

God level 271

Chapter 271: The One That Can't Be Blown Up Is The Most Awesome

The Phoenix Feather was a somewhat famous player during the open beta, but at that time, his name was different. During the open beta, he looted treasures, snatched bosses, and caused team wipes, making a lot of enemies with too many secret deals, of course.

When the game officially launched, he changed his name, meaning he experienced rebirth like a phoenix, reaching a higher realm. He wanted to develop peacefully in the early stages, digesting the secret strategies obtained during the open beta.

Under normal circumstances, Elf Clan players had only two hero professions: Ranger and Druid. The Druid's advantage was that the mana cost of casting Lightning Magic was reduced by about 15%. Why was the Druid so strong? This question was like asking why an apple falls to the ground, because the game was designed that way, right? Should apples defy gravity and fall into the sky?

If one only thinks this way, it's impossible to become a top player.

During the open beta, Phoenix Feather grasped this question, went to various Druid Guild NPC mentors, inquired along the way, researched and did tasks, and finally discovered the secret of Druid's Thunder Mastery. He successfully took on a hidden profession, "Thunder Summoner"! Professional Specialty: Titan's Thunder.

—Thunder Summoner: A Druid specializing in the mysteries of thunder, more adept at controlling lightning than an ordinary Mage, earning 1 point of extra knowledge for the hero with each level up.

When Da Fei took on an irrelevant second profession as a Navigator, he considered himself a God-level Hero with dual professions, boasting like crazy. So, when Phoenix Feather took on this synergistic profession as Thunder Summoner, one could only imagine his arrogance! If he wasn't the world number one, who was? The day he emerges would be the day he clinches the world championship and enjoys the 10-million-US-Dollar prize money!

During his closed retreat and training, a player called Da Fei became famous in the China Region.

Presumably, he also rose through killing and treasure looting, seeming to be the same type as himself. However, while there are many self-serving people, how many have truly good outcomes? People without strength fall the harder the higher they stand. This is the fundamental difference between himself and that guy. Phoenix Feather dismissed it with a sneer and continued to level up and do tasks.

Then, that Da Fei became more active and even killed a demigod, subtly hailed as the number one in China!

This made Phoenix Feather very displeased! Don't ask why, displeasure is just displeasure! Of course, many were already unhappy with Da Fei. Anyway, Phoenix Feather made a vow, whenever he got the chance to meet Da Fei, he would crush him! Reason? No reason!

And now, in such a preliminary match, Phoenix Feather unexpectedly encountered Da Fei!

Actually, for Phoenix Feather, who didn't bring a single soldier, his best option was to sit back and watch the tigers fight against each other. But, living in this world, sometimes you need to act on a whim. Phoenix Feather felt that if he didn't step on Da Fei now, he'd regret and be displeased for years! Especially seeing that Da Fei had been praised so much, having him trampled down now would be extremely satisfying.

So, he decisively took action.

Now, Phoenix Feather gazed down at the troops of Da Fei fleeing through the woods, sneering: "I was born with Thunder Mastery, not only does it blast from afar, but it also conserves mana. Not to mention, my Thunder Summoner gains knowledge with each level. I have so much mana I can't even use it all, how long can your Priests last? Haha!"

With that, he waved his hand again, and another thunderstorm struck down!

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At this moment, Da Fei was fleeing through the woods. In the sky, lightning flashed, and another thunderstorm struck down!

—System Prompt: Player "Phoenix Feather" cast Destruction Magic "Lightning Summoning Technique" on your troops! Your Illusion Army suffered damage and disappeared!

"Damn it! Is this endless?" Da Fei cursed angrily and continued shouting to Anlicia: "Keep the Illusion Army going!"

Indeed! Someone as wise and heroic as Da Fei was, of course, no fool, why would he ever use healing to match damage? The cost of healing has always been greater than damage, so now Da Fei was using the Illusion Army as cannon fodder to block the blasts, having blocked three blasts already! If not for the inefficiency and difficulty of executing Summoning Mist in waterless areas, Da Fei would have habitually gone for mist concealment.

Given Anlicia's God-level Magic standpoint, it's naturally swift, good, economical, and relaxed to summon some Illusion Army. Not to mention, with her Divine Artifact Staff in hand, along with six to seven thousand mana reserves absorbed from Leviathan's soul over the past few days, how could Da Fei not outlast them? You fool, don't let Da Fei find you!

Now, the entire chat channel blew up: "Who is this! Chasing and blasting Da Fei without stop! So awesome!"

Da Fei gritted his teeth in hatred! The one who can't be blasted to death is the most impressive! Do you guys get it or not!

Royal Blade cheered: "Da Fei has been continuously pulled into battle, and he can't use Stealth. All Elf Clan players encircle and prepare to intercept him! Every team member pursue with all your might, he can't escape now!"

Da Fei was dripping with sweat from anxiety! Although he was quite formidable, the immediate task was still to find and take out this Phoenix Feather, only then could he leave battle mode and use Stealth! But where was this jerk hiding? Why could he strike wherever Da Fei went?

Da Fei once again felt the limits of God-level Reconnaissance Skill in the jungle. As experts of forest warfare, elves wouldn't face such an annoying situation!

Reconnaissance Eagle! Right! The Blood Eagle Flute!

As the Spiritual Eagle soared into the sky, Da Fei's vision expanded once more, and within that moment, tons of densely packed red dots appeared on the radar!

