

God level 311

Chapter 311: It's Not Easy to Add Da Fei's Good Friend

Shendong Normal University, girls' dormitory.

Little Fang laughed heartily as she applied various cosmetics and accessories left by a roommate who went home for the winter break onto Little Li's face, and proudly declared, "This kind of thing is called public relations. Male players online are the easiest to hook. They don't care about your education, they don't care about your background, they don't care if you have multiple boyfriends. They just want a beautiful girl, and even better, a beautiful girl who can play games! The requirement is so basic, if you can't even capture a homebody, how can you possibly capture those billionaires with countless women in the future? This is life experience—"

Little Li anxiously interjected, "Who wants to capture a billionaire! Can we do this without video calling? What if someone recognizes me?"

Little Fang chuckled, "You see, the first thing a man thinks when he meets a female player is to doubt whether she's a cross-dresser, so video calling is a must. Don't worry, for a woman, it's three parts looks and seven parts makeup. As long as I let your hair down to cover your cheeks, you'll look like a totally different person and won't be recognized. Oh, and put on this low-cut top—the men's attention will be drawn downward, making it even harder to recognize you!"

Little Li quickly shook her head, "I'm really scared, Little Fang, how about you do it?"

Little Fang said eagerly, "Don't move! The makeup will come off! Of course, I can't do it; my facial features are too distinct. Unlike you, you're totally a chameleon beauty. Plus, as the top Female Lord of the China Region, how can I easily video chat with someone? Anyway, this is about a big deal involving tens of thousands of US dollars in prize money and future collaborations. Look at those poor part-time car models in the literature department, you'll understand. Anyway, you must handle this well! Whether he takes the bait is his business, whether you're willing to flaunt it is yours..."

After fussing for half the day, an alternative, highly-made-up beauty with parted hair, a butterfly hair clip, a lace choker, and a low-cut off-shoulder outfit emerged!

Little Li wailed, "Oh my gosh! Who is this? If someone I know sees me, I might as well die!"

Little Fang laughed heartily, "That's exactly the effect we want. I guarantee even someone who knows you wouldn't recognize you! Alright, breaking news, Brother Fei has entered the tavern in Elorin City, hurry up, teleport now!"

...

At this moment, Brother Fei and the old and young of the Coltner family were drinking merrily together!

Little Coltner said, "Guild Master, our Chamber of Commerce has had longstanding issues and needs strong medicine. For the rejuvenation of the Chamber, I think it's better to have short-term pain than long-term pain. I have a bold suggestion, not sure if you would consider it?"

All rewards collected, Da Fei was still rushing to see the Storm Druid, go to the Ranger Guild, and find Makar. He was too busy to listen to anything trivial.

Brother Fei waved his hand grandly, "Bold is good! I believe in you! Go ahead and do it your way!"

Little Coltner happily said, "Thank you for your trust, Guild Master. Since that's the case, I'm not in the mood to drink anymore, I'll go prepare the plan immediately!"

Old Coltner joyfully said, "That's what a doer looks like! Now I can retire in peace, but if there's ever a need for this old man, I'll do my utmost to help!"

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Then, I'll be looking forward to more assistance from everyone!"

"Cheers!"

"Down it!"

The banquet ended joyously, and Da Fei, with a sense of triumphant satisfaction, hurriedly left. Just as he reached the staircase, a system prompt popped up!

—System Prompt: Player "Harem Beauty" wishes to add you as a friend. Would you like to accept?

Damn! As a celebrity, the most troublesome things are paparazzi following, beggars asking for money, and then these random friend requests. So annoying! Da Fei didn't even look before closing it!

...

At this moment, after mustering great courage and mentally preparing for the video call, Little Li, biting her teeth, felt like a bucket of cold water had been poured over her head!

What's this feeling? It's like a herd of f***ing alpacas storming through her heart! You look down on those who flaunt themselves, right? Now when it's your turn, even the chance to flaunt isn't given!

Little Li exclaimed, "How could this happen! I was instantly rejected!"

Little Fang said impatiently, "No surprise there! He's a celebrity walked on the street who everyone wants to add as a friend. Did you think adding a friend was that simple?—Hurry up! You must add him! No matter what, you have to attract his attention without any limits!"

Little Li was dumbfounded, "What does 'no limits' even mean?"

Little Fang jumped, "What's the most popular phrase on the internet right now? 'XXX! I want to have your babies!'"

Little Li outright sprayed, "I'd rather die than say that!"

Little Fang angrily said, "Just saying it won't make you pregnant! Come on, he's getting away!"

...

Mr. Da Fei arrived at the Druid Guild, where the waiter at the entrance greeted him: "Mr. Da Fei, are you here to recruit Special Forces? The Mayor has instructed us to assist you, this way please!"

Mr. Da Fei laughed heartily: "Much appreciated!"

— System Prompt: Player "Harem Beauty" wants to add you as a friend, do you accept?

Damn! So annoying, don't bother me, close it!

Following the waiter, Da Fei arrived at the guild's backyard and saw an NPC Druid named "Storm Master Longena", wearing a golden green robe with golden eagle feathers in his hair.

Longena, with eyes sharp as eagles, scanned Mr. Da Fei up and down with displeasure: "Hard to believe that our finest Druid troops would be commanded by a human. Although it's the Mayor's intention and you have some fame in this city, I can hardly accept it!"

Damn! Why does he have the same attitude as that Ranger Guild Master Jilrien? But he's a hero, and you're just a featherweight, why the arrogance? Right! Why are both these guys so difficult? This is a direct order from the Mayor, why are these subordinates giving me a hard time? Hey, Mr. Mayor, your word doesn't carry enough weight?

Now Mr. Da Fei, being a guild leader and a hero of this city, had grown in stature and temper, no longer the newcomer as before, and definitely had no time for chitchat given his current busyness!

Da Fei said with displeasure: "Do you have any doubts about the Mayor's orders? Look around the entire Elf Kingdom, I, a human, was the ultimate one to complete the Epic Quest! The Mayor is a practical person; if you have capability you step up, if not, step aside. It's that simple!"

Longena angrily retorted: "Watch your tone, even the Mayor can't speak to me like that!"

Damn! Such a familiar tone! Da Fei quickly remembered the situation when the Mayor personally took him to meet the Ranger Guild Master, are the rules in the Elf Kingdom such that the Mayor doesn't control everything? Or is this corrupt Mayor unpopular among his subordinates?

Da Fei realized he was in deep waters within Elorin City, but now was not the time to stir up trouble, so he would not contend further.

Mr. Da Fei could only sigh: "Sorry, it's a military emergency, I'm a bit agitated, my apologies!"

Longena snorted: "What military situation do you have?"

Damn! Are you done being nosy? Da Fei, suppressing his anger, replied lightly: "As the Mayor also instructed, use Storm Druids sparingly as they're rare. If you're worried about the troops, you can refuse, and I'll just find someone else from the humans."

Hmph, did you get that? If you keep troubling me, I'll go to Makar for troops and discredit you in front of him, letting all humans know these Storm Druids are just cowards!

Sure enough, Longena frowned: "I'm only worried about the troops being led by incompetents. For now, I'll give you only 5 troop slots; you can lead them on Chamber of Commerce missions only, and if there's any loss, don't expect to get any more troops from me!"

— System Prompt: You have been granted 5 Storm Druid recruitment slots!

— Storm Druid: Small humanoid elf, Attack 34, Defense 31, Health 460, Damage 61-77, Attack Speed: 13, Move Speed: 13, Command Power 10, Recruitment Cost 5700 Gold Coins, Special Skills: Ranged Shot, Storm Crow, Hurricane Skill, Master-level Summoning Lightning, Master-level Healing Technique.

Da Fei's eyebrows jumped! This Blood Defense, this damage, this recruitment cost, truly are high-grade level 7 troops! And these aren't just elites, but a special kind of soldiers! The difference between elites and troops is, elites can't be recruited from barracks, only raised by players. But troops can be directly recruited from barracks, even those with level eight attributes like bosses!

Damn! Although I managed to create a Banshee Army, those were elites! And those elites were slowly trained from scratch like from a kindergarten, probably out of production, losses would be unbearable! But these Druids can be replenished, meaning, I still need to build a good relationship?

Alright! As long as I can get good stuff, bowing down a bit doesn't matter!

Da Fei hastily chuckled: "Thank you for your care, please rest assured, sir, I'll use the troops wisely and not let them suffer any losses! Not only that, I'll surely enhance the reputation of the Storm Druids!"

Longena snorted: "Guild Master sir, why so presumptuous at first but polite now?"

Da Fei shamelessly replied: "That's because only after I saw the attributes of Storm Druids did I fully realize that you, sir, truly have remarkable skills!"

Longena annoyed: "Show the guest out!"

Crap!

Da Fei dejectedly left the Druid Guild. Dammit, next is to meet that Ranger Guild Master Jilrien. But I'm here to return something, better keep a good attitude, or else, hmm! I'll show you restraint!

Just as Da Fei stepped out, system prompts again!

— System Prompt: Player "Harem Beauty" wants to add you as a friend, do you accept?

At the same moment, a female human player shouted in person: "Brother Fei! Please add me as a friend! I can video chat, warm your bed, and tell racy jokes!"

— Ah phew! Da Fei, already in a bad mood, sprayed on her face: "Why didn't you say so earlier, video chat!"

Chapter 312: My Sister Can't Be This Flirty

Da Fei, since becoming famous, has been overwhelmed with countless people on the streets asking him for money or to add them as friends, but this was the first time a female player had been so proactive

and bold in friending him! Da Fei had seen this type of woman before; back when he played "Dominance" as the president of the Dragon Slayer Guild, he was surrounded by glory and adulation, with plenty of fangirls flocking around him, enjoying what you would call the Emperor's Blessing.

As for such a woman, Da Fei scoffed with a snort from his nose, "Bring it on! Wahaha!"

At this moment, on the other end of the computer, Little Li, who had steeled herself to perform the most embarrassing PLAY imaginable, was faced with Brother Fei's straightforward command "video chat," and immediately felt like she had missed a step on the stairs—a truly horrible feeling! Little Fang was spot on; regardless of how famous a gamer was, a nerd was still a nerd, and their desires were so simple!

Video chat, huh? Okay, video chat!

But before starting the video chat, Little Li, still fretting, hastily asked, "Will it work? Will I be recognized?"

Little Fang reassuringly patted her chest, saying, "Don't worry! If Zhang Ziyi can walk down the street unrecognized after removing makeup and changing her hairstyle with conspicuous facial features, you'll be fine. Calm down! He's just a nerd, relax! OK? Ready, go!"

Little Li took a deep breath, clicked to start the video chat!

Immediately, a picture-in-picture appeared in the top right corner of the game, and Little Li's unrecognizable yet stunningly enchanting face appeared on the video. In that instant, Little Li couldn't even recognize herself! For a moment, this gave her a great sense of relief.

Little Fang whispered from the side, "Speak! Say hi!"

So, Little Li could only chuckle and say, "Hi Brother Fei! I'm very honored to be able to add you as a friend!"

Little Fang excitedly urged, "Stick your chest out! Chest! Chest!!"

.....

At that moment, on the other end of the video, Da Fei, seeing that seductive face with the long hair across it, akin to Fan Bingbing's ad, and hearing that standard Mandarin voice, as if from a newsreader, shivered involuntarily, his mind blanking out!

It wasn't that Da Fei had never seen a beautiful woman, but this one gave him an indescribable, eerie feeling, even a sense of *déjà vu*! Have I seen her somewhere before? Where have I heard this voice? Right! It does seem familiar—Yang Ming? Fan Bingbing? Like those female models on makeup billboards? Hey hey hey! If it's really like that, isn't she way too pretty? No no no, that's not quite it either! Her makeup is too strange!

