

God level 266

Chapter 266: Suppressing the Desolate Barbarian Pirates' Civil Strife

Desolate Barbarian Pirate Islands, under the successful instigation by Blood Sea Wave, the former Pirate Leader Rock and the second-in-command Barak finally broke face and started a massive battle. At the beginning of the war, Barak took a considerable number of pirates out to sea to hunt, thus holding an advantage in manpower. Rock, on the other hand, held a personal advantage in combat prowess. Both sides were evenly matched, suffering losses daily.

Everything was within the calculations of Blood Sea Wave, who watched with delight, wishing that the two of them would kill each other off and then he could profit from their feud and dominate as the king.

However, this war dragged on for a month in game time, making Blood Sea Wave anxious! Blood Sea Wave finally realized the problem—it was his own lack of strength! As a player who triggered an epic quest, he lacked the power to influence the battle! Because he was too weak, he couldn't intervene or push the plot forward!

This was fundamentally different from Da Fei. Da Fei had giant ships and cannons, not only creating opportunities but also having the power to seize them. Therefore, Da Fei could be ahead, and be awesome. Although Blood Sea Wave could also create opportunities, taking the lead meant turning into a fool!

Thus, Blood Sea Wave could only watch helplessly and felt an immense hatred towards Da Fei who had taken his large ships. If he had his own large ships, how could this situation have occurred?

Later on, the situation developed beyond Blood Sea Wave's expectation as other pirate powers intervened! Indeed, in the taverns strewn across Pirate Island, some pirates were actually spies placed by other pirate forces.

When internal strife occurs within a pirate power, if the leader can suppress it quickly, or the rebels can promptly replace him, there would be no problem, but a prolonged battle is troublesome. This could attract other pirate forces and even draw the attention of the Kingdom Navy. Before the Kingdom Navy could act, the united pirate powers must stabilize the situation. In any case, regardless of who takes control of Desolate Islands, they must prevent the Kingdom Navy from occupying it.

So Blood Sea Wave finally had something to do, which was to travel around convincing and uniting the Innocent Pirates, Blood Sail Pirates, Blood Raider Pirates, and Black Water Pirates. Although these people came with ill intentions and helping them meant sharing profits in return, there was no turning back at this point; getting rid of Rock was all that mattered.

Finally, the last battle began. With the help of external forces, Barak defeated Rock's fleet. Desperate and at his wit's end, Rock, aboard his damaged Tiger Shark pirate ship, fled eastward towards the vast ocean.

—System Prompt: Internal strife of Desolate Barbarian Pirates has ended, Barak has become the new leader of Desolate Barbarian Pirates. You have completed the Epic Quest "Internal Strife of Desolate Barbarian Pirates," receiving rewards: Experience +5 million, Free Skill Points +5, your reputation among the Desolate Barbarian Pirates has become 'Respected,' your reputation among the Innocent Pirates, Blood Sail Pirates, Blood Raider Pirates, and Black Water Pirates +10,000.

Watching the vanishing Tiger Shark battleship in the sea horizon, and facing the tragic so-called epic quest rewards, Blood Sea Wave's heart was bleeding! Large battleships! The large battleships have run away! Didn't I instigate rebellion just to target his large ships!

Exhausted and bandaged, Barak sighed deeply, relieved, patted Blood Sea Wave's shoulder, and said wearily, "We've won, I'm tired, you are very capable, be my second-in-command. This position is not easy to handle, you need to work hard!"

—System Prompt: Desolate Barbarian Pirate Leader has appointed you as the second-in-command of Desolate Barbarian Pirates! Your current authority is trading, which allows you to oversee the trade between Desolate Barbarian Pirates and other pirate forces and also open smuggling channels with the Kingdom.

Trading! Damn your trading! I don't need money! I want to command your pirate fleet!

Blood Sea Wave couldn't help but freak out, "Leader, we can't let Rock escape! We can't let the tiger return to the mountain!"

Barak gave a bitter smile, "Letting the tiger return to the mountain? Don't joke, he's already out of options, there's nowhere in the Seven Seas he can seek refuge, this is the fate of a loser, not to mention the severe injuries he's suffered!"

"I want his big ship, the big ship!" Blood Sea Wave said anxiously, "He must have somewhere to hide, right?"

Barak shook his head: "The East! That's the only place he can go."

Blood Sea Wave asked in surprise, "The East? That Thousand Island Country with lots of Naga?"

Barak nodded solemnly, "Yes, that's the only place refugees can go, but only the strong can find a place to breathe there. However, he's been so severely injured that he's virtually useless now, not even worthy to carry the Naga's shoes."

Blood Sea Wave responded in astonishment, "Nagas have snake tails; they don't wear shoes."

Barak burst into laughter, "Don't you think my comment was funny?"

Humorous my ass, you jerk! Blood Sea Wave's face turned as dark as a lump of charcoal. Anyway, once I become strong, I'll replace you! I just curse my own weakness for not seizing this opportunity to strike him down while he's weak!

Just then, several small boats approached, and a few pirates leaped from the small boats directly onto the deck of Barak's big ship: "Barak, you seem in a good mood."

They were representatives sent by the Innocent Pirates, Blood Raider Pirates, Blood Sail Pirates, and Black Water Pirates. The skillful jumping from the boats just now had Blood Sea Wave's eyes popping out! It was so impressive! Even having a big ship doesn't guarantee safety against them! Any one of them, if they leaped aboard, could surely slaughter an entire ship of players clean! It appears I still underestimated the NPCs' strength, the rebellion plan must be carefully considered and not rushed!

Barak's face darkened: "It's not that I want to rebel, but if Rock didn't suspect me, I'd still be his loyal brother."

