of the same level but how long can he last here? This is definitely a high-level instance; players with low levels and anemic health wouldn't survive underwater! Not only that, but regular troops probably couldn't be brought down here either!

Unable to wait for the diver to lead the way, Da Fei, in a flurry, dove straight down. He saw it: that gleaming giant dragon head, shimmering like a house, was the symbol of the dungeon space gate.

—System Prompt: Do you want to use the Leviathan Nest key to enter the hidden instance space?

Get in quickly!

The scene changed; Da Fei appeared in a massive, glittering crystal cave, with a sparkling lake at the center. Multicolored magic light specks wove into ribbons of demon light fluttering up and down in this crystal cavern—it truly was Leviathan's Nest, high-end and elegant!

Just then, a large patrol of Fishmen appeared on the lakeshore; without further ado, Da Fei immediately went into stealth.

That's right, Fishmen! Just one character different from Merfolk, but what a world of difference in status. Merfolk were a high-end race of the Sea Realm, beautiful and noble. In contrast, Fishmen were frog-like creatures about half the size of humans, with intelligence that was fierce yet cowardly, cunning yet loyal, favored as a slave race in the Sea Realm. It's said they were the level 0 troops of the Sea Realm, also widely found in the southern swamps of the Beastman Kingdom.

But being level 0 troops didn't mean they were as weak as peasants; on the contrary, the power of Sea Realm troops "in water" couldn't be measured by the standards of ground troops. For instance, sharks, one of the most common fish species in the ocean, had combat power equivalent to level 6 ground troops, yet didn't even rank as level 1 troops in the Sea Realm, counting merely as Summoned Beasts!

If you had to say what Fishmen and peasants, as level 0 troops, shared in common, it would be their numbers. In short, the surface world and the Sea Realm were different planes altogether and couldn't be compared.

Similarly, the cunning of Fishmen lay in generally not fighting you on land. At the first whiff of trouble, they'd jump into the water, chirping and taunting as if saying, "Come on down if you dare!"

And now, not only were there Fishmen patrolling on shore, but there were also Fishmen swimming in the lake, their speed in water indeed as fast as frogs. And these Fishmen were the size of humans, clearly Elites, suggesting that the instance challenged players to water battles with an indeterminate number of Elite Fishmen.

The scene was straightforward and glaring; this sightseeing ticket was a huge rip-off! As a master player, Da Fei couldn't allow such a thing!

Da Fei took off the air tank from his back, equipped the long-missed C-level strategic treasure "Cliff Walker," and transformed into Spiderman once again!

That's right, this thing might not have much use for an army, but for an individual player, it was definitely a Divine Artifact! Back in the day, Da Fei relied on it to sneak behind enemy lines of the Demon Race and accomplish feats otherwise impossible under normal circumstances. Your land forces and navy could block me, but I'd come from above!

—Swish! With a light sound, a line of spider silk shot upward and stuck to the top of the cave, then recoiled with a swish, pulling a shadow up to cling to the ceiling.

So, Da Fei traveled across the cave ceiling, flying like an aerial acrobat, moving over the wire above the lake. Da Fei looked down and gasped; not only were there Fishmen, but there were three Sea Monsters too! Could they be the legendary Multi-headed Snake? How were players supposed to fight this? Anyway, take photos, shoot the video.

Da Fei arrived above the center of the lake and saw a golden egg in the water! The egg was named "Leviathan's Egg"!

—Leviathan's Egg: Unit, can hatch into an eighth-level creature, Leviathan. Special quest item, guaranteed to drop upon death.

Da Fei's eyelids twitched wildly! Although he always vaguely guessed there might be an egg in this instance, he hadn't expected there actually to be one, and not only was there one, but players could take it! "Unit" and "quest item" were the eight words that confirmed it!

Holy crap, this nest instance was truly designed to give players High-level Soldiers! If Brother had a Leviathan, he'd have one more layer of underwater security for seafaring! Sea Monster dared to come at Brother on the water's surface cannons, underwater Leviathan, and if things went south, he'd release Black Water, Brother would be unstoppable!

