

## God level 331

Chapter 331: Moon God Night's Fire Dragon Island Operation

A meeting time of just 3 minutes? Da Fei immediately understood. The patterns of court drama are more or less the same – before the old king dies, the princes vying for the throne probably can't afford to do anything too outrageous. Since his time is so pressing, Da Fei didn't waste words and went straight to the point.

Da Fei quickly asked, "How can I meet that Dark Elf?" If he wasn't wrong, the Dark Elf was the key figure in the backstory who stole the Divine Artifact, and the Dwarves just happened to have caught an important person alive? But it's of no use if you've detained her, what use will it be for me to see her? Is it a prison break?

Prince Alberon said indifferently, "On this day next month, book a table at the Black Crystal Stone VIP room on the second floor of Iron Helmet Tavern in the city. Someone will then tell you in detail what you should do. As for now, I have an assignment for you. I have an abandoned fishery in Black Ice Castle – go clear out the crocodiles that have infested it, time limit six months!"

— System Prompt: You have received a task from Prince Alberon, "Clear the Crocodiles from the Abandoned Fishery in Black Ice Castle!"

— Task Hint: This is a celebrity assignment, you must complete it. As you are the President of the Chamber of Commerce, you can convert this task into a Chamber of Commerce task, to be completed with your fellow Chamber members.

Da Fei was taken aback, he was asking about the Dark Elf, not here to take on a task!

Da Fei hurriedly asked, "Is Your Highness testing my abilities?"

Prince Alberon shook his head, "You have slain Leviathan on Fire Dragon Island; your strength no longer needs testing. The reason for giving you this task is because I need a sufficient reason to meet with you. Alright, my time is up, remember, this day next month. Guard, see the guest out!" Having finished speaking, he turned and stepped into the inner hall, disappearing from sight.

Watching his figure leave with such nonchalance, Da Fei stood there dumbfounded. Damn it, why are you so awesome? Okay, I don't understand the world of royalty, but at least the leadership has noticed my achievements, and I'm not worried about lacking benefits in the future. Now I suppose I've made some progress – one month later, which is three days in reality, is plenty of time.

That punk Skyshattering Thunder still wants to trick me? I'll tell you, just because you can't complete a task doesn't mean I can't.

Of course, what's next is to focus on the competition.

Now, Da Fei checked his attribute bar to see his Command Power list.

Leveled up to 38, plus 38 points of Command Power, a further 10 points from Lonely Hero Hundred Victories, 95 from achievements in the first 12 battles, 120 from the first 6 glorious battle achievements, 50 from God Slayer, and 50 from Dancing with Gods, totalling 364 points, which can be enhanced by skills and treasures. Intermediate Leadership Skill adds a 20% bonus, and Ultimate Sea Monster Hunter adds another 20%, making it a 40% increase, which is 510 Command Power points.

Then there are fixed Command Power points from ranks, titles, and treasures: Lieutenant +300, Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce President +100, Ultimate Celebrity +200, Supervisor's Whip +100, totaling 700, which is 1210 Command Power points.

Next are the Vice Heroes, each of the 4 Vice Heroes has the rank of Lieutenant +100 Command Power, aside from Deirdre who has not set sail, the others also gained +50 points from the Dancing with Gods, so Catherine has 213 points, Selvia 324 points, Anlicia 211 points, Deirdre 221 points, totalling 969 Command Power points for the Vice Heroes.

Da Fei's Army has a total of 2179 Command Power!

And the current total Command Value of troops that Da Fei can field in battle includes, Charming Emperor  $2*50=100$ , Artillery Emperor  $44*6=264$ , Banshee  $115*3=345$ , Great Druid  $50*3=150$ , Storm Druid  $5*10=50$ , Forest Goddess  $200*3=600$ , Necromancer Dragon 40, Secret Archer  $200*2=400$ , across 5 tactical positions, totaling 1952 Command Power points! The army is absolutely ready to be fully deployed.

Then, there is his own health, not much to say about health, Blood Wolf Suit sharply increased 150 points, surpassing the standard of ordinary players, making beheading not so easy.

In short, everything is ready, I'd like to see who can stop me, wahahaha! There's still some time before the competition, so I better hurry up and eat, drink, go to the toilet to take care of personal matters first.

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At such a sensitive time just before the competition, Da Fei's high-profile entrance into the Royal Palace undoubtedly shook the entire world. Da Fei already posed a significant pressure on the teams from various nations with a Divine Artifact in hand, and now entering the Royal Palace likely means that Da Fei is about to receive a high-end task. Although this task might not help much in the current competition, it will undoubtedly have far-reaching effects later on.