Everyone laughed heartily and said, "Let bygones be bygones, just remember how you became a leader. Hand over your share regularly every month. If you're unwilling, then prepare to face our combined assault!" Amidst roaring laughter, they all jumped back onto their small boats and returned to their ships.

Blood Sea Wave was so angry he clenched his teeth in frustration.

Barak patted Blood Sea Wave on the shoulder and sighed deeply, "Just do your best."

Screw you!

Regardless, the situation with the Desolate Barbarian Pirates finally concluded. Although the outcome was unsatisfactory and frustrating for Blood Sea Wave, it was still far better than what an ordinary player could achieve. After all, transforming from a menial errand player to a second-in-command managing trade for a powerful faction is no small feat, not to mention the wildly valuable specialty of the Desolate Islands, Blood Pearls, could bring in huge profits.

In any case, the next step is to properly manage and develop, enhance my reputation among pirates, and lay the foundation for my rebellion. With the Epic Quest reward, opening a medium-sized pirate warship isn't a problem. If used well, a medium warship can do a lot of great things.

Chapter 267: Opening of the World Battle Network

—World Announcement, to thank the players for their immense support of Heroic Creation Era, the global launch of the "World Battle Network" system is now open. Players can connect to the Battle Network Server to compete with players from all regions and showcase their talents. For detailed information about the Battle Network system, please visit the official website.

—World Announcement, to celebrate the launch of the World Battle Network system, the Heroic Creation Era Joint Headquarters is hosting the first "Hero World Cup" Battle Network Open Tournament. Any player above level 20 can freely register to participate. The world champion prize is \$1 million! The second place gets \$500,000, the third \$250,000, fourth to tenth places \$100,000 each, eleventh to hundredth \$10,000 each, and one hundred first to one thousandth place \$1,000 each!

——China Region Announcement, the "Hero World Cup" China region individual qualifiers have begun. Players who win 10 consecutive matches will qualify for the preliminary. Players can now connect to the Battle Network Server to register! Registration ends at midnight on February 29.

——System Prompt, dear player! Your "World Battle Network" system function is activated, you can now connect to the World Battle Network Server to register for the competition.

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The sudden world announcement awakened Da Fei, who was drowsily sailing back home smoothly. World Battle Network! It finally opened! This is the god-level battle platform not even open during the public test!

The so-called World Battle Network is a battle server opened by the Heroic Creation Era headquarters, a server independent of any regional server. Once a player registers for the competition, their account data will be temporarily copied into this battle server. In the words of demons, this is called Plane Projection.

In the Battle Network Server, even if a player's army is wiped out, or they gain massive experience from killing others, or blow up the opponent's Divine Artifact, or engage in international trade, it's all a fantasy, leaving no impact on the characters in their own region.

Of course, the copied account has its quirks. All the units and equipment copied will have unique codes, meaning if a player registers with a Leviathan and a Divine Artifact Wand, they can't trade them to a friend to also participate with a Leviathan.

In short, the Battle Network Server is purely a battle platform. Players only need to pay a certain amount of Gold Coins, and they can PK with players from any region anywhere, anytime. During the public test, the only way to meet players from other regions was to go to the New World. Of course, PK in the New World was real, with troops dying, levels dropping, and equipment exploding.

The launch of the World Battle Network allows players engaged in monotonous tasks like trading, fishing, and mining to multitask and enjoy themselves, while also enabling competitive players to interact with various others and improve their skills. At the end of the public test, players from around

the world enthusiastically requested the headquarters to develop the World Battle Network system, and now, finally, the highly anticipated World Battle Network is open.

The world channel in the entire China region was abuzz with excitement.

And how could Da Fei not be thrilled? A champion prize of \$1 million! That's 6 million RMB! This is real tangible reward! Those god-level hero accounts estimated at 3 million or 8 million dollars are just hyped-up commodities, who would buy that?

One million dollars, it used to be a dream like a lottery, only within reach in dreams, but who is Da Fei now? His confidence soared, believing himself to be the world's number one! Even if he couldn't beat professional players, shouldn't he at least make it to the top 3? Even if not in the top 3, the top 10, or the top 100 would be no problem, right? The top 100 get \$10,000 each!

In any case, in these beautiful, calm days at sea, spanning at least two days in reality with nothing significant happening, this battle system is indeed a great way to kill time during trading!

——System Prompt, you are connecting to the World Battle Network system, the network is congested, please queue and wait!

Ah! Not even the mighty battle system can withstand the crowded China Region! At this moment, the tycoons in the world channel were also expressing their frustration.

Ultimately, this is the downside of the Battle Network system, different countries have different network speeds. Thus, professional-level tournaments must still follow traditional on-site modes. Of course, the Battle Network system pairs opponents randomly to prevent players from boosting scores, making it impossible to arrange matches with specific opponents.

After a long unknown wait, Da Fei successfully logged into the Battle Network.

——System Prompt, congratulations! You have successfully registered for the "Hero World Cup" China region qualifiers.

—System Prompt, your current overall military strength is as follows, please select the forces to deploy!

Main Hero Da Fei level 34, Command Power 739, Tactical Positions 4, can command 4 units.

Vice Hero Catherine level 33, Command Power 39.

Vice Hero Serbia level 33, Command Power 146.

Vice Hero Deirdre level 20, Command Power 100.

Vice Hero Alicia level 29, Command Power 42.

Total Command Power: 1063

Your Troops: 3539 Flower Demons (Command Value 0, cannot be deployed), 50 Druids (Command Value 150), 200 Forest Goddesses (Defensive Command Value 0, Deployment Command Value 600), 2 Charming Emperors (Command Value 100), 44 Artillery Emperors (Command Value 264), 1 Banshee Artillery (Command Value 3), 3 Demonized Poisonous Anemones (Command Value 0, cannot be deployed).