As Da Fei was still in shock, the beauty in the video started shaking her snowy white chest and spoke, "Brother Fei, do you think I'm pretty? Say something!"

Da Fei's eyes nearly popped out! Holy crap! So white and so full! Indeed, a formidable weapon!

Da Fei quickly came back to his senses, replying with a sleazy chuckle, "Move the camera down a bit!"

"Brother Fei, you're so naughty, where are you looking?!"

"Wahaha! Sis, is your chest really that big, or is it just the bra holding it up?"

"There's no bra! It's clearly a low-cut dress, okay!"

"Wahaha, really now? Squeeze your chest, let me take a look!"

"No way, Brother Fei, you've already seen what I look like, can you let me see your face?"

Da Fei was in the middle of making wisecracks, but sobered up at the request to see his face! With my destined fate to claim a multimillion prize behind a mask, could I really let someone see my face?

Wouldn't every internet café teen tail me to my doorstep and mob me? Not to mention, with so many enemies online, I've apparently offended a local Beauty Studio too—wouldn't I be done for if I'm exposed?

Da Fei immediately shook his head and said, "I'm not a pretty face for the Party, and besides, what's important for a man in a game isn't looks. Anyway, sis, do you want to make connections with me? I have a lot of enemies. You're pretty brave. But just so you know, I'm very busy and high-profile, a career-oriented hardcore player. I can't simply bring you leveling or fighting like ordinary suckers—oh wait, I mean ordinary players. You need to be mentally prepared for that!"

"Brother Fei, you're overthinking! I'd be content just to be added as a friend by you. Actually, I have a friend called Fleeting Blossom who wants to earn some prize money in the international competition. Thinking she might run into you there, she wanted to get in touch, so we could help each other out!"

Da Fei was taken aback: "Fleeting Blossom?" Could it be the female gamer with the extraordinary mental arithmetic from the newbie hall? The powerhouse with China's first 1000 Command Power Epic Deputy Hero?

The beauty cooed, "Yes, the first Female Lord of the Human Race! She also admires Brother Fei and watches your videos every day, stirring up feelings, but she's too shy to approach you herself for fear of rejection."

Watching my videos every day and getting stirred up! Turns out she's a fan girl! Wahaha, Brother Fei is all about fan girls! Who knew there'd come a day when I'd become a male god, admired by female fans? Excellent! Doubles for Brother Fei!

Da Fei burst into laughter, buoyed by pride, "No problem! To tell you the truth, Brother Fei doesn't care much for the petty international competition prize money. Anyway, it's all about having fun. If there's anything, just contact me!"

The beauty gratefully replied, "Thank you, Brother Fei, you're awesome! I know you're busy, so I won't bother you any longer!"

Not bother me? How could that be? If in the past, a thousand pieces of gold would buy a horse's bones, today Brother Fei is willing to spend ten thousand for a beauty! Not to mention the beauty right here, at

the very least Fleeting Blossom is worth Brother Fei making connections! Yes, making connections, wahahaha!

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Now that we're friends, here's ten thousand Gold Coins to spend! If you decline, that's insulting to me!"

— System Prompt: You have initiated a trade request with the player "Harem Beauty."

Harem Beauty? For some reason, when Da Fei saw the words "beauty" after her name, he couldn't help but shiver all over! That's my sister's name!

Wait a second! Suddenly, Da Fei realized that the beauty in the video actually looked a lot like his own sister. In that instant, the more he looked, the more she resembled her. The more he looked, the colder his heart felt. Damn it, no wonder she looked familiar!

The beauty initiated a trade with a cutesy voice and said, "Thanks, Brother Fei! I'm going to level up now, so you go ahead and keep busy!"

"Sure! Busy!"

Only then did Da Fei snap out of it. What a joke, my sister hates playing games the most, and there's no way she'd be on a video online. My sister couldn't possibly be that flirty! Right, my sister does have the standard beautiful model face, the kind with a melon seed shape, so it's not strange for her to look like her.

.....

At this moment, a girls' dorm was bustling with laughter and play.

Little Fang pinned Little Li to the bed and playfully chastised, "You, you, you! What nonsense are you talking about? Who's been fawning over this damn rogue every day?!"

Little Li burst into laughter, "Can't let brother lose face completely, right? You've got to show some sign, don't you?"

Little Fang, annoyed, tousled Little Li's hair into a mess, "Brother my foot!"

Little Li laughed, "Mercy, mercy! That tickles!"

Little Fang took a deep breath, "Regardless, we finally snagged the sucker before Bloodrose and her stinky gang did!" She then sneered coldly, "Those Bloodrose women are nothing but bimbos with big boobs and no brains. They had such an easy-to-seduce expert and instead of wooing him, they chose to be his enemy. Stupid! Dead stupid!"

Little Li was in a daze, silently lost in thought.

Little Fang joked, "What's wrong with you? Could it be that you're reliving the thrill of fishing for a sucker?"

Little Li retorted, "Nonsense! I just thought Da Fei's voice sounded eerily familiar, that's all!"

Little Fang laughed heartily, "You're so old-fashioned too. The most cliché way for a guy to pick up girls is, 'Beauty, you remind me of my sister, shall we be friends?' Hahaha!"

Little Li angrily said, "Stop it! If you keep going, I'll be mad!"

Little Fang chuckled, "Alright, alright, don't want to make the wife angry, let's drop it. By the way, school is starting soon, we can't stay in this dorm anymore, we need to rent a place off-campus."

Little Li was surprised, "Why do we need to rent an apartment?"

Little Fang grinned, "Think about it, what if Brother Fei asks for a video call again, or if one of Brother Fei's close underlings asks for a video? Will you do makeup? Would you dare do makeup in front of the

other dorm mates? Plus, we are playing the game on a larger scale now, it's no longer appropriate to stay at the school, and passing the dorm mother's inspections will be difficult."

Little Li then realized, "But the problem is, the rent outside is very expensive! And it's not safe!"

Little Fang smiled, "Wife, what am I now? A rich lady, can't I afford to rent a place? As for safety, we'll just rent something in the city center."

Little Li wondered, "But the city center is far from our school, it's inconvenient for attending classes!"

Little Fang scornfully said, "We've come this far, still worried about classes? Isn't there a saying, 'If you can make money flipping property, you don't run a factory; if you can earn money, you don't study'? Besides, with our grades, it's easy to seduce a nerdy guy to copy his notes and cram for a 60%."

Little Li suddenly clapped her hands, "I've got it! We can share a rental with my brother! If my brother looks out for us, we won't be afraid!"

Little Fang's brows furrowed, and her expression changed, "Ding Junfei? No way, his sleazy eyes are just not trustworthy!"

Little Li scolded, "How can you say that about my brother! Although he is indeed a bit... he still looks after me a lot, so don't worry, he'll listen to me, he won't do anything to you!"

Little Fang shook her head and sighed, "Fine, but we must live separately, get two apartments across from each other, and I'll pay his rent!"

Little Li hastily said, "Of course, I absolutely can't let my brother know that I'm playing games. Plus, my brother has money now, he can afford his own place."

Little Fang shook her head, "No way, it's not much money, I'll pay it, don't be polite with me! Time is tight now, and I can't leave, so go see if there are any apartments nearby!"

Little Li replied irritably, "Got it, my big rich lady! But, Miss Rich Lady, could you help me remove my makeup?"

Little Fang laughed heartily, "Why remove it? Just go out like this, I guarantee the dorm mother won't recognize you!"

"That's right! They'll directly call the police, thinking I'm a call girl who's walked into the wrong door!"

Chapter 313: Apprenticing to Learn a New Profession

Da Fei returned once more to the long-missed Ranger Guild. Since he was there to return something, meeting the legendary "almost impossible to meet" Guild Master was not difficult at all.

As expected, Jilrien still had an arrogant demeanor. "Even though you've delayed the return for several months, but considering that your Pool of Radiance task is still incomplete, I'll let it slide!"

Damn, it's like I owe you something! Fine, let's pretend I do! If I'm not mistaken, that Storm Master's soldiers normally require high reputation or task completion to recruit, right? Alright, being a career-focused high-level player, I won't bicker with NPCs.

Da Fei chuckled. "Thank you, Mr. Guild Master, for your understanding. This Blood Eagle Flute played a huge role in this mission; without it, I couldn't have completed the task. That would not only be my personal loss but a loss for the Kingdom and the Bright Alliance too..."

Just as Da Fei continued rambling, Jilrien widened his eyes and stared at Da Fei with an incredulous expression on his face!

Da Fei asked in surprise, "Mr. Guild Master, is there something wrong?"

Jilrien exclaimed, "It seems you've taken on the Ranger profession as a side job?"

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat! Hmm? This Guild Master really lives up to the reputation, recognizing right away that I took up the Ranger role? Hahaha! There's potential here! As a career-driven high-level player, what's my next move?

Da Fei chuckled, "Yeah, during the Pool of Radiance mission, I encountered the spirit of an Elf General who fell in battle. He provided immense help for me to enter the Abyss Blood Pool and allowed me to take on the Ranger role as a side job!"

Jilrien gasped, "Impossible! Absolutely impossible! How can a human take on the Ranger role as a side job? The Ranger is a main hero profession; how can it be a side job?"

That's the reaction I was hoping for. You don't know everything, do you? Can't act aloof now, can you? Time to play nice. Da Fei smugly replied, "Well, it is a main profession, but the professional attribute points are only halved when taken as a side job."

Jilrien shook his head urgently. "Who is this Elf General's spirit you're talking about?"

Aha, this is what I was waiting for! When the old lady first heard this name, she was displeased. I wonder how you'll react to it?

Da Fei casually replied, "Taranna, supposedly a genius of the Elf Clan, and supposedly not very well-liked. Does Mr. Guild Master know him?"

Jilrien's brow twitched and murmured, "So it's him..."

Oh, that tone! Looks like he had no friends while he was alive. If the Guild Master were his friend, maybe I could leverage that relationship?

Da Fei coughed and said, "Anyway, despite his arrogance, training me to be a Ranger proved he had a reason for it. I personally believe that anyone with real talent, no matter how bad their temper and popularity, deserves respect in some form."

Jilrien snapped back, "Indeed, those with abilities always have reasons to be respected!"

Da Fei chuckled, "Actually, in my view, someone with both ability and modesty is even more deserving of respect. I believe the Guild Master repairing this Blood Eagle Flute is an incredible skill. The Guild Master is more deserving of respect!"

Since I couldn't build a relationship through Taranna, I'll just resort to flattery to establish it myself.

Jilrien frowned and shook his head. "Repairing the Blood Eagle Flute was just a trivial task. Now that everything is returned as agreed, you may leave."

Huh? Being shown the door already? Damn! That can't happen! I still have questions about advancing to God-level skills! And since we've already discussed Taranna, it clearly triggered a storyline event. I absolutely can't leave now. Otherwise, next time, how would I get to see him again?

But, since I haven't completed any tasks under him nor have extra support from the Mayor, it might be quite hard to get anything substantial from him! A simple "please leave" from him could nullify all my efforts. Given his interest in my taking on the Ranger role, I just need to make an outrageous offer!

Da Fei quickly said, "Mr. Guild Master, actually, in this Pool of Radiance, Abyss Blood Pool mission, albeit slightly beneficial to me, the Guild Master helping me repair the Blood Eagle Flute makes you the hero behind the scenes. I have a suggestion to repay you!"

Jilrien raised an eyebrow. "A suggestion?"

Da Fei eagerly nodded. "Exactly, I know that training a human to become a Ranger is a truly outstanding feat. If everyone knew this was due to your achievements, wouldn't the Guild Master's fame spread far and wide?"

Jilrien raised an eyebrow and slammed the table in anger. "Nonsense! Am I the kind of person who'd steal others' technical findings? Get out!"