The problem is, the problem is, damn it! Da Fei couldn't keep his cool. Why did I have to see this? Why did Brother come sightseeing! Knowing now what I did back then, blissful ignorance would have been the way to go. Nothing was more painful in gaming than seeing a Divine Artifact or a Divine Pet you couldn't actually take!

Wait! Could I just air-drop down and grab the egg in a flash? The problem is, if I die, I'm bound to drop it! Could I bounce back up before the guards react?

Heck! I'm already here, so even if it means dying, I've got to give it a shot!

Da Fei took a deep breath and began to carefully calculate the cooldown interval for using the Cliff Walker. The Cliff Walker needs a short recharge after shooting the web before it can retract, so Da Fei had to start spraying mid-air, then grab the egg in the water and retract the line to fly up!

Ready! One, two, three! Jump!

A shadow plummeted straight down from the top of the cave! As it fell midway, a web shot out with a swoosh!

—Splash! The sound of water broke the silence of the instance as Da Fei fell into the lake!

—System Prompt: Your Stealth State has disappeared!

—System Prompt: Reconnaissance Skill warning! You have entered the warning range of a powerful enemy!

And just at this moment, all the fishmen on the shore and in the lake turned their heads towards the splash in unison!

Damn! Taking advantage of the accelerated descent, Da Fei desperately swam forward. It's all or nothing!

Da Fei felt several giant shadows swimming towards him, and he gritted his teeth, disregarding everything! Closer! The golden egg was right in front of him! And just then, Da Fei noticed something strange underwater!

There's an array under the egg! Beams of Demon Light were charging the array from all sides? A glance from the corner of Da Fei's eye confirmed the fishmen waving bone wands at the lake's bottom around the egg, powering an array that fed Demon Light into the center.

Damn! Could it be an array sealing the egg so it can't be taken? Does that mean players have to destroy those arrays too? I knew high-level instances wouldn't be this simple! Damn!

And just then, the golden egg was within reach!

—System Prompt: You have obtained the Leviathan's Egg!

Da Fei was internally shocked! He got it! He could still take it! And just then, a large shadow loomed over Da Fei!

—Retract!!!

With a bang, Da Fei shot up like a rocket, and at that moment, he felt water pressure urges coming towards him! Da Fei closed his eyes! It's make or break now!

—System Prompt: You successfully dodged the attack of the Elite Three-headed Snake Guardian!

Oh yeah!

—Splash! Da Fei burst out of the water and soared into the sky!

Bro, I'm out! Hahaha! But it's not over yet!

At this moment, the shrill horn alarms of fishmen in the instance sounded, as countless fishmen swarmed out from who knows where, packing the lake surface and shores densely with thousands of them! Holy crap, so that means in normal circumstances players would have to fight all these fishmen to clear the instance! How many spellcasters would that take? Okay, I've got it now, let the future players worry about it.

Before my God-level Reconnaissance Technique, I can face a multitude without flinching!

Da Fei carefully climbed to the top of the cave, returned to the instance entrance, picked up his air tank again, and then stepped out of the instance without looking back! I succeeded? Did I just succeed like that?

It wasn't until the scene changed, and the cold seawater pressed around him that Da Fei confirmed, he really had succeeded! Just then, a ding sounded!

—System Prompt: You have obtained the Leviathan's Egg in an incomplete manner, receiving the task "Leviathan's Anger"!

—Task Hint: The Leviathan Mother can sense the calls of the hatching young, and the angry Leviathan will search for the young!

What? A screwing task! What does "incomplete manner" mean? Damn it! So it means I should have destroyed that array normally? Damn, I knew it wasn't this simple!

Of course, now's not the time to think too much, it's not over yet! While constantly losing health, Da Fei desperately swam to the surface of the water, and in an instant, the crowd cheered, "The warrior is out!"

Bato, Anlicia, Selvia, and a bunch of wives came up to comfort and heal him.

Bato laughed heartily: "Friend, you must have gained something, right?"