Damn! It was indeed due to limited visibility! Just like Anlicia said: small tricks can thwart big skills, and a God-level Reconnaissance Technique becomes useless against a blinding magic!

There he was! A red dot right where Da Fei was! Damn it! This jerk was actually standing atop a tree! This was Da Fei's first time seeing this, was this a God-level Skill? No wonder he was having so much fun blasting at Da Fei, Da Fei would wipe him out!

Da Fei immediately changed marching direction, gritted his teeth, and charged toward Phoenix Feather!

Phoenix Feather, who was enjoying himself on the branches, suddenly froze for a moment, huh? He finally discovered me? Haha, no matter what method he used, he wasn't as lousy as imagined after all! But how long could he hold on?

Phoenix Feather casually waved his hand again, releasing another lightning strike, followed by a swift Instant Teleportation to another tree not far away. Then he arrogantly smirked: "Chase me?"

His display of Instant Teleportation immediately stunned Da Fei! Couldn't see him, and even when he did, there was no way to catch him. Crap! This guy was indeed one of the best among the best! Could he be a professional player?

Fine! Fine! You're awesome, you're great, you cheat up in the trees! Then Da Fei would no longer be polite and stop running now. Da Fei had 250 level 4 soldiers, he would endure the lightning from above and fight in place! Da Fei wanted a battle to remember!

Chapter 272: The Flying Hero Who Turned the Tide of Battle

Da Fei is resolute this time, not running anymore, whatever dragons lie hidden or tigers crouch unseen, Da Fei wants a fierce battle! Whether in terms of troop strength or numbers, he holds an overwhelming advantage. Bring it on! Having the strength of 100 people and actually having 100 people are completely different concepts; it's the difference between a BOSS and trash!

Now, Da Fei has found a place with lots of big trees to lean against, and he arranges some Druids to circle around himself and the Vice Heroes to prevent being beheaded. Then he positions other Druids behind other big trees, creating intersecting firepoints. As for the Forest Goddess, a long-range flying troop of course serves as a mobile artillery unit, bombing wherever there's enemy action.

You have to admit, as much as the jungle can be a pain, it also provides natural cover and barriers. If utilized well, it can be very advantageous.

At this moment, the chat group is buzzing with noise: "They're surrounded! They're surrounded! The ones behind, follow up!"

The excited voice of Blade Royal Family modulates with agitation: "The ones in front, ensnare them first, don't attack, wait for everyone to gather then we'll attack all at once!"

Da Fei snorts, an all-out attack? Bring it on! My passion is surging, my blood boiling!

At this moment, perched on a tree branch, Phoenix Feather starts feeling that something is wrong. Why haven't they been bombed out yet? For his Priests to counter my Healing Skill, their Mana consumption should be at least double mine. But how is that possible? Could it be that his troops have ultra-high Magic Resistance?

Could it be? An Illusion Army?

In that instant, Phoenix Feather is seized by an intense feeling of having been fooled! But that doesn't make sense either! To replicate so many troops, so many times, even the Illusion Army's Mana couldn't outlast mine, right? Could it be that the Priests have depleted their Mana and the other hero is using Illusion Techniques? That's the only explanation!

Thinking of this guy's many beautiful Vice Heroes, Phoenix Feather feels intensely uncomfortable. Although he doesn't need to bring any Vice Heroes or even troops for the sake of mobility tactics, it doesn't mean he doesn't envy, resent, and hate those players with beautiful Female Heroes! This also somewhat reminds him of the unpleasant incidents that happened during the public beta.

Anyway, put in more effort, kick them while they're down! Phoenix Feather clenches his teeth and uses the little Mana he has left to unleash another Thunderstorm!

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Now, the chat group is filled with passion, a wave of emotion surging. Around Da Fei, red dots cluster densely, three layers inside and out. Seeing the woods crawling with potential enemies, Da Fei sighs inwardly.

Who would have thought that there would be so many players on this battlefield! 300? 500? This many players, this many troops, even if they all brought level 1 troops, it's enough to give me a hard time, and even if I were a super BOSS, I'd have to lie down. If these players are all as sneaky as the previous few, tucking their heads and running once their troops are gone, how could I even break out? Damn, if I had known, I should have brought out both Charming Emperor and Artillery Emperor; it wouldn't have come to this!

Man, I was too complacent, this is the so-called prominence that brings the higher level of attack.

Wait a sec! Charming Emperor? Suddenly, Da Fei remembers isn't Deirdre just a Hero version of the Charming Emperor? Damn! She can fly! What a powerful special skill! Flying Heroes are simply defying the heavens! I actually wasted such a resource and forgot! I haven't seen Deirdre for so long, and her role as an Artillery Master and her Nun appearance have cemented my thinking!

After all, since I entered the game, there's been so much going on, fewer battles, especially those fought with Deirdre! Furthermore, because of this damned Heroic Trial quest, I never even thought of sending her out to fight!

Right, would her being just an Artillery Master with a Banshee special skill justify the professional esports teams from India and Japan going so crazy for her that they'd fall out and undermine each other? What they really valued was her ability as a Flying Hero! A Flying Hero leading Flying Soldiers, like, say, Angels, that's freaking awesome!

Da Fei immediately asks Deirdre, "Can you fly? Can you take your Forest Goddess Army on an Independent Expedition?"

Although your AI libraries haven't been copied over, this is your special skill, please don't tell me you don't know how!