Did I mess up? Damn it! I spoke rashly in a panic! How could I bring this up directly? No way, hold it together!

Da Fei quickly responded, "No, no, no, what I mean is, I would like to formally become your apprentice, Mr. Guild Master! I believe, with my already acquired Ranger status, there's no issue in principle in becoming your apprentice. This way, when I achieve something for the Kingdom, you'll also be celebrated as the achievement behind the scenes! Okay, I know that as a human, some of my ways may not be well-accepted by Elves, but as long as there's mutual benefit, you can gain your deserved recognition. It's all for the Kingdom, for the Alliance's cause, wouldn't everyone be happier?"

Jilrien's eyebrow twitched wildly as Da Fei spoke animatedly, causing his heart to race as well. It's now or never!

Finally, Jilrien coldly said, "Are you finished?"

Da Fei swallowed, "Finished!" Damn, just don't say "get out" again! If the first attempt to dismiss didn't work, saying it again would be unnecessary!

Jilrien coldly replied, "I just said I dislike dealing with humans. I don't even know how you became a part-time Ranger, so I can't teach you! As for apprenticeship, I refuse!"

Ah, I see! Then I have one last move left!

Da Fei urgently said, "Mr. Guild Master, with your help, I've advanced to the God-level Reconnaissance Technique, which you indirectly taught me! I also know that in the Dwarf Kingdom, there's a Flying Eagle Scout, a profession beyond the God-level Reconnaissance Skill, and I believe the Elf Kingdom is even better in this area. I want to surpass the God-level Reconnaissance Skill and comprehend a whole new profession; Mr. Guild Master, you can teach me this, right?"

Jilrien's expression suddenly changed. "You actually comprehended the God-level Reconnaissance Technique? You even know about professions beyond the Reconnaissance Technique?"

Hahaha! That's exactly the reaction I wanted! Now it's time to play my ace, the self-promotion move. If you still refuse, it's not because you don't want to teach, but because you lack the genuine skills to teach me! Damn, I also suspect whether you have the capability, being just a city-level Guild Master, to teach me! If you won't do it, I'll just have to head to the capital to find the Chief of Staff, who surely has better mentors!

Da Fei bowed deeply. "Mr. Guild Master, I believe my aptitude and comprehension are decent, and won't tarnish the teacher's reputation. I sincerely hope to receive your guidance, and I wish to formally become your apprentice!"

Jilrien remained silent for a long while.

Da Fei kept bowing, heart pounding wildly, thinking about NPCs backed by the system who could think at lightning speed; there shouldn't be so much hesitation, right? Maybe he's just putting on a show for me because he has some unresolved issues with the Mayor, triggered by the unexpected storyline?

Finally, Jilrien sighed heavily. "Alright, being a human and taking the Ranger as a second job is something worth my interest and attention. Over all these years, you are the first human disciple I've taken."

—System Prompt: Jilrien, the Ranger Guild Master in Elorin City, has become your Ranger profession mentor!

Oh yes! Success! Getting someone who doesn't like you to take you on as an apprentice is even more satisfying than being Makar's easy student!

Da Fei happily exclaimed, "Thank you, Mentor!"

Jilrien shook his head. "Honestly, I don't have much to teach you, but based on your mention of the profession beyond the Reconnaissance Skill, I can teach you that!"

—System Prompt: You have received the "Kingdom Apprentice Sentinel Introduction Guide" from your mentor Jilrien!

—Kingdom Apprentice Sentinel Introduction Guide: A profession specific to Elf trainees, granting the ability to tame a Reconnaissance Hawk. Learning requirements: Basic-level Ranger, Basic-level Druid.

Da Fei was ecstatic! As expected! There really is this profession! I found the right person! I've always said, the iconic move of the Elf Clan is releasing hawks in the forest, and if the Dwarves know this

profession, of course, the Elves should be even better at it! Hahaha! Jilrien turns out to be warm-hearted despite his cold exterior, giving such a big gift once I became his disciple!

Da Fei once again bowed deeply and thanked, "Thank you, Mentor!"

Jilrien waved his hand dismissively. "Don't thank me yet! This profession is primarily military, and normally, it's not to be disclosed, hence I can only teach you an apprentice role for training soldiers. Apprentice professions can't improve your professional attribute point bonuses, so you must understand it yourself!"

What? No attribute points from a secondary profession? That's too weak!

Da Fei hurriedly asked, "How can I comprehend it then?"

Jilrien shook his head. "I don't know about sentinels from other races, but the Elf Kingdom's sentinels are based on developing the Ranger and Druid professions. If you can improve your Ranger Level, I can naturally improve your Sentinel Level. Once you become a formal sentinel, you can receive the professional attribute bonus."

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat, improving the Ranger Level? Didn't Taranna mention going to his hometown?

Da Fei quickly said, "Thank you, Mentor, for your guidance. How do I tame the Reconnaissance Hawk?"

Jilrien shook his head. "Being human, I find it hard to believe you can communicate normally with avian species. I don't think normal taming methods will work for you, so it depends on whether you're willing to pay a price." After speaking, he took out the Blood Eagle Flute Da Fei had just returned.

Da Fei asked in surprise, "What do you mean, Mentor?"

Jilrien seriously said, "Using your bloodline as a guide, support a Spiritual Eagle, but the price is your Life Value will decrease by 100 points! As the Spiritual Eagle grows, your Life Value will also decrease!"

Chapter 314: The Birth of the Blood Eagle

Sacrifice 100 Life Value to raise a Reconnaissance Eagle? Da Fei felt a strong sense of being set up rushing at him!

For a main hero, what attribute is the most important? It wasn't attack-defense, magic, or Command Power, but life! Even if a commander had a mighty army, with godlike attack and defense, once the commander was beheaded, the vast legion would crumble instantly! The hero is the most core, yet weakest link in the army.

Compared to other attributes, the channels to acquire life are really limited and difficult, basically through equipment, upgrades, and achievements. Upgrades provide only a paltry 2 points, Life-adding equipment doesn't necessarily boost other Strategic Attributes, and as for achievements, most players fall halfway. Of course, there's also that Life Book which has been hyped up to sky-high prices, but let's not even think about that.

Da Fei had gathered 356 Life Points through various glorious battle achievements, defeating the Demigod, reaching the level of a Grade 7 soldier. Compared to ordinary players, that's pretty high-end, cutting off 100 Life Points means Da Fei would be on the same level as ordinary players, which made Da Fei feel insecure. After all, in the National War, Da Fei had witnessed the prowess of a single, hacking hero like SAWSAW.

Jilrien continued, "Although the cost is high, the advantages are enormous. This Reconnaissance Eagle will become your Summoned Beast, will not truly die, will share your view without having to wait for it to fly back and report, and will grow with you, even becoming a combat force for you!"

Da Fei was startled: "Summoned Beast? It can help me fight?"

Jilrien nodded solemnly, "What do you think? Want to try?"

Damn! Isn't this clearly an upgraded version of the Blood Eagle Flute? I've come this far, do I still have the option to refuse? What about my God-level Reconnaissance Technique? It still hasn't surpassed the Dwarf Flying Eagle on the sea!

Da Fei made up his mind, "Mentor, I want to learn!"

Jilrien nodded in satisfaction, "Very good! In this way, you truly become my disciple in a meaningful sense! Here's the Blood Eagle Flute, back to you! Hold it tightly with your left hand!"

Oh yeah! My treasure, you're back, wahahaha!

Jilrien took out a shiny little silver knife and gripped Da Fei's wrist, "I'm going to cut your left hand vein to let blood, ready?"

Oh crap! This is like the rhythm of cutting wrists, right? Luckily, it's just a game, otherwise I'd never do this! Da Fei gripped the Blood Flute, gritting his teeth, "I'm ready! But, why cut veins? Isn't it usually arteries?"

Jilrien exclaimed, "So you want a fountain display, huh? Fine, I'll satisfy you!"

Da Fei said hurriedly, "Veins will do!"

"Then don't move!"

A flash of the knife, and the blood from Da Fei's wrist flowed into the Blood Eagle Flute he held, as Jilrien exerted force on Da Fei's palm, enveloping the flute in faint green light. As blood flowed, Da Fei's Life Value continuously decreased!

Suddenly, Jilrien was surprised, "Your Life Value seems abundant, should we, for better summoning effects, let more?"

—Pfft! Da Fei spat out. "Didn't we say 100 Life Points?"

Jilrien nodded, "That's for ordinary people, but you're not ordinary!"

Da Fei hurried, "What effect would it have on a normal person?"

Jilrien shook his head, "This is my research over the years, never tried on a normal person, you're the first! I thank you!"

—Pfft! I'm the first! Such a setup! Da Fei loudly spat again, "There won't be problems, right?"

Jilrien solemnly said, "Considering the absorption effect of the Blood Eagle Flute and the conversion rate of the bloodlines, the more blood released, the less problem will occur. In my view, releasing up to 200 points absolutely guarantees success! It might even create a miracle!"

Da Fei was shocked, "What miracle?"

Jilrien solemnly said, "Normally, a Blood Eagle nurtured with 100 Life Points wouldn't be much stronger than a regular Reconnaissance Eagle in battle, but with 200 points, it's definitely elite, possibly even growing into a leader-type Blood Eagle, with greatly enhanced combat and endurance, assuring its survival ability, and continuous reconnaissance capability. It could even directly kill weaker enemies discovered, sparing you the trouble. In guerrilla warfare, the difference is significant!"

—System Prompt: Your Ranger mentor discovered your unique talent, and proposed special nurturing. Would you choose to train an elite Reconnaissance Eagle?

—Pfft! A third spit coated Da Fei's face! Seriously, why didn't you say so earlier! You're setting me up, right? Sure, we're labeled as mentor-disciple, but our friendship level is 0, maybe even negative, you're just using me as a guinea pig to test!

Da Fei agonizingly spat blood! Cutting down 100 Life Points, I can handle, I'm still slightly stronger than ordinary players, but cutting 200 Points, that's absolutely unacceptable! However, what kind of person am I? A pro! Isn't it just life? Just fight a couple more glorious battles, kill a couple more Demigods, just buy a suit of blood armor! This pirate skin of mine should've been replaced long ago!

The key is, does this elite Reconnaissance Eagle have a good cost-performance ratio? Last time the Dwarf Reconnaissance Eagle scouted Leviathan it didn't return, because ultimately, that Reconnaissance Eagle had weak survival abilities. If it comes to a critical moment and the eagle doesn't come back, losing sight and intelligence could determine the army's survival! Plus, with this global hawk and predator drone, I'd practically have an open map, preemptively predicting enemy's moves, just like the

US Empire's contactless warfare, hitting without losing a feather, how much would losing 200 Life affect me?

Decided, as a pro, go big or go home, learn the most badass skills!

Da Fei gritted his teeth, "Learn it!"

Jilrien's brow twitched, and he sighed deeply, "Now I understand why the mayor was willing to bet everything on you, a newcomer human! I must admit, you are bold. Therefore, I shall do my utmost; let's begin!"

As he finished speaking, Jilrien tightened his grip on Da Fei's wrist, the faint green light transforming into a dazzling golden-green! Such radiance, such momentum suddenly made Da Fei feel assured and unknowingly convinced that this bloodletting was worth it! Wait, he suddenly mentioned the mayor? Why say the mayor is 'betting it all'?

No time to think, at this moment Da Fei's Life Limit plummeted, his brow twitching violently, even though it was just a game, Da Fei seemed to feel his arm turning cold! No, it was a chill in the heart! I just hope that after so much sacrifice, the Reconnaissance Eagle won't set me up!