In any case, it's necessary to minimize the impact of the China Region. Apart from personal biases of certain nations, this is about huge profits related to advertising endorsements, and the top echelons of the professional teams from each country began to engage in tight communication, rapidly concocting a multi-nation plan specifically aimed at the China Region and particularly Da Fei.

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Shendong Normal University, a girls' dormitory.

As the international competition was about to begin, Little Fang was making final checks while keeping an eye on the forum for movements in world regions. Meanwhile, Little Li started to pack and prepare for her move the next day.

Little Fang exclaimed admiringly, "This Da Fei is really something, indirectly mobilizing tens of thousands of people to be his witnesses for the entrance! Looks like he's bound to secure the Divine Artifact too. If only he wasn't so vile in character and not so arrogant in his actions, he would actually be a reliable partner."

Little Li was folding her clothes and stuffing them into a bag, not looking up, she said indifferently, "Is it such a big deal to enter the Royal Palace?"

Little Fang said irritably, "What do you think? During the open beta, no one could enter the Royal Palace even by the mid-game. But being too high-profile really isn't good; now the teams from all countries are targeting our China Region, especially Japan which is everywhere colluding against our China Region. I heard they even used this as an excuse to temporarily ceasefire the internal conflict in the European Union Zone. It's really tough to fight this match."

Little Li asked in surprise, "Japan has that much influence?"

Little Fang nodded earnestly and said, "Yes, putting aside real-world relations, Japan has strong influence and speaking power in the game, focusing on developing the Hell Race. They have numerous troops, high mobility, and the ability to teleport, and their land combat capability is very strong. Especially there's a rumor on the forums about them having a special ranged unit that can throw Blast Fireballs, designed especially to counter the Human Race's archery sea. Once we encounter them, we're likely to suffer heavy losses. It's still a big question whether we can make it out of the group stage."

Little Li asked in surprise, "I heard that Japan is quite funny during the National War, can they really be that strong?"

Little Fang couldn't help but laugh, "That's because they encountered the Pool of Radiance where they couldn't utilize their land combat strengths, and they had India as a teammate holding them back, and on top of that they faced Da Fei with his big ships. That's why Japan is so eager to prove themselves and wash away the shame of being a laughingstock! Anyway, in this International competition, Japan is dead set against us, and players from our China Region aren't idle either. The forums are full of people signing petitions calling to wipe out Japan first and turn them into a laughingstock! Haha!"

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At Saint Paul Port, in the library meeting room of Duke Makar's office, Shenye paced back and forth impatiently waiting for the Duke to appear.

As a vampire lurking among humans, Shenye's play style was quite high-end. She had two names; her human name was Shenye. When she transformed into her vampire state, she automatically switched to another name, Ye Shenyue! Well, even an idiot could guess they might be the same person, right?

But no matter, Shenye, as a former game developer's daughter and a senior programmer well-versed in game development, was not playing the same game as the average player. While ordinary players were still groveling in the wilds, she had already connected with the Duke for the high-end route. Ordinary players hardly ever saw her. Of course, she also disdained to join any player; she enjoyed her freedom playing a solitary version of superiority.

But today, while she was running diplomatic errands in Dwarf City for Makar, she coincidentally ran into a large crowd brought by Da Fei. Thus, her composure was lost, and her superiority gone.

Although she was on a diplomatic mission for Makar, it was no more than in and out of several government departments, not to the extent of entering the Royal Palace. And she had previously paid attention to this Da Fei, who killed a Demigod on the World Channel, a feat she could not achieve. If killing a Demigod might have been Da Fei exploiting NPC forces to get lucky, then this time entering the Royal Palace solidly proved that Da Fei had surpassed her!

Unacceptable! Absolutely unacceptable! Sister is jealous and unconvinced!

While she was annoyed, Duke Makar appeared with a chuckle, "You worked hard on the mission, you did well."

Shenye, impatient, flicked the secret letter in her hand, "Duke, can't you give me a more challenging mission? These tasks are too boring."

Duke Makar, while reading the letter, said with a smile, "Though boring, only a confidant could be entrusted with them."

Shenye sighed, "That's true, thank you for your high regard, Duke!"

Duke Makar clapped his hands, incinerated the secret letter to ashes, and chuckled, "The Prince said that his younger brother has always been watching him closely, so he cannot accept our terms."