Total Troop Command Value: 1117, total of 5 units. Note: Charming Emperor, Artillery Emperor, Banshee Artillery are considered the same unit. Units that cannot be deployed cannot participate.

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Da Fei was suddenly enlightened! So this is the Battle Network! It means as long as it belongs to the player's military, it can be copied to the battle server to fight even if it's not on the same map! Indeed very satisfying! It's a direct reflection of the player's comprehensive strength; my military and command power are so awesome. Wouldn't that scare people silly if I bring them all out?

Wait! When Da Fei's gaze swept to the Demonized Poisonous Anemone at the end of the troop list, his whole body trembled! Is there a mistake? I still have 3 Demonized Poisonous Anemones? Wasn't the task completed and they vanished?

Da Fei quickly opened the player territory panel, but there was only Radiant City with no information on the Poisonous Anemone King building?

What the hell? What's going on? Could it be they still exist? Just because we're in different worlds and I lost contact? There's a lot to this story, huh? Indeed, Renior was sealed on that island, what is Makar's purpose? Because Renior is a hero that couldn't be eliminated, so he was sealed? There's depth to this! That Newbie Island has depth!

——System Prompt, please choose your forces for the competition!

The system's urging brought Da Fei back to his senses. Regardless, the competition is crucial now.

There's nothing else to say, for the million-dollar champion, and for the qualifications, I'm naturally going all out, since no matter how hard you fight in the Battle Network, players don't suffer losses.

Wait! Would sending the Charming Emperor and Artillery Emperor scare players around the world to death? The Charming Emperor is a flying, ranged, hidden boss unit with thousands of health and attack-defense combined over a hundred, adding my insane strategic attack and defense, it's a genuine human-shaped bomber! Even the Artillery Emperor has 30 attack, 20 defense, and 320 health resembling a level 7 unit's standard, how can ordinary players survive this?

Da Fei hesitated for a moment. It's not wrong to be high-profile, as long as there's a backup plan. If I reveal all my cards and scare those major teams in the world, they'll certainly find ways to borrow troops, gather an elite army, and target specifically me, wouldn't that alert the enemies unnecessarily? When the military strength isn't vastly different, it comes down to player's operation and tactics. Da Fei excels in high-end crushing; about ops and skills, he admits he can't compare with professional players. So, it's important to keep some trump cards to win unexpectedly.

Da Fei diligently researched the competition rules again, confirming that the participating forces can be adjusted as the competition progresses.

Decided! Temporarily refrain from sending the Charming Emperor and Artillery Emperor to compete—at least not in the domestic qualifiers. When it comes to the world championship battle for the \$1 million prize, then it would undoubtedly be necessary.

Moreover, I already have 200 Forest Goddesses equivalent to 4th level units; they are flying ranged units that can heal and have Basic Illusion Army. Globally speaking, they are pretty powerful! Once powered by Serbia's Magic Energy Coordination Divine Skill +1, and boosted by Alicia's God-level Magic, who knows what might happen? Perhaps she'll summon an entity Leviathan? Although Leviathan is a Sea Monster, it has crocodile legs alright, land battles shouldn't be too difficult!

All in all, with such awesome heroes and such an awesome unit, if I can't even pass the qualifiers, I might as well jump into the sea. It should be noted that at the current national server progress, it's challenging for ordinary players to equip level 4 units on a large scale.

——System Prompt, you have chosen 4 Vice Heroes, 50 Druids, and 200 Forest Goddesses to compete! Now matching other participants and competition venues, please wait patiently. During the competition, we recommend you cease all activities in the current region.

Then let's wait.

Da Fei exhaled a long sigh, continuing to gaze at the sea where the iceberg was melting. With the icebergs gone, and the North Wind blowing just right, the fleet, led by the flagship Radiant Wings, was sailing swiftly forward with full sails.

Now how can the Sea God deal with me? My ship is repaired and upgraded, there are no icebergs, and Sea Monsters may not catch up, even if they do, they might not win. Will there be another ambush at the Frostwind Strait? Gosh, setting two ambushes at the same place would be quite tedious.

Speaking of which, what is Makar's intention in sending me here? Bato said the Sea God and Nether God are fighting over the souls of sailors; Makar, as the Death Lord, must be on the Nether God's side, right? Does he have anything to do with the Viking Undead? Is the anomaly under the volcano cave part of Makar and the Dark Alliance's island take-over scheme?

While pondering, the system prompt finally sounded.

——System Prompt, you have entered the random competition venue "Death Jungle"!

——Competition Rules, the competition venue randomly allocates an unknown number of other participants; you must defeat 10 opponents to qualify. If you lose once, you will be eliminated.

The scene changed, and Da Fei along with his hero army appeared in a dense forest where trees blocked the daylight.

Damn! I thought it would be a one-on-one duel, turns out it's a jungle survival battle!

Chapter 268: Rise and Unite to Destroy Da Fei

"Staring at the entire mini-map filled with a vast forest, Da Fei felt incredibly frustrated. He initially thought he could sweep through like a commander in a war game, easily grabbing ten kills, but now it seemed it wasn't that simple. In this jungle mode, where mantises stalked cicadas, always wary of being prey themselves, everyone was on edge.

In reality, it made sense. With over ten million players just in the China Region alone, and at least a few million signing up to join the fun, if they really arranged solo matches one by one, wouldn't the Battle Network Server queues stretch out till next year? So this all-in-one chaotic battle was undoubtedly the roughest but also the quickest screening method. Now the question was how big was this 'pot'? Ten people, a hundred, or even a thousand?

But it didn't matter. Who am I? A God-level Reconnaissance master! And what troops am I leading? High-level soldiers specializing in jungle warfare from the Elf Clan! I'm the ruler of this jungle. If even I'm frustrated, ordinary players must be breaking down entirely!