Finally, the dropping of Da Fei's life line slowed, slowed, and eventually stayed at 156 Life Points, then the Blood Eagle Flute blazed with a bright blood light!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have cultivated an elite Reconnaissance Spiritual Eagle, and gained a personal exclusive sentinel profession item, "Reconnaissance Spiritual Eagle Flute!"

—Reconnaissance Spiritual Eagle Flute: Sentinel profession exclusive item, capable of summoning a Reconnaissance Spiritual Eagle! When Spiritual Eagle's Stamina is exhausted, it automatically exits reconnaissance state and returns to the flute. Special skill: Blood Sacrifice.

—Growing Reconnaissance Spiritual Eagle (Unnamed): Tiny-sized spiritual elite creature, Attack 4, Defense 0, Damage 1-2, Life 3, Command Value: 0, Attack Speed: 15, Stamina: 30. Special Skill: Flying Creature, God-level Reconnaissance Technique, Plane Surveillance.

...

Da Fei hurriedly checked the eagle's attributes, momentarily astonished!

Is this my elite Spiritual Eagle? Plane Surveillance? Watching another space like a ghost watching the current space? Isn't this precisely the effect of the old Blood Eagle Flute? However, the difference is, it can spring out like a ghost and strike now! It indeed is an upgraded version of the Blood Eagle Flute, once trained well, it really can behead someone kilometers away!

"How is it? Worked, didn't it!" Jilrien impatiently snatched the brand new Blood Eagle Flute and burst into laughter, "Success! Indeed as I theorized, I finally succeeded!"

Da Fei couldn't help but laugh, "Mentor, is this Spiritual Eagle elite?" Damn, it's indicated in the attribute as elite, isn't it obvious? This name's akin to the Banshee I caught in kindergarten back then, right? But, at this moment, asking the obvious is part of the charm! I want to hear the NPC's perspective!

Jilrien laughed, "What? Is it still questionable? The Spiritual Eagle's attributes have already reached Grade 1 soldier standard, and Grade 1 soldiers are a race's adult combat workforce! This is just a tiny falcon, yet its combat ability matches an adult human, think about it, such an incredible matter, like hearing an eagle can carry off a sheep, simply mind-blowing, and this Spiritual Eagle can keep growing, skills will keep increasing, it's no surprise if it evolves into a leader creature in the future, all in all, I am very much looking forward to its growth, you encounter any issues feel free to ask me!"

Da Fei chuckled, "Mentor, how do I make this Spiritual Eagle grow?" Damn, isn't it obvious! Of course, by letting it kill endlessly like when grooming the Artillery Emperor!

Jilrien joyously instructed, "Have you seen the special skill Blood Sacrifice on the eagle flute? If you have excess Life Value in the future, you can continue to reduce your Life Limit to nurture it, this is the fastest growth method!"

Damn, that's the scamming growth way! I'll never use it!

Jilrien stated solemnly, "However, make sure to avoid the Blood Eagle dying if you want to train it through battles, each death disperses the eagle's blood energy, definitely affecting future growth!"

Da Fei jumped, is there such a flaw? But no worries, my skill equipment achievements are precisely for training low-level Flower Demon troops back then, even if the Spiritual Eagle's current attributes are those of a Flower Demon, under my terrifying attack defense blood boost, it's already transformed; what I need is a place for it to gain levels.

As for now, of course, it's naming time, let's call it "Little Fei," wahahaha! I'm too talented at naming!

Chapter 315: Ordinary Players Also Have Good Items

Da Fei left the Ranger Guild and then went to the city's barracks to check how many recruitment slots the mayor had opened for him. This time, the mayor gave him 5 lieutenant military ranks, allowing Da Fei's 4 vice heroes to get promoted, boosting command power by 400, and instantly solving the troop strength problem.

However, there was still a bigger problem: tactical slots! At level 37, Da Fei only had 4 tactical slots, which allowed him to recruit 4 vice heroes and carry only 4 types of troops. Fortunately, Deirdre's rocket-like upgrade had broken through the level 40 barrier, giving her 5 tactical slots. This allowed the commander to provide an additional tactical slot, enabling Da Fei to carry a total of 5 types of troops. But compared to Da Fei's current mixed forces, the 5 tactical slots were very tight.

Currently, Da Fei's main troops include 200 Forest Goddesses, 50 Druids, and over 100 Banshees. This occupied 3 tactical slots, and then there was the question: should the Necromancer Dragon enter the battle? Was it worth using up a valuable tactical slot for an eighth-level troop?

And then there was the question of whether the Storm Druid and the normal Druid were considered the same troop type. From the results of the last competition, the Charming Emperor, Artillery Emperor, and Banshee were all system-default as the same troop type, so presumably, the Druid was too, right? If not, again the question arose: was it worth using a tactical slot for a level 7 troop like the Storm Druid? To know if it was indeed worth it, the key was to see how many troops the mayor gave him. If he could fully recruit level 3 Jungle Hunters, there wouldn't be any hesitation. In the current game phase, it was all about overwhelming numbers!

Da Fei arrived at the location of the city's barracks, bustling with crowds. Numerous players were setting up stalls and selling around the streets adjacent to the barracks, which was the most bustling part of the city.

"Buying Jungle Hunters at 500 gold coins each, as many as you have!"

"Ancient Tomb Warrior's Sword, C-level strategy treasure, +2 attack, +2 defense. Price negotiable, no low offers!"

"Selling the hidden skill Book of Prospecting, leave a message if interested!"

"Buying Blue Heart Grass, 300 gold coins per unit!"

"Wholesale level 1 Sword Dancer, buy now, only listed for half an hour!"

"Thorny Island group forming, strong shield leading, level 30 and above, command 300 full troops required!"

...

Looking at the bustling street scene, Da Fei couldn't help but be moved. With his current anemic state, shouldn't he set up a Blood Equipment set? Right, didn't One Sword Eastward give him two pieces of a Combined Divine Artifact as a meeting gift, but he was missing two more pieces? Would he be able to acquire them? And his second-rate Vampire Inheritance might be time to sell, right? But for these kinds of trades, it's better to find a large guild instead; relying on ordinary players from street stalls wouldn't get you good goods. In any case, after finishing business here, he could contact the Goddess of Star and Boss Ma of Dragon Slayer.

Naturally, Da Fei's appearance caused a sensation on the streets, with various shouts of "Hey Brother Fei, interested in XXX?" and "Brother Fei, buy some of the new XXX!" leaving Da Fei once again lamenting the woes of being a celebrity, unable to even stroll down the street in peace.

Da Fei squeezed to the front of the barracks, and the recruitment officer shouted, "Oh, it's Mr. Da Fei. The mayor has ordered that Mr. Da Fei can recruit troops up to a total value of 500 command points of levels 1, 2, 3, but these troops must have the Chamber of Commerce's escort military rank to recruit, and must have an entrusted task from the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce to set out. If these troops suffer any losses, you are welcome to come here to replenish them. However, sir, using troops will result in a loss of corresponding prestige, so please use them wisely!"

So, it was fully replenishable with no limit on weekly production! The mayor was really going all out for him, huh? What was there to say, really, with 4 lieutenant military ranks and 400 command for 200 Jungle Hunters fully recruited! For the Elf Clan, even not knowing how to pair soldiers, recruiting Jungle Hunters would never go wrong. Thus, the four main force spots for this competition could be determined: Forest Goddesses, Banshee, Druid, Jungle Hunter! Hahaha, all long-range troops, with flying long-range on top, who needs delicate positioning anymore? It's point and shoot!

Recruit! I've got plenty of money, hahaha!

Da Fei clicked open the barracks menu, and for a moment, he inhaled sharply! Da Fei rubbed his eyes to make sure he wasn't seeing things. Nope, he wasn't wrong! The third elite troop form was open to Da Fei as a player!

— Secret Archer: An elite form of the level 3 Elf Clan troop, Attack 8, Defense 6, Health 21, Damage 6-9, Attack Speed 13, Move Speed 13, Command Value 2, Recruitment Price 547 gold coins, Special Skills: Long Range Shooting, Piercing, Knockback, Precision Shooting, Arrow Formation!

This was the elite form of the level 3 Elf Clan troop! Known as humanoid crossbow cannons and mage slayers, the Secret Archer who wreaked havoc from a hundred steps away! Normally, only NPCs had access to such troops!

Compared to the Jungle Hunter, the Secret Archer had 1 more point in attack, defense, and damage, but their life was boosted from 14 points of low-life weakness to 21 points, greatly enhancing their survivability. Although they lost the Double Shot capability, their ultra-long range allowed them a preemptive strike compared to other archers. Additionally, with their high-speed mobility complementing a ranger hero's high-speed maneuverability, they could skirmish opponents to death! This was the absolute ace troop of the Elf Clan, the Secret Archer!

And now, this game-balance affecting powerful troop had fallen into the hands of Da Fei, a player with God-level Luck Skill! Once Da Fei obtained 1 skill point and learned the God-level Luck Skill's sub-skill, Luck Body, the "Knockback" special skill of the Secret Archers would see a 10% increase in appearance rate. Once the Secret Archers formed in sufficient numbers, they could very well keep melee combatants at bay!

Damn, was this what the mayor offhandedly referred to as opening level 1, 2, 3 regular troops? This had to be a reward for stages of an epic-level Chamber of Commerce task, right? It had to be, had to be! Even Da Fei's Pool of Radiance kindergarten epic quest rewarded him with Forest Goddesses, a rare troop, so recruiting elite troops for the Chamber of Commerce's revival against the Sea God's Curse was a given!

— System Prompt: You spent 109,400 gold coins recruiting 200 Secret Archers. This troop cannot currently join your army and is stored in the barracks.

Da Fei laughed excitedly. If even with such troops, he couldn't win the world championship, he'd be burying his face in shame! But here's a problem: these troops were task-limited. Would the competition system allow them to participate? And what if they couldn't join the competition?

Right, there seemed to be a player on the street continuously buying Jungle Hunters. What if he bought at double, even triple the price? Don't say it was a loss; Jungle Hunters, with their low production during public testing, could be the Elf player's hard currency!

Just then, Da Fei heard a low voice behind him say, "Da Fei, want to see some top-quality goods?"

Even though the voice behind him was not loud, in the cacophony of street selling it was piercingly clear, because the person called him "Da Fei" directly instead of respectfully calling him "Brother Fei," which made Da Fei very uncomfortable. He couldn't help but look back and saw a dwarf player named "Skyshattering Thunder" dressed in impressive forged steel armor.

This eye-catching equipment made Da Fei view him differently. Could he be a player who practiced forging to sell armor? Da Fei had been planning to change out of this pirate skin! But the name Skyshattering Thunder seemed familiar, had he met him before?

Da Fei asked, "Top-quality goods?"

Skyshattering Thunder arrogantly replied, "I'll show you the goods!"

Then a trade window popped up, and in the trading bar, there appeared a silver long spear flashing with electrifying allure!

— Titan's Grasp: Divine Artifact, long spear, Personal Attack +10, Personal Damage +10, Health +100, adds a lightning paralysis and slow effect when hitting an enemy, with a certain probability of a stun effect. Task item.

A Divine Artifact! A long spear! For a moment, Da Fei's eyes nearly popped out!

There are two kinds of treasures: strategic treasures, which enhance the entire army's strength, and personal equipment, which only enhances the hero's strength. The player's equipment bar has positions for both strategic and personal equipment. Strategic equipment has no class restriction; anyone can use it. For instance, Da Fei's personal class as a gunner currently allows him to use a long gun, but Da Fei's strategic weapon position actually holds a Captain's Sword. The attributes of these two sets of equipment do not interfere with each other, with high attributes covering low attributes.

And this Divine Artifact weapon gun was obviously personal equipment, and coincidentally, something Da Fei, a gunner, could use! For Da Fei, who had not personally fought for many years, personal equipment was inconsequential, but for Da Fei, who had just stumbled and gotten injured, this gun, surprisingly adding 100 health, was simply too enticing! Da Fei's heart was racing!