Deirdre nods, still using that frustratingly stiff intonation as she replies, "I'm ready. Please give your command, master!"

This AI! But as long as she knows, that's good enough. Da Fei shakes his head with a sigh, while selecting the Vice Hero split-troop command, he orders: "You go take out that Phoenix Feather first, then cause mayhem in the enemy's rear!"

The role of a Vice Hero is naturally to help the commander fight. They can fight as part of the team, or they can split up. However, once they split up to attack, the Vice Hero's troops can no longer enjoy the boosts from the commander's attributes and skills, and it also greatly tests the Vice Hero's AI. Da Fei just doesn't trust the Vice Hero AI on the Battle Network Server!

In fact, one of the most frustrating things for players during the public test was when the Vice Hero went on an expedition; sometimes the casualties were simply too gruesome to look at directly.

A pink mist rises, and the beautiful Nun Deirdre vanishes, a hot and gorgeous ***** with bat wings appearing. Da Fei's heart shatters! My wife is going to be exposed to other players; what a loss for me!

Just at this moment, another Thunderstorm roars down! Good, just waiting for your Spell's cooldown interval.

Da Fei waves his hand: "Attack! Take him down!"

"I'm off to battle!" Deirdre, leading her 33 Forest Goddesses, soars into the sky (Deirdre's Command Power of 100 allows her to lead 33 level 4 troops) and flies over the treetops, out of Da Fei's sight!

And it is at this time that the chat group explodes with surprise: "What's that flying out!"

"My god, it seems like a Banshee, the one Da Fei got during the National War!"

All of a sudden, the unexpected turn of events unsettles Blade Royal Family. He shouts in the chat group: "All-out attack!"

The chat group shouted in unison: "Charge!"

Da Fei gritted his teeth: "Bring it on!"

Clash! The surrounding bushes stirred, and the red clouds began to converge towards Da Fei. Da Fei saw various gunners, Sword Dancers, Skeleton Soldiers, goblins, Demon Children, and all kinds of level 1 troops! Damn it! Multi-National Forces, huh! Bro's gonna see how many of you can actually make it to my front.

At this moment, right after Phoenix Feather had unleashed a lightning strike, she saw a swarm of Flying Soldiers dive-bombing her from the woods! Phoenix Feather's eyes widened, how is this possible! How can troops fight independently without their player?

They're close! Phoenix Feather finally saw the leader, a completely white figure with a shimmering chest and a ring of fiery red halo at her feet... A Banshee?

A Hero! A Banshee Hero! And a flying Banshee Hero at that! Phoenix Feather was stunned, unable to believe her eyes! How could this be! This was clearly not a normal Banshee, Banshees can't fly! Is this the strength of this Da Fei?

Phoenix Feather was deeply shocked. The only thing she could do now was to cast another Instant Teleportation, this time to the woods, hoping to escape disaster. But it was futile. She, on the ground, had nowhere to hide from the hunter above, just as she had been gleefully bombarding Da Fei moments ago.

Deirdre's troops landed around her in an instant, spears thrown in unison!

In that moment of near-death, Phoenix Feather glared at Deirdre's tempting, pale body with such resentment that she felt her guts twist: "Damn, cursed by the dog's heat!"

— System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Deirdre has killed the player "Phoenix Feather".

Dead! This clown finally kicked the bucket! Da Fei released his pent-up energy and let out a long, exhilarated laugh: "Who's next? Who's the next one?"

At this time, the entire chat group was in chaos!

"I can't do this, I'm retreating!"

"Damn, Da Fei's firepower is too fierce! I'm retreating too!"

Blade Royal Family shouted loudly: "Charge! The rest, keep charging!"

Da Fei was feeling incredibly joyful and excited. Not because he had taken out a clown, but because he had successfully realized the greatest value of using Deirdre, and it wasn't just for firing cannons! Similarly, those Artillery Emperors could also fly!

Sometimes it's just like that, treasures are right in front of you, but you can't see them even with your eyes wide open! In any case, by hook or by crook, he must ensure Deirdre safely levels up to 50! Right, how much Experience will he get for hauling back this loot?

Decided, all the loot would be sold by Deirdre, and he and the other wives would stay far away, all the Experience would be hers alone to consume! Haha, wahahaha!

Feeling fantastic, Da Fei couldn't help but gloat in the chat room as he saw Blade Royal Family rushing in the group chat, so he couldn't resist typing a line: Blade Royal Family, if you want to bring me down, come at me yourself, what's the skill in calling others to be cannon fodder.

As soon as these words came out, someone in the group immediately called out: "Who is this One Sword Eastward?"

Da Fei was surprised, oh? He hadn't even noticed he was typing with the nickname One Sword Eastward, haha! One Sword Eastward, bro's giving you a chance to shine, let you carry my name gloriously for a bit, no need to thank me, call me Red Scarf!

Da Fei then typed back: I am Da Fei, this is my chat name!

The group channel was in uproar: "Is that real or fake?"

Blade Royal Family raged: "All these cats and dogs like to pretend to be celebrities to show off, ignore them, everybody keep charging!" Just at that moment,

— System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Deirdre has killed the player "Jack".

Da Fei was overjoyed; Deirdre had done it again! She had indeed successfully executed his harassment order! Jack? Damn it, wasn't that the dwarf who had just run away alone? Now it's great, with attacks from both the front and back, how could he fail to collect ten heads?