When in trouble, of course, you ask the NPC! Da Fei shivered, nodding, pulled a large half-human-sized golden egg from his bag, and said solemnly, "Leviathan's Egg! But I'm in trouble, it seems this egg can connect with the mother!" At this moment, Da Fei noticed the egg had turned into a red-name status!

The crowd gasped in shock.

Bato was shocked, "Friend, you have indeed gotten yourself into big trouble, but—" Bato pressed his ear to the egg and listened, then chuckled, "But this egg is too young, not showing any signs of life yet. In any case, friend, you have time, and you will definitely find a way to tame it."

Da Fei exclaimed, "Tame?" of course, must! This egg's a damned red name!

Bato frowned uncertainly, "It's said that when a duck or swan hatches, it recognizes the first creature it sees as its mother. Maybe it's like this, I believe your future is boundless and solving this egg issue is nothing for you."

Indeed! The reason I have time is probably that the game is progressing too far ahead, right? As the world's number one solo egg-snatcher, I can't handle one egg?

Da Fei's confidence skyrocketed: "That's right! There's nothing I can't handle!"

Bato laughed heartily: "Also, any high-level sea monster incubation pool requires ample nutrition, minerals, and magical power, which is why Leviathan chose a giant dragon carcass as the incubation pool. Ordinary seawater won't do, so you must find a good place, preferably in an inland lake where the Leviathan Mother is unlikely to locate it."

I see! Don't I have a good place? The Pool of Radiance! Full of resurrective Light Energy! And it's underground, how could the Leviathan Mother ever find it? Damn, it's destined for me to have a Divine Beast! I'm awesome!

Da Fei laughed heartily: "Thank you, General, for your guidance, I'll definitely properly place this egg."

Bato laughed, "I'm rooting for you, friend!"

And just then, a dwarf soldier reported, "General, the floating barrels are ready!"

Bato laughed heartily and waved his hand, "Release the barrels!"

—"Release the barrels!" With the shouts from the salvage ships, water splashes churned the entire sea's surface, instantly covering it with mud and sand!

—"Salvage successful!"

Bato exclaimed with excitement, "Hoist it up!"

As the mechanical arms of the salvage ships pulled, the massive bones of the giant dragon emerged from the sea surface, causing the entire fleet to roar in jubilation!

Bato laughed heartily, "Don't celebrate too soon, haul it back!"

Chapter 263: Return with Full Load

The massive dragon bone that emerged from the sea was tied up with floating barrels, and the Flame Lord, along with the salvaging ships, began the return journey, towing the enormous dragon bone.

The bow of the Flame Lord was completely smashed and had lost its icebreaking ability, so the medium-sized fleet took on the task of icebreaking and patrolling. Fortunately, they were retracing their original route, and it was the ice-melting season, so the pressure to break ice was minimal. The greatest pressure came from the sea monsters, which was Da Fei's biggest concern.

Watching the large unidentified creatures occasionally popping up during the journey, Bato said in a deep voice, "This season is the rare feeding season in the Arctic, and sea monsters will seize the time to feed and replenish energy. It's unlikely they would risk challenging the strong, so there's no need to worry too much. But even if they do come—"

Da Fei chuckled, "Of course, we'd drive them back!"

Bato chuckled as well, "Of course, we could also choose to abandon the dragon bone and come back next year to salvage it. It would definitely be easier to salvage next year."

Da Fei was slightly taken aback, then praised, "The General truly knows when to advance and when to retreat!"

Bato laughed heartily, "After all, I am responsible for the army!"

Indeed, this was a reliable dwarf. In many fantasy movies, dwarves are portrayed as brave but foolish, beer-loving, and greedy, entertaining the audience with their antics. However, a greedy race would have to be shrewd; how could they be foolish?

At this moment, Alicia laughed and said, "I am hoping for a sea monster to test my new magic!"

Da Fei was surprised, "Another new magic? So quickly?"