However, this gun was a task item? How did that work? Yet, at the present stage, it's likely that a Divine Artifact could only fall into an ordinary player's hands in the form of a "task item," right? To think an ordinary player could still have such valuable goods! China Region truly had hidden dragons and crouching tigers!

Da Fei couldn't help but look up and ask, "How much to sell?"

Skyshattering Thunder arrogantly replied, "I want trade for goods. I heard you killed a demigod and got a Divine Artifact, and you shipped back three vessels of rare goods, so let me see your goods!"

Damn! "See the goods"? You gotta be kidding me, right? I'm just about to enter a grand competition; my Divine Artifact is a military and national secret, how could I show it to you? Who knows if you're really selling or just fishing for my information!

Da Fei said flatly, "Sorry, my Divine Artifact is inconvenient to take out for show. I can buy it with gold coins."

Skyshattering Thunder laughed loudly, "Buy with gold coins? What use do I have for something the workshop churns out every day? You're China Region's number one, the world's top amateur player, more impressive than large guilds, yet you can't show any goods? Why did I teleport all the way here to find you, then?"

For a moment, all the players on the street were staring in their direction!

Da Fei was furious! Da Fei was now a celebrity, with great ability, high fame, a big figure, and naturally, a big temper. More importantly, his fame was Da Fei's future commercial capital! How dare someone undermine him right there!

Are you deliberately trying to provoke me? Do you really think I don't have a Divine Artifact? Fine then, I happen to have a lousy Divine Artifact, wondering whether or not to deal with it, let's use this chance for some publicity! Although my Divine Artifact might be pathetic, it's still something you can't match with your personal weapon, even if you begged me on your knees, I wouldn't sell! Let me enlighten you first!

Chapter 316: The Huge Pit of Divine Artifact Titan's Grip

Who was Skyshattering Thunder? A dwarf smurf specifically trained in smithing by Skyshattering Cannon. And who was Skyshattering Cannon? A moderately famous player who organized a mid-sized fleet at Elorin to run businesses when the server first opened, and was the first to encounter the wandering red-named Da Fei, but ended up losing his entire fleet and getting his ship snatched by Da Fei.

In fact, the organization skills Skyshattering Cannon had since the server launch showed that his abilities were nothing to scoff at, far from it, he thrived.

He was well-planned, with one account developing long-distance trade in the Elf Kingdom at Elorin to finance another smurf practicing smithing in the Dwarf Kingdom. Both trading and smithing were monotonous and dull, so even with dual accounts, he handled it with ease.

Skyshattering Cannon was eloquent and generous. He never reforged the practice equipment he made but gifted them to friends and the armed forces, which earned him many good friends. Friends would mail him unused materials, and he could always call on them to help with various difficult tasks.

The more friends you have, the more paths you can take. One day, a friend with a good relationship got a hidden mission that needed a forging master and a lot of help. Skyshattering Thunder called upon all his friends who came together to finally complete the task, gaining a permit to run a blacksmith shop! This was quite an achievement, one that even a large guild hadn't reached! Opening a blacksmith shop meant receiving all sorts of crafting orders from NPCs, such as making arrows and armor for NPC armies. Once an order came in, friends would join in gathering materials and completing the task at lightning speed, splitting the rewards happily. As for Skyshattering Thunder, he was the biggest beneficiary as each order completed significantly boosted his reputation, attracting more high-level orders.

Now, his team had grown to 50 people, crafting gear and completing commissions day and night.

All in all, if it weren't for that setback with Da Fei, Skyshattering Thunder's start would have been smooth sailing and a dream come true. But that setback always lingered on Skyshattering Cannon's mind. To be honest, he wasn't truly generous; a meticulous planner can't act spontaneously. His so-called generosity was just a part of his detailed plan.

As his reputation soared, he had the chance to encounter high-end NPCs and receive advanced missions at epic difficulty unseen before! Since the server's launch, Skyshattering Thunder's success had swelled his confidence, prompting him to accept this massive challenge! His friends also fully supported him.

The mission's background was roughly that 160 years ago, the Titan Lord heard of the dwarves' advanced smithing skills and commissioned a divine artifact, Titan's Grip, from the Dwarf Kingdom, promising to form a friendly alliance if completed. The Dwarf King naturally wouldn't miss such a great opportunity, gathering god-level blacksmiths from all over the country to showcase their skills in the underground Lava City, Grimbatal.

But the dwarves had a powerful, cunning, and cruel rival underground—the Dark Elves.

Upon hearing the Dwarf King's plan, the Dark Elves couldn't just sit by and watch the dwarves ally with the powerful Titan Clan. The Dwarf King was also worried about the Dark Elves causing trouble and strengthened city defenses. Yet, he underestimated their resolve as the Dark Elves, allied with Demons, launched an unprecedented attack, destroying the artifact in progress and eventually annihilating Grimbatal.

This was the Battle of Grimbatol. Both sides suffered heavy casualties, and the already sparse Dark Elf tribe was left weakened and retreated to the New World. The Dwarf Kingdom lost 90% of their god-level blacksmiths, devastating the smithing industry. Worse, the god-level materials for the divine artifact were stolen during the melee, enraging the Titan Lord. The dwarves' reputation was severely damaged, and they had to make massive economic reparations. So, the only winner of this battle was the Demons.

Fortunately, thanks to the dwarven warriors' desperate fight, Titan's Grip's remnants were preserved. For over a century, dwarves have longed to complete Titan's Grip and restore their honor, but without the technology or materials, such a daunting task naturally fell to the players.

Skyshattering Thunder received this epic mission.

Initially, the attributes of the remnant Titan's Grip were garbage. Skyshattering Thunder's team collected expensive materials, hired NPC divine craftsmen, and step by step, removed rust, recast, and reforged, repeatedly failing and investing heavily, spending nearly a million Gold Coins to restore Titan's Grip to its current state.

Now, its glittering state was exasperating enough to drive Skyshattering Thunder to despair!

Why exasperating? The weapon was a fully electrified baton! No one could equip or use it! Not even touch it!

An NPC divine craftsman said: "Titan's Grip is not a weapon for mortals to use, nor can ordinary mortals touch it, nor can typical blacksmiths continue its repair."

In short, the restoration of Titan's Grip had reached a bottleneck. To proceed, Skyshattering Thunder needed to level his account to god-level. Additionally, many materials needed for the next step weren't available in the current world or to players of their level. This was essentially a long-term task! Unfortunately, as he realized this trap, Skyshattering Thunder's financial chain couldn't keep up.

Initially, in his eagerness to quickly repair this artifact, Skyshattering Thunder's friends invested a significant amount of Gold Coins, and while some close friends were willing to wait, those with less tight bonds weren't so patient. Once the cash flow stalled for too long, the consequences were foreseeable. Moreover, Skyshattering Thunder's intention in gaming was to make easy money, and an epic mission with such high difficulty, risk, investment, and slow returns didn't align with his interests.

Taking an epic mission seemed a mistake!

Skyshattering Thunder had to make a painful decision to abandon the mission! But if he quit, what about the initial losses? Sell it to a large guild? But he knew well how big guilds operated: understanding the situation would make them slash prices ruthlessly, leaving him with a massive loss. Deceive them and risk offending a large guild? Skyshattering Thunder wouldn't choose that path.

As he fretted over the artifact, Da Fei returned triumphantly!

Seeing his old enemy only fueled his resentment! Why did he work openly, making many friends and connections, yet couldn't compare to this trickster's deceit? It made no sense! The more Skyshattering Thunder thought, the more upset he became, believing his enemy was meant to be swindled!

Consequences of offending him? Who cares, he had already crossed him! If he could take him down, he'd be famous too! Not to mention avenging those players who disliked him, and with his close friends promoting, he could gain an overwhelming advantage in public opinion. Once famous, business opportunities would follow!

In short, he took action! As soon as he knew Da Fei was on the streets of Elorin, Skyshattering Thunder teleported over from afar.

At that moment, provoked by Skyshattering Thunder, Da Fei furiously pulled out the trade window!

Divine artifact, Luck Gold Coins!

Skyshattering Thunder's eyes narrowed! He had a divine artifact! Turns out he had multiple artifacts!

Suppressing his shock, Skyshattering Thunder scoffed, "Something with such negative effects dares to call itself a divine artifact?"

Da Fei smiled nonchalantly, "You could show me your single-use gun and any other good stuff you have, and maybe I'll agree to trade. Or you could post online for experts to appraise the treasure. Anyway, I'm busy now. Think it over!" He turned gracefully and left.

Skyshattering Thunder knew better than anyone about his own artifact. Trading artifact for artifact would not only reclaim his initial investment but also profit substantially! No need to hesitate anymore! He had to con him! Bring him down!

Skyshattering Thunder immediately shouted, "Wait!"

Da Fei turned proudly, "What? A one-to-one trade is absolutely out of the question."

Skyshattering Thunder replied seriously, "Add me as a friend! I'll contact you if there's a deal."

Da Fei casually said, "Up to you."

Watching Da Fei's proud figure disappear, Skyshattering Thunder gritted his teeth in anger! No need to hesitate, bring him down! The issue was, how could he confidently secure the artifact for himself? Maybe sell it for a few million Gold Coins directly? Or a mix of Gold Coins and goods? Skyshattering Thunder found himself deeply conflicted. Or perhaps, as he suggested, post an online appraisal? After all, experts wouldn't necessarily know the artifact's drawbacks, and a high valuation would benefit the trade, right?

Yes, post online! Once the post was up, he'd be famous! A divine artifact transaction, the first in China Region, the first worldwide, impossible to not gain fame! On top of being famous, bringing down that lowlife Da Fei would have explosive dramatic effects, making it impossible not to be spectacular!

...

At this time, at Saint Paul Port.

Da Fei, in high spirits, headed straight for Makar's office. Punishing a presumptuous player was truly a delight! Just wielding a single-use weapon and acting all high and mighty, questioning the skills of the world's first amateur was utterly laughable.

But honestly, the gun was great; that 100 health points were really tempting! Its flashing appearance matched his image as China's number one perfectly! Plus, the stun special skill was incredibly powerful, and who knows if his God-level Luck Skill would enhance this skill's chances?

In any case, if he didn't insist on a trade, Da Fei could certainly afford to spend a couple million Gold Coins on it.

Chapter 317: Duke's New Commission

Makar's Magic Study Room.

It was still the same smiling Vampire Butler: "Please wait a moment, sir. Duke Makar will be here shortly."

Da Fei chuckled: "No rush, no rush!"

At this moment, Da Fei could truly be described as returning home in glory. Wondering what reward he might receive for completing this mission. Although the gift wasn't valuable, the sentiment of sending a feather thousands of miles was profound.

However, this commission was indeed strange. Normally, the recipient should give the reward on the spot, but not only did the recipient not provide a reward for this mission, they were completely unaware of its existence. Does this mean that this was a mission issued unilaterally by Makar?

Without further thought, a friendly chuckle filled the hall, and a kindly Makar, clad in a red robe like Santa Claus, appeared: "Congratulations on your Chamber of Commerce completing this commission. You have demonstrated exceptional ability, and as your teacher, I am proud of you."

— System Prompt: You have completed the S-level difficulty commission 'Delivering Goods to Fire Dragon Island' for your Chamber of Commerce. Received Experience +6 million, Gold Coin +50,000,

prestige of your Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce +50,000, Chamber of Commerce funds +50,000, recruitment quota for Chamber of Commerce members +10.