Overwhelmed with joy, Da Fei typed in the chat channel to demoralize the opponents: "Jack, you still didn't escape! Of all the enemies, why did you have to be against me!"

As expected, a loud roar in the chat room: "I was killed by Da Fei's Vice Hero! So many beauties!"

The chat room erupted: "He really is Da Fei!"

Blade Royal Family shouted angrily: "Kick this traitor out!"

— Group Information Prompt: You have been kicked out by the group administrator from Blade Royal Family Guest Group.

Da Fei laughed heartily!

Chapter 273: The World's Strongest Amateur Player

Why are there so many guilds of various sizes and different perks in the game? Because it facilitates organizing and managing players. In other words, compared to guild members, solo players without a guild are the hardest to organize – they're like a loose pile of sand.

Ordinary players are like peasant rebels, blindly following the flow with great momentum when the situation looks good. But once setback hits, they disperse in disarray, each harboring their own agenda, ready to crumble.

So, when Da Fei, with his incredible Vice Hero, turned the tables instead of being taken down by Thunderstorm's assault, the Royal Guild's makeshift group instantly dispersed into chaos and began to collapse. Even players started to backstab lone wolves from the enemy camp to score kills!

That's right, at this moment, everyone just wanted to hand over ten kills to Da Fei to send away this formidable opponent, or to seize the confusion to collect as many kills as possible and make their escape.

The formation surrounding Da Fei degenerated into disarray, the favorable situation completely lost its suspense, and Da Fei, laughing heartily, took the initiative to attack. His troops advanced, terrifying the enemy who fled as soon as they saw him, demolishing their formation instantly.

It has to be said, Blade of the Royal Guild did very well, especially since his standard Mandarin, akin to a news broadcaster, significantly enhanced his ability to organize and persuade. This shows just how important a standard Mandarin is. But some things are simply inevitable; his opponent was just too powerful.

Regardless, even though they failed to annihilate Da Fei, the Royal Guild did seize this precious opportunity to instantly expand their fame. It can be considered a small gain.

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——System Prompt: Congratulations! You've successfully achieved 10 victories and secured the right to participate in the China Region preliminary round. For the timings of the international qualifiers, please pay attention to official website notifications. Thank you for participating, and we wish you happy gaming!

The scene switches, and Da Fei is back in the vast North Sea. At this moment, Da Fei, still not having had his fill, couldn't help but burst into triumphant laughter.

Awesome! The slaughter just now was too exhilarating! In fact, in situations where ordinary players intentionally avoided Da Fei, gathering ten kills was never easy. Da Fei had fought from the southern jungle path to the northern, and back again multiple times. He ambushed player troops time and again, leaving corpses scattered everywhere without batting an eye, unwittingly benefiting countless other players who were there to finish off the weakened enemies. Finally, he preyed on those with no escape, allowing him to advance.

I'm so kickass, do my parents even know? Haha, wahahaha!

On the first day of the Hero PK tournament, the spotlight was bound to be on China Region; within that region, the focus centered on match no. 67!

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—"Hello, everyone. This is Hero News bringing you live coverage of the Hero World Cup qualifiers. According to official news, nearly two hundred thousand players have signed up for the first batch of qualifiers. These two hundred thousand players have been randomly allocated across 400 battlefields with different terrains to compete in survival PK matches. Already, 500 players have successfully advanced. Players waiting in queue, please be patient and make more thorough preparations. Now we have invited Captain Jiang Dawei of the Star Guild to commentate on the match. Captain Jiang, hello, welcome to join us amidst your busy schedule."

Captain Jiang chuckled: "Hi to the host! And hello to all the gamer friends out there. No matter how busy I am, nothing is more important than meeting with my gamer friends. I'm very happy to see everyone again."

The host laughed: "So, Captain Jiang, are you busy preparing for the competition?"

Captain Jiang chuckled: "This is the first precious opportunity since the official launch of Heroic Creation Era to gauge the strength of domestic and international players. At all costs, the Star Guild will not miss

out on this. However, due to network congestion, our guild members have not participated at the very first moment."

The host laughed: "Taking the opportunity to observe the early batches and make strategic plans?"

Captain Jiang chuckled: "I believe no professional team in the world would join the battle right from the start."

The host laughed: "As expected of a Professional Level Guild, very prudent indeed. Just now, the Heroic Creation Era Joint Headquarters in New York paid attention to a very special match in the China Region. That is, the renowned Chinese player Da Fei's exceptional performance in match no. 67. Of course, with the updated patch, we can't see the match number now. Da Fei demonstrated astonishing combat abilities in the match, now let's watch the video clips provided to us by various participating players in the arena, please look at the big screen—"

At this moment, hundreds of thousands of players queueing in China, all the foreign media focused on China Region, and all the professional teams and gamers watching China Region, turned their eyes to the Hero News on the live stream. Without a doubt, Da Fei's outstanding performance shocked the gaming world once again!

Video playback ends.

The host: "Captain Jiang, what's your take on Da Fei's performance?"

Captain Jiang clapped his hands and sighed, "Overwhelming! Absolute military force overwhelming! This is the advantage of having more Vice Heroes leading more troops. While most players currently follow the public test experience and rush to level 50 without Vice Heroes, aiming straight for the New World, he recruited 4 Vice Heroes in one breath, and their levels are not too far behind the mainstream player group. This kind of boldness and achievement is admirable."