Alicia pointed to the whaling ship dragging the Leviathan behind and said proudly, "That's right, this time it's about transforming into the Leviathan. No need to imagine; there's a ready-made specimen model, making it much easier!" After speaking, Alicia took out a book of Arcane Magic Skills, "I just leveled up, and I want to learn the God-level Arcane sub-skill, Materialization. Captain, you don't mind, do you?"

Da Fei exclaimed with joy, "Great! You go ahead and learn it!"

Alicia snapped the textbook, a flash of golden light!

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Alicia spent one Skill Point to learn the God-level Arcane Magic sub-skill, Materialization.

—Materialization: The images replicated by the Illusion Army magic have a certain degree of substance, possessing damage capability and durability. The skill effect is related to the caster's Magic Power.

Da Fei's brow twitched! This was the God-level Arcane sub-skill, Materialization! It makes illusions no longer disappear with a single touch. Legends say if the Magic Power is high enough, the illusion will have exactly the same damage and blood defense as the original! This essentially doubles the army's

number! Of course, even if it doesn't fully replicate, as long as it doesn't disappear with a single touch, the tactical value of illusions increases qualitatively.

Alicia laughed, "Though Materialization is somewhat flashy, it does have great room for improvement. Anyway, my goal is to be able to summon a Leviathan illusion with decent attack and defense capabilities anytime. I even have a name ready for it, Summon Leviathan, a spell more suitable for naval battles than Summon Phoenix!"

Da Fei nodded excitedly, "No problem! Keep it up, good work!" Brother's favorite is a hero who develops themselves! Catherine Serbia, you've got to work hard too! Wahahaha!

Alicia then said to Bato with a smile, "General, I have a bold request. Could we make this Leviathan into a specimen? After all, it's not easy to come across one."

Bato laughed heartily, "Of course! This is the heroic achievement of our Fire Dragon Island, and we will preserve and freeze it as a specimen, make it into a statue, and let everyone who comes to Fire Dragon Island know our accomplishments!"

For a moment, everyone laughed heartily together.

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The fleet sailed toward the sun on the southern horizon. Perhaps it was really as the General said; the sea monsters were all busy searching for food. Maybe the sea monsters wouldn't challenge such a large fleet, but in any case, there were no sea monsters actively seeking trouble along the way. It saved quite a bit of effort.

The fleet made it safely out of the Arctic Circle. The feeling of the extreme cold's negative status disappearing was truly wonderful.

One day later, the volcanic smoke of Fire Dragon Island appeared before them. The fleet erupted in cheers of victory once more!

Bato excitedly shook Da Fei's hand again, "Friend! Thank you so much! We couldn't have completed this great mission without your help! To date, no kingdom has obtained such a massive dragon skeleton! Our Fire Dragon Island lacks resources and has limited Gold Coins to truly express our gratitude, so we're offering our precious stored minerals and friendship as thanks, hoping you will graciously accept!"

—System Prompt: You completed the task "Salvage Ice Ocean Dragon Bone," gaining Experience +3,000,000, 2,000 units of Fire Dragon Island mineral specialty trade volume, your reputation in the Dwarf Kingdom increases by 10,000, and your reputation on Fire Dragon Island becomes respected.

Da Fei's eyebrows jumped, 2,000 units of specialty goods! Just then, a flash of golden light appeared overhead, as the long-awaited level-up finally arrived!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have reached Level 34!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Heroine, Katelina, has reached Level 33!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Hero Serbia has reached Level 33!

Paying off debts with minerals, that's what a brother likes the most! Brother was worried about coming with a full cargo and returning with a light one, suffering a big loss! Da Fei laughed heartily, "Thank you for your generosity, General!"

Bato said with a smile, "Also, when we bring the dragon bone back, we will replace your ship's mast with the Dragon Bone Mast at the first opportunity. It may take three or four days, so please be patient!"

Chapter 264: Return with Full Load_2

Three or four days! Isn't this just a perfect vacation for me to sleep? I love it! Wahahaha!

The dwarves of the entire town were already eagerly waiting at the dock, and when the fleet docked with the dragon bone, the crowd erupted into thunderous cheers, and the town's bells rang once more.