- System Prompt: You have successfully completed the first important commission and completed the first phase 'A Tough Start' of the Epic Quest 'Revival of the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce'. Received Experience +1 million, officially obtained the title of Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce President!
- Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce President Title: Command Power +100, tactical position +1. Historical Guilds often possess convincing credibility. As the level and prestige of the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce increase, the Command Power of the President also continues to rise.
- System Prompt: You have successfully passed the trial assessment by Duke Makar, received Skill Book +5, received 'Junior Navigator Promotion Book' +1.
- System Prompt: Congratulations! You have leveled up to Level 38...
- System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Heroine, Katelina has leveled up to Level 37...
- System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Hero Serbia has leveled up to Level 37...
- System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Hero Alicia has leveled up to Level 33...

....

Da Fei's eyelids twitched in surprise! Da Fei had become accustomed to extracting the most valuable information from a flood of system prompts, and this time, the most valuable information Da Fei found was the "title of Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce President"!

This was the first time he heard that a Guild President could add Command Power! Isn't that just like a Military Rank? No, it's different, it's even more prestigious than ordinary low-end Military Rank, and it even adds the tactical position that he urgently needs! So, as long as this Epic Quest does not fail, and

the Chamber of Commerce does not collapse, he could gain at least 100 Command Power. Hahaha, this mission was truly worth it!

Then, there was Makar's award of 5 Skill Books, which was quite generous! Far more meaningful than just awarding 5 Skill Points, these books could be used by players, Vice Heroes, or even sold. How valuable they could be during later difficult leveling stages could be imagined from their popularity during public testing. As for the Junior Navigator book, it's straightforward, meant for Katelina.

However, compared to these peripheral rewards, the rewards for the commission itself were indeed poor! These damn S-level commissions, isn't a 50,000 prestige reward supposed to be high? Well, considering Invincible Soldier spent nearly ten days earning close to 100,000 prestige to start sailing, let's consider this 50,000 a high reward. But now with the Chamber of Commerce at a negative one million prestige, running around exhausting and frighteningly earning just 50,000 prestige, 50,000 Chamber of Commerce funds, turning a loss into profit is a daunting task, isn't it? It seems relying solely on himself to complete Chamber of Commerce commissions won't work; need to mobilize the members, yet it appears members are mostly undercover, which is a bit of trouble. Alright, maybe he's overthinking, now the Chamber of Commerce doesn't even have commissions, he still needs to come up with a way to bring in business. Since the Duke is the first client, he might as well continue to explore business opportunities from him.

Da Fei quickly bowed and said: "Thank you for your teachings, teacher. Do you have any other needs that my Chamber of Commerce can serve?"

Duke shook his head and chuckled: "Not in a hurry, let's talk about your impressions from this trip to Fire Dragon Island."

Talk about impressions? Alright, Fire Dragon Island was indeed strange. There were many questions Da Fei wanted to know about the views of this Death Lord. Da Fei then said, "Fire Dragon Island has been isolated from the world for years, with unknown forces swirling around it, feeling crises everywhere."

Duke stroked his beard lightly and asked indifferently, "So, did they seek your help?"

Damn, he talks about it so lightly, but isn't this the main event? Don't worry, bro definitely isn't colluding with them! Da Fei hurriedly shook his head and said, "I know my own strength is negligible; I'm powerless to help."

Duke sighed deeply and said, "I see. Don't say that you are powerless, even I as a Duke am willing but unable."

Da Fei wondered: "You mean, teacher?"

Duke said solemnly, "The Dwarf King is old; his time is near. The princes are at odds with each other; they're secretly gathering followers and plotting for power. When a kingdom shows signs of internal conflict, external enemies will emerge. Fire Dragon Island has been cut off from maritime routes for years now, and it's both due to internal troubles and external threats. If the Dwarf Kingdom's situation is unstable, it could disrupt the entire Bright Alliance. That's why I sent you to Fire Dragon Island, partly to test your navigation skills, and of course, to have you check out the situation there. Fire Dragon Island is the weakest defensive link in the Dwarf Kingdom, and surely the primary entry point for external foes. From the situation on Fire Dragon Island, one can indirectly gauge the current crisis level. As long as the Dwarf Kingdom maintains stability publicly, the Alliance will have more time to deploy and use diplomatic means to ensure a smooth transition of power in the Dwarf Kingdom."

Da Fei suddenly realized, the stakes here are so deep! Damn, why didn't you say so earlier? Okay, perhaps my status was too low back then and you didn't have time to chat with me. It seems you, this Death Lord, really care about your nation? Or is everything under control, and even if the Dwarf Kingdom knows where the problem is, it's already too late for them, and you're free to play your open strategies? Alright, then let's see what your strategy for taking over the island really involves.

Da Fei then said: "You don't need to worry, teacher. I saw the massive battleship, Flame Lord, defending the island. Its combat power is extremely strong, and defense won't be a problem." Hehe, I won't tell you that I also helped them salvage the dragon bones, making their forces even stronger.

Duke's eyebrow twitched, "Battleship? The Flame Lord? I see, according to the organizational standards of Fire Dragon Island, they shouldn't have a battleship like the Flame Lord. If I'm not mistaken, this must have been privately arranged by the Second Prince, Alberon, the Thunder God's Fist, which means that Fire Dragon Island is now under Alberon's influence. This is also fine; as long as Fire Dragon Island can hold off the enemies, the Alliance will have time."

—System Prompt: You have obtained information about Alberon, the Thunder God's Fist.

Da Fei's heart skipped, which means by making relations with the island guardian general, Bato, I've indirectly connected with the Dwarf Prince? Damn, getting involved in a battle for the throne is really troublesome! In this battle for the throne, what is the duke's public stance? It seems that Bato

mentioned he really dislikes the duke, which means the duke probably supports the eldest prince? So, is the duke secretly targeting Fire Dragon Island? It must be so; playing both sides is just too convenient for the duke.

So, what's the purpose of the duke spending so much precious time talking about the situation in the Dwarf Kingdom with me? I know, he must have had his fill and is spinning stories for me!

Da Fei then respectfully said, "Having heard your teachings, I am deeply concerned about the Alliance's situation and would like to contribute. Please, teacher, continue to guide me!"

Duke laughed heartily and said, "Having a student like you, I am deeply relieved! But right now, you lack strength; what you need is to continue to take on quests to train and improve yourself. Do you want to take on a Chamber of Commerce commissioned task, or a personal task? Concerning the commissioned tasks, given your Chamber's current cursed state, I am quite worried."

Damn, personal tasks are for ordinary players; high-end players like me obviously take Chamber commissions! It's not the same level, alright!

Da Fei said, "In this journey to the North Sea, I faced difficulties head-on despite the pressure. I believe that after this ordeal, I am able to handle various perilous situations, please entrust me with the Chamber's task without worry, teacher!"

Duke nodded satisfactorily, "It's good to have confidence and fighting spirit, but do not underestimate the divine power of the Sea God just because of one success. You should know that being closer to the divinity only reveals one's insignificance, so I will try to avoid the Sea God in this commission!"

Da Fei wondered, "Avoid the Sea God?" Damn, it's great to be able to avoid the Sea God. If I didn't know that Makar is a lurking Death Lord, I would really think he's a considerate teacher for his students!

Duke seriously said, "Did you hear that the Elf Kingdom entrusted you with the defense of the Pool of Radiance? Do you know the environment around the Pool of Radiance?"

What? I'm so awesome, even the teacher knows? Da Fei raised an eyebrow: "I don't know!"

Duke nodded, "The World Tree is full of Divine Power, and its roots are in an underground space filled with interlaced rivers and numerous underground lakes, and also fraught with broken spaces. The environment there is extremely complicated, even the elves don't know the specifics; however, the demons make use of these complex environments to launch attacks on the World Tree, causing the elves to be on the defensive. Since you are now on the frontline, you cannot be ignorant of the surrounding area; if you want to serve the Alliance, you must first stabilize your foundation. So, your task this time is to map the vicinity of the Pool of Radiance!"

—System Prompt: You received the indefinite-period S-Class Chamber of Commerce commissioned task from Duke Makar "Mapping the Vicinity of the Pool of Radiance," and you acquired the Magic Map Drawing Device.

—Magic Map Drawing Device: When you are in the task scenario, this device will automatically record the scenes within your view.

Holy crap! He's really wholeheartedly looking out for me, isn't he? But what does this frustrating task have to do with the dwarves? It seems more like sending me away to play, doesn't it?

Chapter 318: Preparations Before the Match

Sure, here's the translation:

Whatever the case, this task issued by the Duke was indeed something Da Fei had to take seriously. In fact, from the time the city was established until now, Da Fei, as the Lord, hadn't spent a single day inside the city, which indeed showed a lack of attention. Now, with enough money for the time being, it was time to properly manage the city.

However, last time, he didn't have time to ask the Duke about the Gru Hero Inheritance. This time, he had to get it clear no matter what.

Da Fei hurriedly said, "Thank you, teacher, for your advice. I will certainly work hard to complete this mapping task. I have one more thing I'd like to ask you."

The Duke smiled and said, "Go ahead."

Da Fei hastily said, "I learned about the Legendary Hero Gru Inheritance in the Elf Kingdom and found out that before his retreat, Gru divided his inheritance into three parts, entrusted separately to the Elves, Humans, and Dwarfs. Only a talented youth recognized by all three races can obtain the inheritance. I very much want to compete for this inheritance and hope you can give me some advice."

The Duke listened to Da Fei's statement with a smile and replied, "Not bad, indeed your ambitions are high. Gru was a great hero who saved the surface world a thousand years ago. His strength is undeniable, and after all these years, he must have reached the Divine Realm, right? However, obtaining his inheritance won't be easy, at least from my point of view, you aren't qualified yet. So strive to become stronger. As your teacher, if you make a significant contribution to humanity, I will certainly recommend you to the royal family."

What the—! Making a significant contribution to humanity? Does this mean I need to complete an Epic Quest on behalf of humanity too? How long do I have to remain a "newbie" running around naked? No way, I need to find out for sure.

Da Fei quickly asked, "Teacher, I heard only newbies who haven't changed professions can inherit Gru's professional legacy?"

The Duke shook his head in surprise, "Gru's inheritance is the highest secret of the Alliance, known only to the core members of the royal families of each nation. I can't determine the conditions for taking the job, but I can confirm that newbies can indeed take any job without hindrance. So, if you have confidence in your current state and are firm in your ideals, you can completely maintain it."

—System Prompt: You have obtained information about the Gru Hero Inheritance!

Understood! The implication of his words is that those who have already changed professions can also inherit, but it must come at a cost, similar to when I dual-classed as a Ranger and my attribute points were halved. If you think about it, it's logical. Normal players switch professions at level 10; if they encounter the Gru Inheritance afterward and just stare blankly, what's the point of playing?

Great! I'm confident in my current state; I'm not missing the 38 attribute points that come with a profession change! I'll keep stockpiling big moves!

Just then, the butler stepped forward and said, "Your Grace, visiting time is up!"

The Duke smiled and said, "Alright, see you next time. I look forward to your good news."

Da Fei saluted and said, "Student bids farewell to the teacher!"

Now that the Duke's task was also submitted, this sea voyage finally came to an end, and Da Fei couldn't help but take a long deep breath. This time, after leveling up and earning so many Skill Books, without further ado, let's quickly learn the God-level Luck Skill sub-skill "Luck Body"!

Da Fei took out the Luck Skill Textbook, and a flash of golden light appeared!

—System Prompt: You spent 1 Skill Point to learn the God-level Luck Skill sub-skill "Luck Body"!

—Luck Body: Increases the trigger probability of troop's chance-based special skills by 15%!

Finally learned the Divine Skill under the God-level Luck Skill! Immensely satisfied, Da Fei felt a huge fatigue sweep through his body after a sense of relief. That's right; out at sea for 11 days, totaling less than 30 hours of sleep—could an average person endure this?