The host said, "The players are very interested in his troops that look like Flower Demons. What are they exactly?"

Captain Jiang nodded, "His remote Flying Army must be the Elf Clan's special troop, level 4 Forest Goddess, derived from the Flower Demon class. This must be his reward from participating in the Pool of Radiance mission. What's more frightening is his flying Banshee Hero. If I'm not wrong, she's the highly valuable Banshee Hero who caused a crazy scramble between the Japan and Indian Zone during the National War at the Pool of Radiance. Now, I can only feel relieved that such a powerful flying hero hasn't fallen into the hands of a foreign region, otherwise our situation in the China Region's National War would've been bleak!"

In fact, had it not been for Bu Feiyan chatting with Da Fei during the mission, Captain Jiang might not have known what troops Da Fei's Forest Goddess were. Fortunately, now he is aware and has not made a fool of himself in front of a global audience.

The host exclaimed, "It's unbelievable that Flower Demons also have a level 4 form. Flying heroes are extremely, extremely rare. Captain Jiang, could you analyze the pros and cons of flying heroes?"

Captain Jiang sighed, "Naturally, flying heroes absolutely need to lead high-speed flying troops to capitalize on mobility and guerrilla warfare advantages. Currently, among the various races, the Undead Race claims to have the strongest capabilities for sieging because it has three types of Flying Soldiers: level 3 Ghost, level 4 Vampire, and level 7 Bone Dragon. Slow-moving Ghosts like that can be disregarded, Vampires are the hottest race with the potential to develop flying heroes; as for level 7 Ghost Dragons, there have been foreign players who attempted to develop the Bone Dragon Knight profession during the public test. Anyway, the Undead Race is most likely the race to produce flying heroes."

The host said, "However, flying troops take extra damage when hit by ranged attacks while flying. This is a disadvantage for both flying heroes and Flying Army, isn't it?"

Captain Jiang laughed, "Exactly. Just like how land creatures drastically reduce their attributes when entering water, Flying Soldiers, although not easy to hit, take a great deal of extra damage once they are targeted. Also, aside from level 7 troops, Flying Army generally have lower defense and health, demanding high player skill level to operate. Therefore, there are methods to counter flying heroes, depending on the caliber of both parties."

The host laughed, "Then, in Captain Jiang's view, what level would you consider Da Fei to be?"

Captain Jiang laughed and sighed, "At his current level, it's absolutely impossible for us professional players to compete with him already. There's no need to talk about skill level. And host, have you noticed that Da Fei is still considered a newbie?"

The host was shocked, "That's true, so powerful even as a newbie, what more after he changes class? Could he be holding back a big move?"

Captain Jiang laughed, "It's a must. In any case, Da Fei's strength now is beyond a doubt intimidating even for professional players. I think for him, discussions about operations and tactics are meaningless."

The host couldn't help but praise, "Who would have thought Captain Jiang would give such high praise to an amateur player? This Hero World Cup might not just be a stage for professional players."

Captain Jiang laughed, "The praise isn't high enough, I personally think he is the strongest amateur player in the world."

The host exclaimed, "The strongest amateur player in the world! So Captain Jiang, do you think he will win the championship?"

Captain Jiang laughed, "It's hard to predict world affairs, but it wouldn't be strange at all if he did win!"

Thus, on this day, China's Da Fei gained another title that the whole world had to acknowledge—The Strongest Amateur Player in the World!

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After the video interview ended, the team behind Captain Jiang was abuzz. Eternal Star, the Star President, completely lost his composure and coughed before asking, "This Captain Jiang, this interview was completely out of your style, don't you think? You've overstated Da Fei's strength too much, haven't you? At least, I have no less than three strategies to deal with him."

Captain Jiang replied with a bitter smile, "It's good to exaggerate a bit, this competition's prize is only a million, which top professional teams wouldn't look twice at, and might not participate in. But if a

supreme master suddenly appears in our China Region, those top teams would somewhat feel unconvinced and restless, and might gather their elites to make an appearance."

The Star President then had an epiphany, "So, Captain Jiang is luring the snake out of its hole!"

Captain Jiang said with a smile, "Exactly. We'll take this opportunity to see if there's a gap between us and the foreign top teams. By the way, pay attention to the player called Thunderstorm who kept throwing lightning at Da Fei in the video; he's the real talent. We must find a way to recruit him."

Eternal Star nodded, "Right, though he couldn't kill Da Fei and ended up supporting him for half the day, there aren't many who can cast so many lightning bolts consecutively."

Captain Jiang sighed, "Right, the world has now entered the era of flying heroes. Not to mention the Vampires from France, the Dragon Slayer from their side must be incredibly excited. We must make Little Pig Run speed up his progress to upgrade from Griffin Breeder to Griffin Knight."

Eternal Star sighed, "There are some things that can't be forced, oh, how eager he must be..."

Chapter 274: Griffin Knight Little Pig Run

The Lionheart Empire's Griffin Mountain Range, a troop composed of 20 players struggles on a rugged and winding mountain path. The leader, a gunner player dressed in inconspicuous leather armor, is followed by a chattering group of brightly-armed, flamboyant female players, with the rest of the struggling troops trailing behind—various archers, Shield Guards, Griffin Cage Cars, and monks forming a grand procession of no less than a thousand.

This unassuming male player is none other than Little Pig Run, ranked first in the China Region and third in the world level rankings, a Level 40 "Griffin Breeder" from the Star Guild, with the female players behind him being the beauties from Bloodrose Studio.