When Da Fei and Bato came ashore, an officer immediately approached to report, "General, the underground area of the mine has been cleared, and we're ready to start beekeeping."

Bato praised, "Great!" then turned to Anlicia with a smile and said, "Miss, our beekeeping site is ready!"

Anlicia chuckled, "Let's get this straight, the Queen Bee is still mine, and we'll each get half the stake in the bee yard!"

Bato hurriedly laughed, "No problem! Absolutely no problem! Miss, take a rest, and then go take a look."

Anlicia laughed, "No need, General, you're busy, and time is tight, I'll go right now!"

Bato was joyous, "Deputy Officer, accompany Miss to inspect the site!"

"Yes! General, Miss, this way, please!"

Anlicia chuckled at Da Fei and said, "Captain, I'm off to work, you take a rest too!"

Da Fei nodded blankly. Why was there no system prompt for the business deal? Could it be that this bee yard was unrelated to me and was her private asset? Damn! Stuff belonging to my wife isn't my stuff either? This is seriously a headache!

Bato laughed again, "Friend, time is tight, and we must immediately dismantle the bone dragon to remodel the ship. If you have any requests, go to the shipyard."

Da Fei chuckled, "Alright, General, you take your time."

Da Fei went to the tavern first to find Buckley and collected the 2000-unit stock reward. Buckley indicated that as soon as the ship was repaired, they would load the goods immediately.

Da Fei let out a long sigh of relief. Finally, it was done. Apart from the deliberately avoided bothersome tasks, this trip of mine was perfect to the extreme. I arrived loaded with 3000 units, and I'm returning

with 2500 units fully loaded. Who knows how much money I can make? Of course, I can't be careless, there's the challenge of the return journey awaiting me, and I must arm the Radiant Wings to the teeth!

So, Da Fei went to the shipyard and handed over the Six-headed Sea Demon Statue, the Narwhal Horn, the Leviathan Armor, and the Octopus Ship Figurehead to the shipyard owner. The first three were equipped on the Radiant Wings, and the Octopus Figurehead was equipped on the whaling ship. Now the whaling ship is with me, of course, it can enjoy the benefits of my association, wahahaha! I am wise and mighty!

After finishing everything, Da Fei had no regrets, arranged for everyone to rest in the tavern, and then logged off peacefully.

Since entering the game, Da Fei had never slept so soundly and so peacefully. This time he slept until the morning and woke up naturally. After waking up, Da Fei felt an unprecedented boost of energy! The sky was so blue, the air outside the window was so fresh, and the noise on the street was so delightful! I'm not old yet! There's still a star sea worth billions waiting for me, wahahaha!

When Da Fei returned to the game after eating, drinking, and washing, Buckley called out enthusiastically to Da Fei, "Warrior, you're awake, your ship has been repaired, and all the goods have been loaded, please sign!"

—System Prompt: You have received a shopping list for 2420 units of Purple Crystal Ore from Fire Dragon Island.

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Good, I'll be back again next year!"

Buckley laughed, "Looking forward to it eagerly!"

Now, Da Fei, along with his family, arrived at the dock. The Radiant Wings was now dazzling with silver and black, and the Six-headed Sea Demon Statue at the bow was imposing. The slender and sharp golden Narwhal Horn at the bottom of the bow emitted a chilling glare, which made the newly replaced two thick white dragon bone masts look insignificant in comparison.

Bato came out personally to see him off, "Friend, the Dragon Bone Mast has been replaced. We don't have a high-level mage on our island, so we could only inscribe the simplest Charging Rune Spell on the dragon bone, which can temporarily increase the ship's speed. I've also taught Miss Anlicia how to use it. If you want to further upgrade, you need to find a high-level Grand Mage. Remember, this is a bone dragon, you must invite a high-level mage to work on it; don't let junior mages mess around and waste resources."