No words needed—"Phantom March"!

Da Fei's vice hero and troops instantly turned transparent. At this moment, Da Fei suddenly noticed that the long-missing Deirdre was in a transformation state, changing into a pretty middle-aged nun nanny!

Damn! At least it's not Nanny Rong! I like this style! Yeah, she's my most charming harem member. Her white behind that couldn't find panties is just for my view, not for other players.

Reunited after a long time, Da Fei couldn't help but greet her: "Deirdre, how are you doing in Radiant City?"

Deirdre responded mechanically, "Awaiting orders, sir!"

Da Fei was taken aback. Why didn't she take the bait? Where's the warm flying kiss? The flirtatious smile? How could she be like an ordinary troop type? Could it be? Da Fei quickly turned to Anlicia and asked, "How do you feel?"

Anlicia replied stiffly, "Any orders? I'm ready."

Damn! They've turned my intelligent epic heroes into tavern simpletons, no, even worse than tavern heroes! How maddening! So the account replication of this Battle Network is just a data copy without transferring their AI repositories? Isn't this nonsense? It totally doesn't reflect my true strength. At least half of my sea monster battles in the North Sea relied on the independent initiative of my epic heroes!

In other words, this battle depended solely on the players! No problem, I crush everything in my path, who needs intelligence? Da Fei began quietly searching in the jungle.

Soon, a red dot appeared on Da Fei's mini-map. Target spotted!

Damn, if we were at sea, the mini-map would have shown the target from afar, yet in this jungle, it revealed its presence only at such close proximity. Even a God-level Reconnaissance Skill suffered great limitations in this treacherous terrain.

Reconnaissance indeed wasn't perfect! Da Fei desired even more to acquire a Reconnaissance Eagle.

Da Fei quietly maneuvered to the target's rear. Indeed, among a sea of green stood a glaring red; the opponent's troops were eye-catching and actually belonged to the Hell Race players! Damn, Hell Race troops in the jungle were basically asking to be killed! This random participant pairing was seriously ridiculous.

Now Da Fei could see the opponent's ID through the gaps between the leaves: Royal Star Sky, level 36 Demon Lord player, nervously scanning around among a crowd of Demon Children, without a vice hero, several Hellhounds, and even ten Hell Warhorses! Holy crap, they had level 5 troops, high-end indeed! Got them through quests? On a plain, these ten Hell Warhorses would indeed be quite troublesome.

But whatever they had, before me with my 250 high-level troops, it was meaningless. Speaking of which, my Ranger sub-skill was specifically aimed at demons with the "Demon Hatred Striker," along with my temporary God-level Luck Skill and Master Level Archery bonus, wasn't this the right time for being welcomed as a lucky charm? Well, I'd gladly accept it!

—Demon Hatred Striker: The hero and the hero's troops have a 10% chance to deal double damage to demon-type creatures. The hero's troops are not limited to the Elf Clan.

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At this moment, the Royal Guild's chat group was in an uproar.

Royal Dominator: "Anyone in the competition arena report your numbers. Don't act rashly if you're in the same arena; prioritize reporting your coordinates to converge!"

Royal Blade Mad: "I'm at arena number 43, mountain terrain, coordinates 4341,6741,45."

Royal Wind Demon: "I'm at arena number 26, city ruins alleys, coordinates 4531,3612,15."

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Royal Blade: "I'm at arena number 67, Death Jungle, coordinates 2351,875,2."

Royal Star Sky: "Blade bro, I'm also in arena 67, my coordinates are 2311,1812,1."

Royal Blade: "You're really unlucky! Hang tight, I'm on my way!"

Royal Star Sky: "Blade bro, hurry up! I feel I'm being watched, save me!"

Royal Guild, a quite famous amateur player guild in China, was mainly characterized by its many tycoon players. Of course, they still couldn't compare with professional super guilds like Star, Ninth Heaven, or Dragon Slayer. In fact, China was vast with numerous players, and guilds like Royal were as numerous as the hairs on an ox, not to mention the small clubs with tens to hundreds of members, as countless as stars in the sky. However, the entry barrier for forming a guild in Heroic Creation Era was extremely high, so these guilds converted from other games had to rely on group chats for communication.

And now, with tens of thousands of registered players being distributed to various arenas, not only was the Royal Guild coordinating through its chat room, but even allied guilds were calling out and sharing locations.

Indeed, humans are inherently social creatures. When placed in a shura-like arena with everyone potentially an enemy, their first reaction is to call for friends and form alliances.

So, though the competition in all arenas had started a minute ago, no large-scale wars had broken out yet. Those with connections were waiting and watching.

In arena number 67, Royal Star Sky was anxiously waiting in the jungle for rescue, counting the seconds! As a Hell Race player, he knew his disadvantage clearly, that his ten Hell Warhorses, of which he was proud, couldn't display their formation and speed advantages in this jungle full of vegetation. Their large size even got stuck in trees, making them beasts caught in a cage. Although the elf clan's level-5 unit, the unicorn, also had a large build, they pranced through the woods like fawns without comparison!

Just then, the leaves around him suddenly rustled, and hundreds of green smoke emanating javelins, along with Magic Bullets, came whistling from all directions!

—System Prompt: You were attacked by player "Da Fei"!

—System Prompt: Your Demon Child Army was attacked by player Da Fei; the entire army was wiped out!

—System Prompt: Your Hell Warhorse unit was attacked by player Da Fei; 6 Hell Warhorses died!

In the panic of this unexpected disaster, Royal Star Sky, like a cat whose tail had been stepped on, screamed! But he didn't have time to see his surroundings clearly, as the troops surrounding him fell one by one like reaping grass!

It was Da Fei! Royal Star Sky's heart trembled!