However, there's still one thing; there's a match at 4 PM. The blood equipment for the match isn't ready yet. That's right, the money I earned must be given to the city's advisor now, so they can invest in the Teleportation Array. By the time I wake up, a few days will have passed in the game and it will be completed. And then there's the Divine Artifact Weapon Gun? Is this Skyshattering Thunder going to be sold or not? Should I ask now? No, no, this is a big business negotiation. Whoever speaks first loses! But, if I hold out like this, won't it delay the match...

Da Fei mused as he walked along, and his mind began to haze and his sleepiness grew, until he was half-asleep and back to the Underground City of Radiance via teleportation.

As his eyelids fought each other, the economic advisor excitedly approached and asked, "Lord, did you bring the project funds?"

Da Fei nodded like a pecking chicken, "20 million, is that enough?"

The economic advisor was overjoyed, "As expected of the Lord, truly remarkable. Please rest assured, Lord, I will handle the rest..."

"Yes! The rest...is up to you," Da Fei vaguely heard him say more, but couldn't clearly understand. The drowsiness was overwhelming, and Da Fei simply couldn't hold it anymore. Damn! One last thing, the blood equipment for the match! I can't collapse just yet!

Gritting his teeth, Da Fei opened his friends list and clicked on the ID name of Dragon Slayer Leader Ma Yinglong. Damn, it's grayed out? He's not online? What time is it? Oh, not even 6 o'clock! Alright, with my long-standing friendship with him, getting equipment should be as easy as the Leader saying a word, right?

Da Fei could only leave a message, "I want to sell good goods to Boss Ma, please help me find a set of fully blood-boosted match equipment."

This sentence seemed to have exhausted Da Fei's last bit of strength. At the moment the message was sent, Da Fei couldn't hold it any longer and collapsed, forcibly logged out. As for what the good stuff is? Of course, it's the Bloodsucking Scrolls fought out last time.

And Da Fei certainly didn't know that by this time, a forum post titled "I Want to Exchange Artifacts with Da Fei, Experts Please Help Appraise Treasures" was going viral!

...

At 7:30 in the morning, Ma Yinglong woke up for breakfast and work as usual. Being a former professional player, his life routine was very regular. But today, the workroom was unusually chaotic!

"The boss is here! There was a big deal last night! Da Fei is back, and someone wants to exchange artifacts with him!"

Ma Yinglong was suddenly shocked, "What? Exchange artifacts? Let me see! Send me the information links!"

Ma Yinglong hurried to the computer, his heart restless! You damn Da Fei, we are friends, right? Didn't we agree that you'd inform me first if you had good goods to sell? But now, you're trading artifacts with who-knows-who? You're just ignoring me! For dealing with such self-important people online, I've got plenty of tricks. I'll make you see how foolish you are!

Upon logging into the game, Ma Yinglong saw his messages blinking. Whether as a boss or a player, checking messages first was a habit for most people, and Ma Yinglong was no exception. Among the many messages, Ma Yinglong first saw "Da Fei" at a glance!

He left a message! Ma Yinglong was faintly thrilled, immediately checking Da Fei's message—"I want to sell good goods to Boss Ma..."

"Wow hahaha!" Ma Yinglong felt relieved and burst into laughter. After all, he still intended to sell to me, right? This kid knows how to weigh the pros and cons, huh? Want blood equipment? Simple, no problem! It's absolutely classy and upscale!

Ma Yinglong immediately issued orders on the guild channel, "All guild group leaders, take note, the full set of match-use blood equipment must be collected and sent to me by 12 noon!"

Chapter 319: The Ruthless NPC Vice President

Da Fei might be asleep, but the Earth, of course, kept turning.

In room 102, 1st floor of the Elorin Chamber of Commerce headquarters, the smartly dressed Coltner, flanked by several Elf noblewomen, confidently moved into the office!

— Guild Channel [Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce Appointment Announcement]: Baron Coltner has formally taken up the position of Vice President of the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce!

As the news broke, the entire guild channel erupted in commotion! Vice President? An NPC? This really is an NPC, right? The Chamber of Commerce actually appointed an NPC to be the Vice President?

At this moment, Da Bing, who was sailing the new ship, Octopus, towards the mission destination and feeling triumphant, suddenly felt like a bucket of cold water had been poured over him from head to toe! So Da Fei had been delaying the appointment of a Vice President just to let an NPC take the position? That was Da Fei's plan? Then what am I?

— Guild Channel [Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce Appointment Announcement]: The Vice President has officially appointed Spielberg as the Fishery Group Leader!

The guild was in uproar again! Another NPC! Now everyone realized that Da Fei had taken under his command the two NPC Captains he sailed with! Considering the situation since the public beta, recruiting NPCs into a guild is extremely difficult—it requires a very high level of friendliness! And yet, Da Fei managed to recruit two big ship captains in one fell swoop, which means those two big ships have already become the ships of the Chamber of Commerce! Da Fei is really too strong!

Da Bing seemed to start understanding Da Fei's intentions, to only trust NPCs and not players, which made him feel really uncomfortable. Even though he was one of the earliest to join the guild, as an ordinary member, he couldn't even see the guild's prestige, funds, or the number of ships—so what was he really?

Then another guild message followed one after the other!

— Guild Channel [Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce Administrative Announcement]: Greetings to all members of the Chamber of Commerce! The Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce is a long-standing Chamber with a history; it was once suspended due to historical reasons, but now under the leadership of Mr. Da Fei, the Chamber is reviving its glory and has ambitious plans. The Chamber needs to raise a significant amount of funds and prestige in a short period, so from today onwards, the trading system will be significantly adjusted—75% of the merchants' profit will be taken as a cut and submitted to the Chamber as capital, while the cut of contributions from merchants will also become investment capital for the Chamber. Every merchant is a shareholder of the Chamber, and dividends will be distributed quarterly based on the contribution ratio. We hope everyone can work together to support the faster and better construction of our Chamber of Commerce!

— Guild Channel: Vice President Coltner has adjusted the Chamber's cut to 75%!

— Guild Channel: Vice President Coltner has introduced the share dividends feature for the Chamber!

— Guild Channel: Vice President Coltner has issued challenging targets for the guild members!

...

Just when all the guild members were still feeling very intrigued by NPCs becoming officers, a big block of text made the guild fall silent for a brief few seconds. And when everyone finally realized what it meant, the whole guild exploded in shock!

"A 75% cut! Holy shit, that's too much! No guild dared to do this during the public beta!"

"Damn, my assessment target is to contribute at least 150,000 in funds within 3 months!"

"What's the use of those shares?! Can the quarterly dividends make up for the cut taken from me?"

"We're in the crucial phase of early development, where we need money to continually compound, so how can we develop when 70% is taken away? Is the early development of the Chamber more important or our own early development?"

"Guild Leader! Say something, Guild Leader!"

"The Guild Leader is not online!"

"Shit! Someone, Invincible Soldier, say something!"

At this moment, Invincible Soldier himself was also stunned. Having Blood Sea Studio submit 75% of their profits to the Chamber of Commerce—harsh! This NPC was just too ruthless! Now I get it! I finally understand Da Fei's intention—he didn't want to do this dirty work himself, so he passed it off to an NPC. If anyone has questions, he just says, "The NPC did it, nothing to do with me," and shirks responsibility! So it appears that Da Fei, who seems careless and unrestrained, actually has very deep and calculated thoughts, huh? With such a boss, success is a given!

Facing the noisy doubts in the guild channel, Da Bing, having figured things out, immediately jumped out, "I'll only say this much, I have confidence in Brother Fei, and I have confidence in his guild! That's all from me!" Wahaha, it serves you right, since all of you are undercover agents from Blood Sea Studio! Now what are you going to do?

...

At this point, Blood Sea Studio's chat group was also in complete chaos, whether it was Brother Tian, Little Ma, or Blood Sea Wave, they all felt at a loss. In fact, they had never even considered what they would do in Da Fei's guild after occupying a spot as undercover agents. As long as they could continue their trading and keep earning money for the studio, that was good enough. But now, with Da Fei's new system in place, Blood Sea Studio could forget about making any money; not only would they not profit, but they'd also be working for Da Fei. Such a thing was absolutely intolerable! Only a fool would do such a thing!

"Leave this crappy guild!" Blood Sea Wave, having lost interest in playing the role of an undercover agent, said in frustration, and then with reluctance added, "And then smear this trash Da Fei and his trash guild to death on the forums!"

Brother Tian shouted angrily, "Cuss them out! Rant hard in the guild channel right now!"

Soon after, the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce channel was filled with a barrage of curses once more!

"What a sh*tty Chamber of Commerce! They start fundraising without any prospects! How is this different from a scam? Da Fei is truly trash! I'm out of here!"

"What 'Number One player in the China Region', 'World's top amateur player' - ever since I joined this crappy Chamber of Commerce to trade, my ship has mysteriously sunk 3 times already. There must be something fishy! Who the hell would be an idiot to join this crappy Chamber?"

"Exactly. Running trades in his guild only gets you enemies, and going out to the sea means getting hunted. There's no sense of security at all!"

And so,

—Guild Channel: It's very regrettable that XXX and our Chamber of Commerce's visions are not aligned. They have left the Chamber of Commerce!

—Guild Channel: It's very regrettable that XXX and our Chamber of Commerce's visions are not aligned. They have left the Chamber of Commerce!

.....

Thus, in a torrent of curses, almost a hundred members left the massive guild. At the same time, various posts such as "Da Fei Dragon Cavalry Commerce Announces a Scam System, Traders All Flee," "The Truth About Da Fei's Scamming Chamber of Commerce, Players Beware!" and "My Fortnight as a Trader at the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce" were being swiftly produced with accompanying graphics. This time, Blood Sea Wave was ready to use the power of public opinion to thoroughly blacken Da Fei's already tarnished reputation!

Looking at the guild member list, now desolately empty, Da Bing felt a rush of mixed emotions—he was glad that the undercover members had all buggered off. Good riddance! But then, entrusting management to NPCs, isn't that a bit too unreliable? After this incident, would Brother Fei still make use of regular players?

Meanwhile, One Sword Eastward, seeing the great turmoil within the chamber, couldn't help but feel secretly elated, but firmly said, "A bunch of short-sighted idiots, still dreaming of being traders?"

Da Bing chuckled and replied, "It's better to clear the spots for others. They will regret this!"

One Sword Eastward smiled and said, "Then let's start thinking of ways to recruit new guild members!"

Da Bing nodded, "Alright!"

One Sword Eastward silently snickered to himself. At a critical time like this, trying to recruit new members would surely attract even more criticism, right? That's the effect he wanted! There's a special thrill in going against the wind!

.....

Skyshattering Thunder became famous!

In just one hour, his post about trading the Divine Artifact spread like wildfire across the China Region forums and was even shared on foreign forums. Numerous large guilds and tycoons from the China Region left messages wanting to buy his Divine Artifact Weapon Gun, all of which he refused. Some tycoons even made an astonishing offer of 1 million, which he vehemently turned down with resentment!

Skyshattering Thunder had his own bitter reasons. If it were any other player, they might have scammed him for 1 million and then deleted the account to start anew with a fresh face—what's the big deal? Regrettably, his account had the value of a blacksmith's business, certainly more than 1 million. Anyway, he kept calm with the intent to bait Da Fei.

Right now, the experts' appraisal was very favorable for him. Aside from its flashy appearance, even just as a personal weapon, its practical value was no less than that of a strategic Divine Artifact. For instance, in narrow mountain caves, ancient castle terrains, or jungles where large armies could not deploy or enter in large numbers, strong personal combat prowess could decide the outcome of a battle. And this gun, with an extra 100 points of hefty life and the paralysis stun effect, is undoubtedly the main tank's weapon for instances!