Da Fei quickly bowed and said, "Thank you, General, for your kindness. Next year, I'll definitely give you a big surprise, and surely fight alongside you to relieve your troubles." Even though he's an NPC, he's so righteous. I better express myself clearly, it's not that I don't want to help, but I'm currently too weak to handle the bothersome tasks.

Bato raised an eyebrow, then laughed heartily, "Great, looking forward to your arrival next year, let's send off our friend!"

Amidst the bells resonating throughout the town, the dwarves gathered at the dock once more to bid farewell to Da Fei's fleet.

At this moment, in the North Sea, with the icebergs melting, the fleet set full sail and returned at full speed.

Thus, Da Fei reached level 34, with attributes as follows:

Talent Specialty: Undetermined.

Profession: Long Spear Soldier, Advanced Navigator, Basic-level Ranger, Training Newcomers

Strategic Attack: 54 (18 points added, Captain's Sword at sea +2, Basic-level Ranger +34)

Strategic Defense: 29 (17 points added, Captain's Sword at sea +2, Spider Demon Armor adds 10 defense points)

Personal Attack: 54 (Attack equals Strategic Attack)

Personal Defense: 59 (Pirate Shop's full personal equipment adds 30 defense points)

Magic Power: 0 Knowledge: 1 (Wisdom Ancient Tree task reward)

Basic Killing: 14-16 (1-3 at birth, Anemone Enchantment +1, Lonely Hero Achievement +1, Lonely Hero 10 Consecutive Victories +1, Lonely Hero Hundred Victories' damage +1, killing reward every 5 levels, 30-level +6, Captain's Sword at sea +2, Captain's Sword +2's damage affects the entire army, God Slayer +1 troop damage)

Life: 299 (10 at birth, +2 per level, Lonely Hero Achievement +10, Lonely Hero 10 Consecutive Victories +15, Lonely Hero Hundred Victories +20, entire army life +2, Spider Demon Armor +3, Unlimited Vitality +2, 6 glorious victories with +20 each, totaling 120 "God Slayer", personal life +50 troop life +1)

Attack Speed: Fast 13 (Captain's Sword at sea +2, A-grade Treasure Speed Cloak +10%, Speed Cloak only affects basic attributes.)

Move Speed: 11 (A-grade Treasure Speed Cloak +10%)

Morale: 4 (Hero innate +1, Lonely Hero Hundred Victories +1, Basic Leadership Skill +1, "God Slayer" +1)

Luck: 6 (Sect-level Luck Skill +6)

Command Power: 737 (Level up +32, Lonely Hero Hundred Victories +10, 95 from the first 12 battle achievements, 120 from the first 6 glorious battle achievements, "God Slayer" +50 Total Value 307, Basic Leadership Skill bonus 10%, totaling 337. Lieutenant +300, Treasure Whip of the Supervisor +100, Military Rank Command Power fixed and not affected by Leadership Skill and Treasure bonus.)

Troop Life Bonus 8, Damage 1

Stamina: 100

Learned Skills: God-level Reconnaissance Technique (Sub-skills Situation Collection, Stealth, Intelligence Analysis, Phantom March);

Master-level War Machine Science (Sub-skill Crossbow Master, Triple Crossbow, Mechanical Reinforcement);

Master-level Special Soldier Training Skill (Sub-skill Banshee Artillery Instructor);

Master-level Navigation Skill (Sub-skill Towing)

Master-level Luck Skill (Sub-skill Lucky Hand);

Advanced Navigator (Professional Skill to Sub-skill Storm Navigation, Sub-skill Wave Resistance);

Advanced Defense Skill (Sub-skill Unlimited Vitality);

Master Level Archery; Basic Leadership Skill; Basic Attack Skill; Basic Logistics Skill.

Remaining free attribute points 9, remaining skill points 1.

Chapter 265: The Rising Star of South Korean Esports

Seoul University Road, South Korea, isolated from the bustling downtown in Cultural and Art Street. Inside Emoon Tea House is the training base for the world's obscure South Korean professional esports team, "Tatazu Freedom Wings."