A horse whinnied as the last Hell Warhorse before him fell! This time he took in the scene—a blow of three arrows! An 80-health level-5 unit, the Hell Warhorse got taken down in three arrows! How could that be!? The Hell Warhorse had 17 points defense inherently, and my entire gear added another 20 points defense bonus. Even Jungle Hunters firing their full range couldn't take down a Hell Warhorse in three arrows!

Hell Warhorses, the Hell Race's main cavalry meat-shield units, getting taken down in three arrows like cannon fodder—how could there be any difference? What level of Attack did this legendary Da Fei possess?

Knowing the battle was lost, Royal Star Sky silently opened the battle data information and was stunned by the unbelievable damage figures! Why was he so fierce?

—System Prompt: You were killed by Da Fei; the battle has ended. You are eliminated from the preliminaries and earned 1 Battle Network Point. Thank you for participating, better luck next time.

The scene changed as Royal Star Sky returned to the China Region. He finally came to his senses. Just moments ago, I bragged in the group about breaking out internationally, yet in the first battle, I got taken down! Investing so much in Hell Number, was already a joke, now won't they laugh me into dust? Not happening, I'm pissed!

Royal Star Sky's first action was to alert in the group: "Blade bro, don't come. I got instantly killed by the legendary Da Fei!"

The entire group was shocked: "Da Fei is in your arena?"

Royal Star Sky's second action was to sound the alarm on the China Region's World Channel. Being a small tycoon player, a hundred-yuan message on the World Channel was no pressure!

—World Channel [Royal Star Sky]: I'm Royal Star Sky of the Royal Guild. I got instantly killed by Da Fei in the 67th Death Jungle arena! Da Fei's coordinates are (2311,1812,1). Players in arena 67, be cautious. He's all high ranged attack, can easily kill!

Then, in his rage, he sent more than ten alerts! Instantly, the China Region was abuzz, and the players in arena 67 were greatly shaken!

In the China Region, no one doesn't know Da Fei! But everyone only knew he had a big ship and was powerful, yet never thought his land combat was also so fierce! Now facing this big tiger Da Fei, what should the players in arena 67 do? Let him gather ten kills, get full, and then bolt?

And Da Fei was even more caught off guard! Damn, what's up with this person? Is it that bad? Losing to me in a competition, is that his issue now? If he got PKed by me in the wild, wouldn't he rage and cough blood?

At this moment, someone else spoke on the World Channel!

—World Channel [Royal Blade]: Attention all players in arena 67, I'm Royal Blade from the Royal Guild, also in arena 67, my coordinates are (2356,874,1). If you get it, come here. If not, forget it!

Ah-choo! Da Fei sprayed again! Damn, though not explicitly stated, it's clearly a call to rally and gang up on me! What's the point of competing if they're playing these offline tricks!

Chapter 269: One Sword Eastward

On the first day that the World Battle Network went live, the American Heroic Creation Headquarters was bustling like the New York Stock Market, with a large team of staff intensely monitoring the competitions happening worldwide in each region. At the same time, esports media around the globe sprang into action to celebrate this long-anticipated event.

However! Just three minutes! It had barely been three minutes before there was another issue in the China Region!

Yes, it was the venue where Da Fei was located, site number 67 in the China Region! There was an unusual disturbance in this venue, which was somewhat manifest across all venues in the China Region, but was nothing like the hundreds of people teaming up to target one individual here at site 67!

When the monitor responsible for the China Region reported the anomaly to superiors immediately, all the planners felt their hearts drop to the floor! This completely went against the original intentions of the competition!

Although Chinese players generally had amateur skill levels, they were undeniably world-class in one aspect—finding bugs and loopholes! No matter what the game, as long as Chinese players were involved, it wouldn't be long before they invented god-level strategies that surpassed the game's rules. This posed a great challenge to the prowess of game designers and programmers. That's why a veteran gamer once sighed, saying that if Chinese players focused their brilliance and creativity on improving their competitive skills, it wouldn't be a dream for Chinese esports to defeat South Korea.

And now, Chinese players were exploiting the publicly available venue numbers to collude offline and cheat!

Initially, venue numbers were for the convenience of monitors in recording events and media reporting during interviews. Now, the Hero Headquarters had no choice but to patch the global system online to prevent players from seeing the numbers.

The game management team was feeling terribly troubled, but it was nothing compared to Da Fei's predicament! Da Fei realized he was in very dire straits.

Da Fei almost wanted to shout back in the World Channel, "My coordinates are (2311,1812,1), if you get it, come; if not, forget it." Let's see which ordinary players were willing to follow whom?

For Da Fei, with a bank balance of two million, shouting on the World Channel was a no-brainer, but the problem was that his account didn't have any funds. The last time Da Fei spent money was a thousand dollars on a Skill Reset Potion, swearing it would be the last time. Now, to top up just for a shoutout would take minutes, spending a few precious minutes, and by then, others would have formed a team and he would be obliterated!

Besides, as the number one player in the China Region, shouting to recruit followers against some nobodies on the World Channel wasn't about boosting others' morale while dampening his own spirits. Wouldn't that show he feared them? Clearly, it was those weaklings who feared him!

The best solution was a swift and decisive victory!

Given that this Royal Star Sky player could afford to shout on the World Channel, he must be a tycoon player. Even so, faced with his little strength, why should Da Fei even care about other ordinary players? No need for Phantom March; he could insta-kill any he encountered before they could regroup for ten kills. Thus, Da Fei rapidly headed for the coordinates of Royal Blade.

Soon, a new red dot appeared on Da Fei's radar, another target emerged! Alright, the second kill was lined up for you!

Da Fei hurriedly moved to intercept. It couldn't be denied, this was the strategic advantage of a God-level Reconnaissance Technique!