Little Pig Run is undertaking a challenging quest—to be promoted to a Griffin Knight! Once promoted, he would become a Flying Hero, taking a qualitative leap.

In fact, the primary reason why Little Pig Run's Griffin Breeder and the Vampire Princess from France were valued at 1 million US Dollars right from the start of the server was not only because they

specialized in Level 4 troops. Banshees are also Level 4 troops, but a Banshee's specialty doesn't carry such a hefty price tag.

The key to promotion lies in a mount, as an ordinary Griffin definitely cannot support a grown warrior, thus a Griffin King is essential. Their mission is to reach the Griffin Castle nestled within the mountain range, to defeat and tame the Griffin King within the castle.

Griffins are sacred creatures gifted to the Human Race by the Light God, and only devout Believers of the Light God could enter the holy land of the Griffin Mountain Range. Near the Griffin Castle, there are Great Angels on guard, meaning one has to challenge Level 7 troops just to gain entry.

Obviously, this is not a mission Little Pig Run could handle alone, and due to the restrictions of quest reputation and religious belief, Star, who primarily targets the Elf Clan, is unable to help. Considering the Human Race is the territory of Ninth Heaven, they definitely wouldn't lend a hand either, and given the need for mission confidentiality, Star wouldn't approach them. Hence, Star tried contacting Bloodrose Studio, who focuses on the Monastery with very devout religious beliefs, and are filled with healers, making them the perfect reinforcements.

For Bloodrose, living under the overbearing shadow of Ninth Heaven and being reduced to a vassal or even a "harem" is utterly intolerable. To elevate their status, it's only natural that they improve relations with Star, balancing between two large guilds to benefit from both sides.

Thus, both parties hit it off, and the long-planned operation commenced.

This mission was highly valued by Bloodrose Studio. The studio's big sister, Zhou Qing, even put her Chamber of Commerce tasks on hold to lead the team, with all the studio's elite members participating. Putting aside real-life entanglements, simply conquering Griffin Castle in the game would earn them hefty benefits, like, at least, Angel Army rewards.

The troop has now been navigating through the mountainous terrain for a month in game time.

The terrain in the mountainous region is even more treacherous than in the jungle. The challenge isn't just slower pace and greater Stamina consumption; the most fatal drawback is the inability to deploy the troops effectively. It can be said that if a BOSS-level beast charged along the mountain path, it could slaughter this thousand-man Long Snake Formation like cutting through sausage.

Fortunately, such an event has yet to occur, thanks to Little Pig Run, as his troops are Griffins. In the mountains, Flying Soldiers not limited by terrain are the greatest reliance. Over this month, the troop has encountered various swift-moving mountain wolf packs and vulture groups. It was Little Pig Run's Griffin squadron gallivanting around to rescue them that prevented total annihilation. As for Bloodrose, their mission has essentially turned into one of resurrection and healing.

The Griffin Mountain Range is indeed not a place where ordinary players with ordinary troops could simply venture into.

All along the way, Little Pig Run has displayed his supreme tactical knowledge and exquisite operational skills befitting an international professional player, quickly winning over these beauties. Thus, the journey was filled with laughter and jokes, and not boring at all.

The first day's topic was: what do professional players like you usually do? Are you really only 17 years old?

The second day turned to: could we also reach your level? Is Bu Feiyan as strong as you?

Naturally, the third day's topic was about the recently started Hero World Cup.

During these days of interaction, Bloodrose Rosa, aka Zhou Qing, who is usually proud and cold, couldn't help but view this 17-year-old with favor. After all, why would she act aloof and pretend to be superior when dealing with a youth whose mind is filled with gaming? She was confident she could easily win over such a talented and innocent young man.

Zhou Qing then asked gently with a smile, "Little Pig, are you not upset about not being able to compete, given your skills?"

Little Pig Run chuckled shyly, "No, I'm just happy to do missions with everyone."

Zhou Qing laughed, "But that's a chance at 1 million US Dollars! Even third place gets 250,000 US Dollars."

Little Pig Run replied with an "oh": "As long as I can enjoy the game happily, that's enough for me. I'm quite content now."

His statement drew a collective laughter and sighs from the ladies. It must be said, so focused on gaming that he cares not for the prize money – reaching the realm of a super expert is hard not to achieve.

Zhou Qing smiled, "It's said professional players typically retire after 22; ever thought about what you'll do after retirement?"

Without hesitation, Little Pig Run replied, "Run an internet café!"

The crowd burst into laughter again.

Zhou Qing shook her head while laughing, "It's not so easy to start an internet café these days; you need connections. Here's an idea: when the time comes, you can find me in Shendong City. I'll put up the capital and take care of the internet café license and location. What do you think?"

Little Pig Run eagerly asked, "Open an internet cafe in Shendong City? Are you serious, sis?"

Zhou Qing laughed, "Truer than pearls!"

The ladies also laughed, "We can even hire the prettiest college girls to work as waitresses for your internet café!"

Overjoyed, Little Pig Run exclaimed, "Can I come now? I can't wait to be an internet café owner!"

Zhou Qing laughed heartily, "Giving up on professional gaming?" Kids will be kids, it's just too easy to deal with them.

Little Pig Run was taken aback, "I can be both a professional gamer and an internet cafe owner!"

The girls were surprised, "Is that even possible?"