The term "obscure" doesn't mean the team lacks skills; rather, the level of professional esports in South Korea is so high that any professional player without needing notable achievements qualifies to play in the main teams of any country. Hence, South Korean esports is a golden signboard, and there's no need to remember the multitudinous team names like counting cattle hair.

This obscure tea house of team Tatazu holds a very unique position among South Korean professional teams—it's a school not particularly focused on training professional players!

At this moment, in the elegantly antique tea room, the coaches Cui Yonghao, Jin Xiyong, and Park Dong-hoon are sipping tea while intently watching a live video on the television wall, featuring the number one player from the European Union Zone, Big V, battling a UK professional player over the Valen Strait.

Although these three are coaches, they are indeed only 25 or 26 years old. They were once the brilliant stars of the South Korean esports scene, the absolute kings in the esports domain. Of course, their level is still the same now, but they have stepped back from the front lines as coaches.

In South Korea, esports is both a national sport and a heavily supported project by the country; professional gamers are selected and trained as meticulously as professional soccer players. Being good at games means high income and celebrity status, idolized by boys and girls alike. This is in stark contrast to China, where playing games well is seen as needing treatment.

Due to the high treatment of professional players in South Korea, the competition is especially fierce, and the entry threshold is extremely high, almost as stringent as the qualifications for Go institutes. And in a Go institute, aren't all who can enter considered prodigious geniuses with astonishing analytical power?

Indeed, the selection of esports players in South Korea is almost conducted in the model of Go institutes, which explains the astonishing calculation abilities of South Korean players. For example, in strategic combat games, a South Korean player needs only one glance at your base to calculate how many troops you can maximize in several minutes!

In summary, South Korean players start their careers from ages 15 to 18, reach their peak from 20 to 22, and after 22, they start to decline and prepare to retire. Those who can still maintain their level and have a wide social network usually become coaches after the age of 24.

Meanwhile, these three coaches are watching Big V's video with great interest, occasionally bursting into cheers. In the South Korean esports world, their level can only be described as "extra-domain entities," known as "the Three Extremes." Looking at the global esports scene, there is none among the active players they find impressive, except they hold a special respect for Big V, not for his skills, but for his ever-vibrant heart like an evergreen tree.

Indeed, for top masters, the declining of a hero is a very sad thing. They hope to learn the secret of everlasting vitality from Big V. Of course, they also know some things can never truly be learned; rather

than learning, it is more about enjoying with a leisurely appreciative mindset, as watching Big V compete feels entirely different from watching those whipper-snappers play games.

Finally, in the video on the television wall, Big V once again cleverly and naturally used an NPC to win the battle, and the Dark Alliance players cheered.

Cui Yonghao clapped and laughed, "Truly naturally stable as a rock, I really want to have a match with him."

Cui Yonghao, gaming ID Stone Buddha. This was his nickname when he was a front-line professional player, implying his psychological quality and facial expressions were as stable as a stone Buddha. Back then, he was a player who seldom joked. After becoming a coach, he always laughed and often described himself as Maitreya.

Jin Xiyong chuckled, "He hasn't aged, but we are indeed getting old."

Jin Xiyong, gaming ID Director Jin, a nickname he acquired as a coach. Director Jin is also a famous comedic image in Korean film and television. Jin Xiyong's forte is using all kinds of unimaginable comedic methods to win, making his trainees cry and laugh, his level of skill absolute, his tactics bizarre to the point of being indescribable.

Park Dong-hoon shook his head, "No, he's now also a semi-amateur player like us; we might encounter him in the National War battlefield."

Park Dong-hoon, gaming ID Dragon Liver. This was also his nickname, implying his courage was astonishing, daring to employ many seemingly unimaginable risky troop movements. If no one knew it was him competing, anyone would think it was a novice messing around. In reality, the only difference between him and a novice is that all his actions are precisely calculated with his computer-like brain.

When National War was mentioned, Cui Yonghao frowned, "Although our country is fearless in competitions, National War tests the overall strength of the country, especially against China and Japan; we absolutely must not lose to them."