By the time the opponent became alert to the rustling sounds in the forest, it was too late. A barrage of javelins whistled through the gaps in the trees! Before the Elf player named Ice Point Nebula could even draw their bow, his ranks of 3rd-level Jungle Hunter Unit were wiped out!

But it wasn't over! At least, there was one thing he could still do, and that was escape!

"Da Fei, kill me!" he screamed, fleeing desperately!

Damn it! How could a kill slip away? Da Fei quickly gave chase. And then, the opponent just vanished into the foliage, leaving no trace.

What the hell! The kill got away! Da Fei finally saw the issue. His maximum move speed in the jungle was only 9! Damn it! With his Speed Cloak, it should clearly be 11! Usually, the army was a drag on the hero; now, he was the drag on the troops. Was his dual-class Ranger a fake?

There was nothing that could be done. Differences in racial and class abilities varied depending on the terrain. Not to mention he was slowed down; even if he weren't, he couldn't catch up to that elf player. He had to find players of other races.

—World Channel [Ice Point Nebula]: I was crippled by Da Fei, Da Fei's coordinates are (2211,974,1), Da Fei's target, you all know what to do!

Aw man! Da Fei spat out! Seriously? Both encounters were against players who could afford to spam on the World Channel? What was this? Was he trying to win the world championship to bring glory to the nation, and they didn't want him to? They must be traitors!

Da Fei steeled his heart, "For national glory, I'm going on a killing spree!"

As Da Fei forged ahead, closer to the target spot, suddenly, a red dot flashed and disappeared from Da Fei's radar!

—System Prompt: Reconnaissance Skill warning! There's an ambush in your vicinity!

Oh wow! Met a fellow professional, eh? This guy's scouting level wasn't low either, seemed like Grandmaster? Damn, the China Region was indeed full of hidden talents! Alright, let you be the second kill!

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One Sword Eastward lay motionless in the forest, calculating based on the coordinates provided on the World Channel that Da Fei must pass through here. He wanted to kill Da Fei solo, wash away his disgrace, and make a name for himself; he was ready with his video equipment.

Who was One Sword Eastward? It was One Sword Westward from before! After the incident with Elorin, One Sword Westward bore tremendous infamy and humiliation, deleting his account in a moment of madness.

Then, after taking a day off, he recovered his senses and regretted his decision. What was the point of deleting his account? His gesture of rectifying his name by deleting it wasn't even of interest to the forum. Everyone's attention was still focused on Da Fei, Da Fei, and still Da Fei! His gallant act of proving his innocence was ignored. Who would care about a minor character?

So, he wasn't reconciled. He wanted a redo. One Sword Westward was an inexperienced account, aimless. Even so, he encountered unexpected opportunities. His newly formed account, One Sword Eastward, clearly needed a defined goal, and that was revenge. A strong PK-capable Elf Ranger was still the top choice!

Then came Arrow Skill, a compulsory skill for Rangers. Then Reconnaissance Skill, both to discover enemies and hide oneself, was a must. Next was Luck Skill; his previous account had discovered a hidden quest from this skill, gaining a hidden professional skill, so he wanted to replicate this success. With his rebirth, he outlined his development plan up to level 30 and diligently worked daily to achieve it.

However, this time during the professional transition task, something different occurred; he didn't replicate previous successes but unexpectedly triggered information about a Master-level Reconnaissance Skill!

He was ecstatic! A Master-level skill was much better than that hidden skill and more versatile! So through his relentless study and repeated reflection, he finally succeeded in advancing to Grandmaster Reconnaissance Skill!

The moment he advanced, One Sword Eastward exhaled deeply, as if all his humiliation had been washed away! The sky was so blue, the air so fresh! His whole body was invigorated!

Not long after, with the help of Master-level Reconnaissance Skill, he completed an exceedingly difficult rogue task for the Druid Guild, obtaining 10 very special units, Dark Night Druids! A notch higher than normal Druids, almost reaching level 6 troop standards; more incredibly, these Druids had Stealth ability! They were tailor-made elite troops! With such formidable troops, what high-level task couldn't he complete? An endless future beckoned!

But Da Fei kept progressing. Da Fei became famous worldwide during the National War. Da Fei had recruited a beautiful Vice Hero. Da Fei was scoring instant kills in the arena. Da Fei slew a Demigod!

Some matters are just this way, comparing oneself to others was infuriating. No matter his reluctance or dissatisfaction, he had to face reality and acknowledge the gap. One Sword Eastward knew this mindset was wrong, only being detrimental. A lot of time was spent adjusting his mindset.

But today, when Da Fei happened to be in the same venue, One Sword Eastward's dormant heart of vengeance ignited again! He was not the same anymore!

Now, One Sword Eastward waited quietly, though his heart was overwhelmed with waves of excitement! As soon as Da Fei appeared, he'd be spotted. When the time came, his well-prepared 10 Dark Night Druids would suddenly strike, a concentrated assault enough to behead any player, no exception for Da Fei! Then he could shoot to fame, renowned across the world!

Suddenly, One Sword Eastward's sight flickered red!

—System Prompt: Reconnaissance Skill warning! An enemy has appeared nearby!

One Sword Eastward rejoiced suddenly. Here?! Where?

—System Prompt: You are being attacked by "Da Fei"!

—System Prompt: Your Dark Night Druid Unit is under attack by Da Fei and has been wiped out!

In that instant, One Sword Eastward was dumbfounded! He didn't even have time to detect Da Fei's direction before darkness enveloped his eyes!

—System Prompt: You were killed by Da Fei, combat ended, you are eliminated from the preliminaries, you earned 1 Battle Network Point, thank you for your participation, better luck next time.