Not to mention, this gun was also a quest item, which meant the potential for even greater profits upon completing the quest. Overall, the experts were extremely optimistic.

However, the opinions on Da Fei's Destiny Coin Divine Artifact were causing a tremendous debate. What is the "God of Luck"? What is "Absolute Misfortune"? The questions were too high-end and beyond the experts' understanding, but experts are experts after all, and that didn't prevent them from concocting the reality that the God of Luck means a 100% chance of good luck, and Absolute Misfortune as a 100% chance of bad luck. Is 1 day of luck worth 30 days of misfortune?

Worth it! At least on the day of the championship, it's definitely worth it! Compared to the championship's 1 million US Dollar prize money, even if the account was rendered useless after 30 days of misfortune, it would still be worthwhile! In a person's life, the chances to change their fate are often just once or twice!

In the end, despite many negative reviews and rational skepticism—for instance, some experts didn't even believe such equipment could exist in the game—Skyshattering Thunder had already fully recognized the value of Da Fei's Divine Artifact. If he could just get his hands on it, he could go wild upgrading skills in the blacksmith shop on that day, and he would have success in everything he did! As for the so-called 30 days of Misfortune, that's just three days in reality. If worse comes to worst, he would just keep his blacksmith account stationary in the middle of the plaza and do nothing, playing with his trading account. What's the harm if a thunderstrike from the heavens wants to kill him?

Once the three days pass, he could continue with the God of Luck and repeat the cycle; it would be impossible not to prosper! Even if the experts doubted the usefulness of the Divine Artifact and speculated that Da Fei himself, after using it, found it crummy and wanted to get rid of it, how could it possibly be more disappointing than his gun?

In any case, he just needed to get the gun out there! But what price should he offer? Maybe he could add money on top of the gun for Da Fei's Divine Artifact Coins and negotiate? Negotiate my ass! How could Da Fei be offline right now?

As Skyshattering Thunder was agonizing over this, the forums exploded with another bombshell—negative news rolling out about Da Fei's Trading Company. Da Fei became (in)famous again! Oh, fame is good. By hanging out with a celebrity, my reputation also rises! He's the negative; I'm the positive. The contrast is clear as day. Thanks, Da Fei!

Chapter 320: Bro, Let's Move in Together

"Hello, viewers, good afternoon. It's time for the Hero News midday live broadcast. There are only 4 hours left before the Hero World Cup International Competition begins. Certainly, many of you gamers are eager to know how the China Region will perform, so we're fortunate to have Mr. Huang Zhen, also known as the Divine Emperor, president of Ninth Heaven—one of China's three major player guilds—joining us live to address our viewers' burning questions. Hello, Divine Emperor President, welcome to our broadcast amidst your busy schedule right before the competition!"

The Divine Emperor laughed and said, "You're too kind, host. Hello everyone, I'm not busy at all right now!"

The host chuckled and asked, "It seems like the Divine Emperor President is well-prepared and confident. So, for this international competition, how many people from your guild's professional team will participate?"

The Divine Emperor smiled and said, "Winning or losing is secondary, participation is key. Our guild has 100 participants, the Star Guild has about 140, and the Dragon Slayer Guild has around 60. As for foreign teams, the American Zone is expected to have 200 participants, Korea District 400, European Union Zone 300, Japan 200, Russian Zone 100, and Indian Zone 150."

The host exclaimed in surprise, "As expected of the president, you even know the stats of other guilds! Why does the Dragon Slayer Guild have so few participants?"

The Divine Emperor shook his head and sighed with a smile, "No way around it, we and the Star Guild encountered them during the qualifiers and pinched them! But Chairman Ma doesn't mind such a small matter."

The host laughed and said, "Speaking of pinches, this has been a hot topic in recent days. The players who made it through the qualifiers from the China Region are most worried about being pinched or even besieged by foreign players. Do you have any suggestions, Divine Emperor President?"

The Divine Emperor sighed and said, "This issue is indeed quite troublesome. The first round of the international competition is a chaotic elimination match where all heroes are thrown into the mix. I can only call on Chinese players to unite regardless of their factions and stand together against foreign players. In fact, players who have qualified are already starting joint signature posts on the forum spontaneously."

The host sighed, "These competition rules have long been criticized by players for failing to reflect the true skill levels of participants. Many technical players are bound to be lost in the waves of chaos."

The Divine Emperor laughed and said, "Indeed, but after all, this is the first large-scale event since the game's server opened a month ago. There's a lot of celebration involved, and there hasn't been time to screen players at various levels through methods like ladder rankings. However, the more chaotic it gets, the more it can reflect participants' adaptability, survival strategy awareness, and big-picture consciousness. Even some professional players were eliminated in the qualifiers, which reflects their

shortcomings in certain areas. Overall, our guild will closely watch the performance of the players who made it through from China, and we'll offer high salaries to those who excel."

The host commented, "In fact, professional teams from all over the world regard this competition as a rookie draft, right?"

The Divine Emperor nodded and said, "Exactly. Experts are among the people. Even players with average skills can achieve decent results under the suppression of superior equipment and troops. Such players are also worth being discovered and cultivated by professional teams from various countries."

The host said, "Speaking of the suppression of troops and equipment, it seems that professional teams worldwide have been striving to create a Super Hero that combines the strongest equipment and troops. Has Ninth Heaven done this too?"

The Divine Emperor laughed and said, "Of course, due to international trends, we had to. Our guild's Super Hero is Shenlan, and I believe she'll bring surprises in the international competition. As for the Star Guild and Dragon Slayer's Super Heroes, those are their secrets, so I can't say. But you can probably guess—it's no more than Uranus and Dragon Teeth, probably. Ah, sorry for saying it out loud, but they won't mind such trivial matters."

The host laughed and said, "Speaking of equipment suppression, today the forum has suddenly become active with discussions about Divine Artifacts. Do the heroes who are competing from your guild have any Divine Artifacts?"

The Divine Emperor laughed and said, "Divine Artifacts? Honestly, we don't have any! As for whether other guilds or foreign guilds do, I really don't know. But at least two Divine Artifacts have surfaced in the China Region, so I imagine foreign zones might have one or two as well. For professional teams, this competition is primarily about understanding our opponents' strengths. I'm eager to witness other teams' Divine Artifacts in the international competition."

The host smiled and asked, "From what we know so far from forums, how much impact do you think a Divine Artifact has on the competition?"

The Divine Emperor laughed heartily and said, "You're talking about Da Fei's Divine Artifact, right? I was scared out of my wits, really! You can imagine once the Divine Artifact's big move is triggered, the

battlefield will definitely be a bloodbath with rivers of blood. Foreign players will flee in disarray as soon as they see Da Fei's army! Speaking of dealing with foreign players' sieges, the answer is clear now; just follow Da Fei."

The host laughed and said, "You mean your guild's professional players will fully cooperate with Da Fei?"

The Divine Emperor laughed and said, "The capable get their seats, right? I just hope Brother Fei takes us under his wing!"

The host laughed and said, "Earlier, you mentioned hiring excellent amateur players at high salaries. How much would you pay to recruit Da Fei?"

The Divine Emperor sighed and said, "Although I'd love to say our guild always keeps its doors open for him, he is actually the first true game president who established a guild. He is the true first world-class guild, so maintaining a good cooperative relationship with him is my biggest wish right now."

The host said, "By the way, this morning Da Fei's guild collectively left because merchants weren't satisfied with the policies set by NPCs. What's your take on such situations, President?"

The Divine Emperor sighed and said, "The policies set by NPCs are actually the results of the system's mainframe in-depth analysis, multiplied by the NPC intelligence parameters. In short, NPC intelligence is very important. Personally, I would not recommend using NPCs for administrative management, as guilds should still be human-centered."

The host said, "I see. Now, let's take a look at the information from Korean and European Union Zones..."

...

At this point, Ma Yinglong impatiently turned off the TV broadcast and cursed angrily, "Finally managed to show off on TV, ended up looking like a fool! You're brave enough to recruit Da Fei? Believe it or not, I can blackball you behind the scenes!"

Ma Yinglong spent the entire morning in anxiety and anticipation. The last time he traded the Bloodsucking Scroll with Da Fei, it cost him 2 million. It was certainly worth it. Currently, Chang Liang took over the 'Tyrannosaurus' bloodsucking account and has been doing high-level tasks day and night. With world-class professional play, meticulously calculated God-level operations, and highly offensive, defensive, and high magic resistance Beastman troops equipped with the Bloodsucking Skill, this was an immortal army. In just a dozen days, the potential value created by the Tyrannosaurus account had reached 10 million!

How much would the Divine Artifact trade cost? This question stumped the technical staff at the Dragon Slayer Guild because it was beyond calculation. Nobody knew what the God of Luck and Absolute Misfortune were! Absolute Misfortune was definitely a con, but who could guarantee that the God of Luck wasn't a dud? Maybe it wasn't even worth 500,000! However, if it could win the championship, then at least 100 million USD—though the Dragon Slayer would never buy it for 1 million USD!

Ding dong sounded at that moment!

—System Prompt: Your friend Da Fei is online!

Finally online, should just chat and figure out how much it's worth, right? Ma Yinglong breathed a sigh of relief and laughed inwardly; did you know Little Huang just pushed you into the limelight in front of the entire nation, and here you are caught up without even trying!

...

Da Fei was woken by a phone call.

When Da Fei drowsily woke to answer the call, he found that there were already five or six missed calls, all from Little Li! Da Fei couldn't help but feel shocked. With Little Li's personality, she wouldn't likely call for anything. The fact that she'd called so many times in a row suggested she might be in trouble with some pervert or something?

Da Fei shook off his drowsiness with a fright, "Little Li, what's up?"

Little Li asked in surprise, "I called several times this morning, and you didn't pick up?"

Hearing her calm tone, Da Fei couldn't help but relax and laughed, "Worked a night shift last night, slept soundly."

Little Li acknowledged with an oh, cleared her throat, and said, "Here's the thing: in our last semester, Little Fang and I want to apply to graduate school. We don't want to stay in the dorms because it's too noisy, so we're planning to rent a place outside the school—"

Apply to grad school? Who cares about grad school! Oh no, no, no, that's not the problem now. I've got money now, pursue research however you want; the problem is—

Da Fei said hurriedly, "Female students renting off-campus isn't safe. You have perverts crawling windows stealing underwear!" This was no exaggeration; back in the day, he used to do it and sell for money!

Little Li flatly said, "Exactly, that's why I want you to move in with us and keep an eye out!"

Move in together? Da Fei trembled with incredulity as he tentatively asked, "Living in the same room with you guys?"

Little Li, with a hint of anger, said, "What are you thinking? Of course, we'd rent two places across from each other! We've picked out a place, don't worry, Little Fang will cover the rent. Her family is actually wealthy. Are you coming or not? If it affects your job, forget about it."

Da Fei nodded repeatedly, "Coming! Absolutely coming! Gotta come! I'll even keep two guard dogs at your door to ensure no man gets close. If the landlord comes, the dogs will bite off his little sausage!"

Little Li grumbled, "You're so boring. The landlord is a lady who got rich flipping houses, becoming a landlady. I'll text you the address, and tomorrow Little Fang and I will move. You come help us move!"

Da Fei laughed, "Tomorrow, huh. Sure, no problem, no problem!" Then he remembered something and spoke seriously, "Don't bother classmates with moving; I'll handle it, alright?"

"Got it, see you tomorrow! Hanging up now!"

Da Fei hung up the phone, trembling with excitement! Little Li, you're trying to find a way to make your best college friend into a sister-in-law, aren't you? Rest assured, I've changed, dear sister. This sister-in-law that's come knocking, I must secure her! Haha, mwahaha!

Wait a minute! Da Fei suddenly thought of something and was shocked. If I'm living across from them, do my family know I'm gaming?