Little Pig Run was astonished, "Why not? Isn't an internet cafe owner just someone who sits at the counter and plays games all day?"

The girls couldn't help but burst into laughter again. It must be said, Little Pig Run is just too naive. Zhou Qing chuckled, "If your boss agrees to let you go, I'll take care of it right away!"

Little Pig Run stunned, "Sis, our boss has a thing for you. With just a word from you, he'd let me go in an instant!"

The girls erupted in laughter and even Zhou Qing blushed. This guy is quite the little devil too! Out of the mouths of babes often come gems of wisdom, and his words are probably true. To think, despite having Bu Feiyan by his side, Boss Long actually still has me on his mind. Of course, how could Bu Feiyan's family background compare to mine? Aside from being better at gaming, she can't compare to me in anything else. Perhaps this is also why he took this opportunity to get close to me? For a moment, Zhou Qing felt a surge of pride.

Just then, Bloodrose Qiqi exclaimed, "Hey hey hey! It's that Da Fei again! He's driving me mad, now Captain Jiang has even ranked him as the world's number one amateur player!"

The girls were astonished, "The results of the preliminaries are out?"

Bloodrose Qiqi said resentfully, "The results are out, and he is basking in glory. I bet that his Banshee Hero is definitely the one upgraded from the Banshee BOSS we lost!"

The girls said indignantly, "This scumbag, he made his fortune by stealing from others, and yet we can do nothing about it."

Little Pig Run was surprised, "Do you sisters really hate that Da Fei?"

Bloodrose Qiqi felt a surge of anger and said, "Hate him? He is nothing but a hooligan—why, do you want to help us sisters get revenge?"

Little Pig Run shook his head lightly, "Can't beat him."

The girls were taken aback, "Even Little Pig isn't confident of defeating him? That's not something a 17-year-old should be saying."

Little Pig Run suddenly spoke with mature gravity, "As a professional player, you need to be able to instantly recognize the gap in strength between the sides. Right now, I definitely can't beat him; there's no chance at all."

The girls were stunned, "No chance at all? But you're a professional player!"

Little Pig Run said earnestly, "Exactly because I'm a professional player, I am clear about the gap."

Zhou Qing's eyebrows twitched, "What if you successfully become a Griffin Knight?"

Little Pig Run smiled, "If it's in the jungle, I probably have an 85% chance to pounce and instantly take his head off. If it's this mountainous area, it's less than 30%. If it's on flat ground or at sea, the chance is zero!"

The girls exclaimed, "How could you calculate it so precisely?"

Little Pig Run shook his head, "It's not precise; this is just based on the information revealed from his videos. We still don't know how many more cards he has up his sleeve."

Zhou Qing had made up her mind, clapped her hands and said earnestly, "Alright, let's not worry about those messy people. This time, we'll go all out to defeat the Griffin King and make sure to help Little Pig advance."

The girls responded in unison, "Understood!"

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Finally, Griffin Castle on the cloud-covered mountaintop was within sight. Now, the team will face its greatest challenge, defeating the Guardian Angel. But before taking on the challenge, the troops, after their continuously exhausting march, needed one last lengthy rest, not just to recover stamina but also morale.

Facing the angel, Zhou Qing still felt uneasy and asked softly, "Little Pig, any tactics against angels?"

Little Pig Run did not hesitate, "No tactics, just a contest of healing!"

A contest of healing? The girls paused for a moment before understanding—it meant relying on healing power. But that way of saying it was a bit... something.

Zhou Qing was surprised, "Can we out-heal them?"

Little Pig Run nodded, "Based on my observation and calculations of you sisters over the past few days, I have 75% confidence in your healing power!"

Healing power? The girls couldn't help but...

Chapter 275: Vortex Sea Demon: Calubidis

North Sea, Day 15 of the return voyage, the brief Arctic summer had ended, and the Ice Sealing Period had come again, with fierce cold winds howling between the sea and the sky. Da Fei's fleet was returning at full speed amidst the roaring cold winds.

Da Fei had already snapped out of the exhilaration from the overwhelming victory in the preliminary competition. The noisy flattery from the guild, various continuous comments on the forums, the television news reports, the congratulations from the Dragon Slayer Leader and the Star Goddess, the title of world's number one amateur player, etc., all were fleeting! Hahaha!

Brother didn't give you a penny for publicity fees, why are you hyping me up so much? Brother's biggest wish is just to return home safely.

And now, the Frostwind Strait was right in front of them.

Here it comes! The smooth journey without any Sea Monsters made Da Fei uneasy, being too normal was indeed abnormal. This was the only place in this sea area that could ambush the fleet. Would the Sea God annoyingly ambush at the same spot twice?

The flagship Radiant Wings sent a signal again: Pass through the strait, keep up at full force, battle alert!

Da Fei was nervously watching the sky, watching the sea surface. There were no dense clouds like the last time, nor was there heavy fog. So, only Sea Monsters then? But it's okay, now the Radiant Wings is equipped with a Six-headed Sea Demon Statue and a Narwhal Horn; it has completely transformed. Moreover, to use the Dragon Bone Rune, Brother also sent Anlicia to the flagship. If any Sea Monster dares to block the way, just activate the Charging Rune and speed up to smash it!

The fleet was sailing at full speed through the strait, every sailor's nerves were stretched tight as a string.

—Creak! Suddenly, a slight sound came from the hull, and Da Fei felt the Octopus slightly deviating in its course.