Jin Xiyong casually smiled, "Although Chinese players' levels are amateurish, in the recent National War, they demonstrated astonishing large-scale player organizational ability, which is worthy of attention."

Park Dong-hoon laughed loudly, "Since our National Team chose the Elf Clan for our main attack, we are already prepared to fight outnumbered. Let them worry about that. However, I feel that the Japanese have been very active recently and are making significant moves."

Jin Xiyong smiled, "If the Japanese aim to eliminate NPCs from the Light Camp, then I indeed must express my admiration for their long-term strategy."

Cui Yonghao shook his head, "The Japanese and Americans collaborate the closest, it's not out of question that the Japanese might obtain strategies through internal channels."

Just then, the door to the tea room was knocked on urgently, and excited shouts of "Teacher, Teacher" came from outside.

Jin Xiyong sighed, "These kids have no manners at all. Come in!"

Clang! The door immediately opened, and in came three teenagers aged 14 and 15: "Teacher, we are very polite! We did knock."

Hong Xiuying, Zhao Shizhe, and Li Yinzhu, the proud disciples of the three coaches, are prodigies with IQs over 160 and the rising stars of South Korean esports. Especially the female disciple Li Yinzhu, with her sweet appearance, she is a hot favorite to become the next esports queen of South Korea. However, since the three debuted so brilliantly, it was not conducive to the growth of young players' mentality, so the three coaches deliberately kept them under wraps for intensive training.

Cui Yonghao sternly asked, "Xiuying, what's up?"

A young boy excitedly said, "Teacher, there's news from the American Hero Headquarters. They're organizing the first global Heroes Free PK competition in a week. We can register and participate in the game now!"

The three coaches were taken aback.

Cui Yonghao exclaimed, "A competition in just a week? No prior notice? That's really rushed."

Park Dong-hoon sighed, "It must be a spur-of-the-moment decision to promote the upcoming launch of servers in the Southeast Asia Region and South America in 20 days, using the prize money to attract more players."

Jin Xiyong sighed, "Yeah, the commercial operations of this game are really heavy," then chuckled, "But, I like it!"

Park Dong-hoon asked a young boy, "Shizhe, what are the rules of the competition?"

The young boy excitedly said, "It's an unrestricted free match, of course! There are no rules; if a level 20 meets a level 30, it's just their bad luck!"

Another young boy laughed, "It's more fun if a level 20 takes down a level 30!"

The three coaches nodded in agreement,

Jin Xiyong waved his hand, "Got it, you guys go intensify your leveling and training."

The young girl smiled, "Teacher, aren't you going to have some expectations for us?"

Jin Xiyong cleared his throat, "Expectations? I hope when you guys get beaten by international pros, you don't cry and get your helmets all snotty."

The three young men and women laughed loudly, "Even if our teacher accidentally loses to us, we don't even think about losing to any international pros. We'll bring home the first place to show you! Hahaha!" With proud laughter, they bounced out the door.

Jin Xiyong smiled bitterly, shook his head, and stood up to close the door they had forgotten to shut, "Really can't do anything with them!"

Cui Yonghao sighed, "I actually hope they lose a match! Sometimes, you can learn more from defeat than victory."

Park Dong-hoon sighed, "When we first started, we had big Vs holding us back, which was beneficial for rookie growth. But for them, losing to seniors would just be seen as expected and would not elevate their mindset. I urgently hope they lose to their peers."

Cui Yonghao sighed, "It's just a pity there's no one among their peers who can beat them."

Jin Xiyong bitterly laughed, "Then let them lose to amateur players!"

The other two smiled wryly, "Amateur players? How could that be—"

Suddenly, all three were shocked!

Cui Yonghao's face twitched, "Maybe there really is an exceptionally strong amateur player?"

Jin Xiyong's eyelids twitched, "With no rules like in a free PK match, I'm not sure I'd win against him either."

Park Dong-hoon said gravely, "We have too little information about him; even among the Chinese, few know the details about him."

Cui Yonghao laughed, "I'm entering the competition too!"

The other two laughed, "We'll go together!"