The scene changed, and One Sword Eastward was back in Elorin City. He still hadn't regained his senses! He was counter-killed by Da Fei? How had he been discovered? He had Grandmaster Reconnaissance Skill! Could it be God-level Reconnaissance Technique? Impossible! Absolutely impossible! Achieving Grandmaster was already a big deal, how could someone have mastered the God-level! Those who hadn't achieved Grandmaster would never understand the difficulty!

It must be a Divine Artifact! It had to be a Divine Artifact! Having slain a Demigod, he must have acquired one, and used it to defeat him!

Thinking about his revenge target being someone who had slain a Demigod, One Sword Eastward finally came to his senses. What was he doing? Haha, hahahaha! One Sword Eastward shook his head with a long sigh: "Off to do some tasks..."

Chapter 270: The China Region of Hidden Dragons and Crouching Tigers

Da Fei felt a sense of satisfaction and relief upon securing victory in the second battle, but he remained on alert.

To be honest, if it weren't for his God-level Reconnaissance Technique, he might have been the one decapitated. The China Region is full of hidden talents that should not be underestimated. His careless travel through the jungle not only risked ambushes but would also scare people away. His speed in the jungle wasn't advantageous, and he might not catch up if someone deliberately tried to escape.

So, there was no other choice but to use Phantom March low-key. By the way, who was that earlier? One Sword Eastward? The name sounded familiar! Seemed like a master?

Now, Da Fei moved ahead without encountering a single red dot. Players weren't fools; after their coordinates were exposed twice, they naturally evaded early. After all, thanks to those two fools on the World Channel, Da Fei suddenly became a fearsome Great Demon King. Da Fei knew best how high his Attack was. The joy of the first battle was due to his Ranger having a lucky bonus against Demons. The second battle was joyful because the Jungle Hunters were naturally weak.

But prejudices existed, and victims only knew Da Fei's Attack was very high, plus Da Fei was a legendary figure in the China Region. Who would dare to face him head-on?

Finally, a red cloud appeared on Da Fei's radar! Damn, no need for radar; a large group of trees ahead shaking and birds flying wildly already indicated a significant gathering of players!

Damn it! Who expected so many players in this arena! What now?

No choice, I can't mess with you guys, so I'll hide! I don't believe y'all are so united; when you can't find me, what will you do? Surely there will be infighting, it's obvious to me.

—World Channel [Royal Blade]: All players in Field #67, please join the chat group "Royal Guest Group 3456000123."

Damn it! Planning unified command to besiege me, huh? Fine, I'll play espionage, I'll join too; this is called know your enemy!

—Welcome to the Royal Guild Guest Group, please report your in-game ID name.

Heh! One Sword Eastward!

—Welcome One Sword Eastward to the Royal Guild Guest Group, enjoy your game.

Haha, being a spy in an offline chatroom is too easy. Suddenly, Da Fei realized this chatroom was continuously joined by people, reaching 8000 in no time! Numbers were still rapidly increasing.

Damn, can't be, right? This arena can't possibly have 8000 people, right?

Of course, it can't have 8000; these are players watching for fun and excitement! Indeed, the Royal Guild has a rare marketing opportunity; they want to take this precious chance to raise the guild's profile! Why is the opportunity precious? Because their opponent is the famous Da Fei! Nowadays, to become famous, the most effective way is to latch onto a celebrity!

Royal Blade: "Hello everyone, all players gathered around me, please type 1. Our opponent this time is Da Fei, whose Reconnaissance Skill level is apparently Grandmaster-level, making him very dangerous in the jungle, so we're adopting a dragnet search method. Once a target is found, encircle immediately. Now I'll assign personnel—"

Hero News Reporter 098: "Hello, may I interrupt? I'm a front-line reporter for Hero News. There's a concern among players: Is it appropriate for your guild to unite against a single player?"

Royal Blade: "Because he's Da Fei, that's reason enough!"

Hero News Reporter 098: "Is it because he's too strong?"

Royal Blade: "That's right. If you think it's unfair for us to outnumber him, Da Fei also uses strength to bully the weak, which is equally unfair. We're on the jungle field now, and we follow jungle rules!"

The chat group erupted, "Well said!" Many ordinary players felt uneasy seeing Da Fei's arrogance.

Reporter: "So, what will the united team do once Da Fei is eliminated?"

Royal Blade: "Of course, compete fairly afterward. I think the reporter overthinks; do you think we can eliminate Da Fei? Even I lack confidence! He's the man who challenged the world during the National War! He's the man who slayed a Demigod; he can easily wipe out a regular player's troops. We're facing a super BOSS! Now, let's assign personnel."

Obviously, Royal Blade intentionally sidestepped the victory aftermath topic and exaggerated Da Fei's threat.

At this moment, hearing such an evaluation, Da Fei felt invigorated and thought, "Is this really the image I have among regular players?" Ha, yes indeed! One can make up for shortcomings with strength.

All right, to live up to my super BOSS-like image, I'll fight to the end! How to fight? One Sword Eastward's assassination method was excellent, so I'll ambush and relocate after each attack. In the jungle, I can't catch up with you guys, so you think you can catch me? And who dares to chase me?

Royal Blade's organizational ability was impressive; he easily remembered the players gathered around him and assigned formations. One must admit, organizing unknown players on short notice is a commendable talent. Of course, for regular players, Royal Guild had the upper hand, and they had no choice; disobedience would result in immediate elimination.

The dragnet began.

Da Fei quietly ambushed in the forest, awaiting the first prey to take the bait. Here it comes! A line of four red dots approached. Da Fei furrowed his eyebrows; it had to be a swift decapitation!

The first troop got closer; it was a Human Race player, a classic lineup of gunners and archers. A gunner in the jungle was useless; unable to maneuver the long spear or form a defensive formation, this guy was doomed to tragedy.