Da Fei was startled, was something going to happen?

—Creak! The sound grew louder, and the hull shook slightly! At the same time, a red light exploded on Da Fei's screen!

—System Prompt: Reconnaissance Skill warning! A large whirlpool detected ahead of the hull, please immediately perform an emergency maneuver!

Da Fei's heart shook violently! A whirlpool! The whirlpool has finally come to me! Da Fei shouted, "Signalman! Order the fleet to avoid the whirlpool!"

"Yes, Captain!"

Avoid? How to avoid? Charge through? Turn? Brother has no clue! Watching the waves beginning to surge on the strait's surface, watching the increasingly deviating bow, Da Fei desperately turned the rudder, his sweat dripping down! The only hope was relying on professionals like Catherine and Coltner!

Soon, the signalman rushed in again, "Captain, flagship's instructions, make a sharp turn, and rush out at full speed from the counterclockwise edge of the whirlpool! Right now!"

So it was a charge! Da Fei suddenly felt relieved! It turns out the NPCs know what to do! Counterclockwise? Which way? To the right? Whatever, just follow them!

The sea surface's whirlpool roared like thunder, the center began to sink. The whirlpool was getting faster, the pit deeper, the rotating area bigger, almost blocking a large part of the strait's channel! This whirlpool was so alarmingly large!

Fortunately, Da Fei discovered it in time, and the fleet responded quickly; the fleet had already reached the current edge of the whirlpool!

Just then, the two Dragon Bone Masts on the Radiant Wings flashed a red light! The fleet's speed suddenly increased!

—System Prompt: The flagship Radiant Wings has used the Charging Skill, speed increased by 30%, duration 30 seconds!

May the Sea God bless me! Da Fei immediately activated the Emergency Acceleration Skill on the Octopus.

The vortex grew larger and larger, completely blocking the channel and engulfing the entire fleet in its currents! The fleet struggled valiantly within the vortex. Da Fei's heart leaped to his throat, so tense he couldn't breathe!

At this moment, Da Fei's Octopus vessel made a thunderous noise under the push and shove of the vortex. Da Fei was certain that if not for the Octopus' Emergency Acceleration Skill's poor turning defect, it would have been the first to be swallowed by the vortex; sometimes, a flaw can actually be a lifesaving advantage!

The vortex spun faster, and the fleet's speed increased — right! Whether it's clockwise or counterclockwise, the initial direction of entry must align with the direction of the vortex, that way the fleet could use the vortex's thrust to break out! Just like discus throwing!

The fleet increasingly veered away from the center, and breaking free seemed hopeful! Da Fei was so ecstatic that he couldn't help wanting to jump up!

Just then, a dull roar came from the center of the vortex at the seabed: "Don't think you can escape!" A red light exploded in front of Da Fei again!

— System Prompt: Reconnaissance Skill warning! A powerful enemy is about to appear, please prepare for battle with all your might!

Da Fei was terrified; it was a Sea Demon! In that instant, a huge red cloud appeared on the radar mini-map at the seabed, its size as large as the vortex itself! It completely covered the strait's channel!

Now, Da Fei could see a blood-red massive "land" rising rapidly from the seabed, Da Fei was utterly shocked, what an enormous, world-shocking Sea Demon! In front of such a large Sea Demon, comparable to an island, the fleet was like... it was like a fleet moored at the island's dock...

Da Fei could no longer find words to describe his feelings at this moment, his momentary euphoria of apparent victory plummeted to rock bottom.

Indeed, was this Chamber of Commerce revival task of mine too ahead of its time, too fatal? Did I escape the first only to be caught on the fifteenth? Would my achievements in the North Sea all be in vain like drawing water with a bamboo basket?

It's close! Finally seen! That red thing was an abyssal crack-like huge mouth! Finally, Da Fei had found words to describe his feelings, and it was summed up in one word — damn!

— Splash! The sea surface violently trembled, a giant ring of water surged to the sky, and the world suddenly darkened!

Da Fei, of course, knew what had happened; it was that his entire fleet had been swallowed by the Sea Monster! Even "swallowed whole" was an understatement for its appetite!

Man, it's game over.

A dull voice echoed in the dark world: "Mortal, to perish within Calubidis's belly is your honor, and in a day, you will be crushed and recycled along with this trash! You may also try to escape, but up to now, only the hero Odyssey has succeeded."

— Clang! A loud noise came from the darkness, indeed the sound of crushing objects.

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched in shock! Calubidis! The Vortex Sea Demon from the Greek mythology "Odyssey," a good neighbor of Skira! Just now he called me a mortal? Does it mean it's also a Demigod? My God!

At this moment, the fleet's searchlight turned on, illuminating a huge, continuously writhing red meat tunnel. Needless to say, this was its mouth.

The fleet was in a pool of water inside its mouth, surrounded by mountains of debris filled with various shipwrecks and sea monster remnants.

— Clang! Another loud sound, a pile of debris at the end of the garbage mountain fell into a deeper throat-like meat tunnel under the flow of water, the sound originated from there!

Holy crap! Turns out this Demigod is also an environmental worker! Judging by its waste disposal progress, it looks like tomorrow will be my turn, means I still have one day left!

After all, no matter how the game screws over, it couldn't possibly not give players a chance. That clanging hole of his certainly isn't the way out. So there's only one solution left, fire all Crossbow Cannons, blow up its mouth!