Wait, where's the player? Da Fei parted the leaves, observing for a while, only knowing this was a troop named "Player Xie Babai's Army," but the player leader was nowhere in sight! Damn, is he hiding among the Long Spear Soldiers crawling? That's too cowardly, isn't it? This can't be decapitated then!

His troops grew closer, if he didn't act, Da Fei's hiding spot would be exposed. No choice, attack!

A round of arrows whistled out!

—System Prompt: You attacked Xie Babai's troop, you eliminated their archer troop!

And right then, Da Fei heard a scream in the chat group, "It's Da Fei! Da Fei is attacking me! Luckily, I've been keeping my head down!"

The chat group instantly erupted, "Coordinates! Report coordinates!"

Damn! At that moment, Da Fei saw a scrambling figure frantically crawled behind a large tree, disappearing from sight!

Ah, damn! Another head escaped! Meanwhile, the other three red dots began to converge!

Da Fei, feeling frustrated, thought, "Are you really going to surround me?" Fine, if you're all this kind of trash, I wouldn't even bother relocating after a shot!

The second and third red dots soon appeared, a huge group of Skeleton Archers and a large group of dwarf level-1 Shield Guards, Undead players, and dwarf players! Ha, cooperatively joined in against me, the Bright Alliance and the Dark Alliance, what a harmonious sight!

Unfortunately, Skeleton Archers, level-1 units with inherently poor aim, are utterly useless in the obstacle-laden jungle. Their arrows didn't have the swiftness or power of Jungle Shooters, and even a leaf could deflect them, and they couldn't form an Arrow Formation in the woods to counter their accuracy disadvantage, making them utterly trash. As for the dwarfs, that's hard to say; their mobility was never outstanding in any terrain, but it didn't matter much; dwarfs were natural traveler adventurers. So, eliminate the dwarfs first! Once stuck in close combat, escaping would be impossible!

The problem was, where was this dwarf leader called "Jack"? Was he also hiding within the troops? Damn it, naturally short and still hiding, are all China players so cowardly?

Damn! Just kill their troops!

At this moment, a black smoke flashed from the Undead's side!

—System Prompt: Contestant "Still Innocent" cast Dark Magic "Slowing Spell" on your troops!

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched! A Slow Spell! And at that moment, a golden light flashed beside him!

—System Prompt: Your vice hero Selvia cast Master-level Nun skill "Undying Light," their spell failed!

Thank goodness! If I were slowed, I'd be done for!

Meanwhile, the chat group was in chaos again: "I'm suffering heavy losses, hurry reinforcement!"

"Spell ineffective! Da Fei nullifies my slowing spell!"

"No way! How is that possible!"

"Hurry! Hurry and reinforce!"

Reinforce? Do you think I'd give you a chance? My 250 level-4 troops, compared to your level-1 troops, I'd wipe you out in a second! Also, I couldn't care less about you guys, I'd take you down one by one, bring on two, I'd take both!

Another round of arrows whistled out, instantly wiping out the high-defense, high-health dwarf level-1 Shield Guards that were famed for withstanding ranged attacks. The Skeleton Archers of Undead players inflicted barely any damage on Da Fei's level-4 troops!

A dwarf yelled, "Da Fei's firepower is too strong, I can't handle this, I'm out!"

Then Da Fei saw an iron ball roll into the bushes with a clatter. Da Fei was baffled, how did they perform such high-difficulty actions?

The Undead player, seeing the unfavorable situation, also made a swift decision and retreated!

Damn it! Two more heads escaped! Da Fei was frustrated beyond belief! Despite having so many high-level ranged units, why couldn't he snag a single head?

At that moment, a flash of lightning appeared before Da Fei's eyes! A Thunderstrike descended with a booming explosion! The entire forest where Da Fei resided erupted in flames!

—System Prompt: Contestant "Phoenix Rain" cast Destruction Magic "Lightning Summoning Technique" on your troops! Your Forest Goddess Army suffered 530 damage!

Da Fei was momentarily stunned, a spellcasting player? Where are they? Meanwhile, a golden light drenched the Forest Goddess Army.

—System Prompt: Your vice hero Selvia cast Master-level Light Magic "Healing Spell" on your Forest Goddess Army, restoring 530 life!

Da Fei looked around in bewilderment, where is this person named Phoenix Rain?

Caught off guard, another Thunderstrike roared down! The Forest Goddess Army suffered another lightning strike!

Da Fei was on the verge of losing his mind! Damn it! Whoever's hitting me, why can't I see them? Was it their spells had ultra-long range, or could they cast while invisible? Is there such a skill for invisible spellcasting? Cannot be possible, right?

At this point, the entire chat group was in uproar, with the group leader dispatching armies: "Where the lightning strikes is Da Fei! Everyone charge, don't let him escape!"

Da Fei was at wit's end! After being hit by two lightning strikes, Da Fei yet to figure out where the attacking player was! The China Region truly had hidden dragons and crouching tigers!

Another Thunderstrike exploded down! This means they planned to deplete my Selvia's Mana! Seeing the encroaching mass of red dots, Da Fei could no longer remain calm, I'm out of here!

At this point, on a distant treetop, an elf player dressed in a fiery red robe named Phoenix Feather gazed disdainfully at the hastily retreating Da Fei.

"Saying how great he is, just encountering newbies, he isn't much after all!" Phoenix Rain sneered, then with an Instant Teleportation, flashed to another treetop, aiming to unleash long-range strikes to obliterate Da Fei to dust.

Indeed, Phoenix Rain's specialty was "Titan's Thunder," with a casting range 50% farther than standard Thunder Element spells! And in a jungle with obstructed views, Da Fei couldn't see him, allowing leisurely strikes from the treetops!