Shenye uttered an "Oh," "Does that mean my trip was in vain?"

Duke Makar smiled and said, "Didn't you mention wanting a challenging task? Now there is one that's very challenging, it depends on whether you have the capability."

"Oh?"

Duke Makar became serious, "We need to create some trouble for the younger brother, and Fire Dragon Island is his territory, also the weakest defense point of the entire Dwarf Kingdom. You need to infiltrate and sabotage the Flame Lord, that giant warship, the more destruction the better, the faster the better."

Shenye's eyes widened, "It's the Ice Sealing Period at Fire Dragon Island now, right? How do I get there?"

Duke Makar chuckled, "That depends on your own abilities. If you can arrive there in an unbelievably short time, you'll undoubtedly earn the local people's admiration and be more effectively utilized."

Shenye laughed heartily, "Nice, finally something challenging!"

Chapter 332: International Arena, Ancient City Ruins

—China Region Announcement, "Hero World Cup" individual competition international qualifiers will begin in 10 minutes, players who have advanced, please prepare for the competition.

At 15:50 on the afternoon of March 1, Beijing Time, there were still 10 minutes until the start of the competition. The alarm clock woke up Da Fei from a nap, and he groggily logged back in.

At this moment, Da Fei's message inbox was flashing. A glance at it showed messages from Dragon Scale, Lei Huolong, Harem Beauty, and Bu Feiyan. It's probably the pre-battle plea for cover once again. Let's check out the message from the beauties first.

Harem Beauty, "Brother Fei, the foreign zone players have united to deal with us in the China Region. If you encounter Fleeting Blossom on the arena, be sure to give a hand!"

Bu Feiyan, "Good luck!"

Oh, sure enough, it's a plea for cover. Still, Bu the beauty is reserved; it's not a plea for cover, but with you saying 'good luck,' how could I not take your Star guild along? Let's see Brother hemorrhoid's message next.

Dragon Scale, "Latest confirmed news, foreign zone professional teams have formed an alliance to deal with us in the China Region. There's also a trend of unification on civilian forums. The Japan zone is taking the lead this time. We need to kill massively, and if Brother Fei encounters Lei Huolong, please take care of it. He is the nemesis of the Japan zone; the more they want to step on us to rise, the more we should strike them down!"

No wonder you are a big shot; even your plea for cover is so domineering! Lei Huolong? The first person of the Hell Race in the China Region? How is he the nemesis of the Japan zone? Let's look at his message then.

Lei Huolong, "Brother Fei, please cover, please big leg!"

Apu! Damn it, is this what professional players say? Da Fei was very interested and replied, "Chairman Ma said you are the nemesis of the Japan zone, is that true? Both are Hell Race; they have a God-level Hero; how do you play?"

Lei Huolong immediately replied, "Ah yay yay, Brother Fei, long time no chat, Brother Fei watch, before level 50, my specialty as the Dog King of this generation is carrying the Hellhound, the regular main force of the Hell Race. Even when encountering a God-level Hero, I don't fall behind, not to mention for this international competition I brought quite a few Elite Hellhounds, I will chew that little Japan to pieces!"

Da Fei was astonished, "Quite a few Elite Hellhounds? Where did you get them?"

Lei Huolong laughed heartily, "Isn't it thanks to Brother Fei? Brother Fei stirred up the Abyss Blood Pool, and we had a Blood Sea Storm, producing a large number of elites. In short, elites and ordinary are not

even the same concept. Tactics that ordinary troops cannot use, elites can rely on their thick health and defense to execute. As long as I can hold out until I meet Brother Fei, striking down the Japan zone is no problem."

Da Fei's eyebrow twitched, so benefiting from the Abyss Blood Pool was not just me? I thought Abyss Blood Pool ended after the battle, but I didn't expect the plot had follow-ups! I recruited 44 Little Banshees from a small island, resulting in 44 Elite Cannon Emperors, so how many elites would that leave from the several hundred other islands?

Da Fei hurriedly asked, "How many Elite Hellhounds do you have?"

Lei Huolong laughed heartily, "Originally, this was a secret of our guild, but since Brother Fei asked, there's no point hiding it, only 20. Although not many, I'm a professional player; if I strike at the right time, I can wipe people out easily!"

Da Fei was stunned into shock, 20! What concept is 20 of elites in the hands of a professional player? And it might not even be just 20, right? If he could get 20 by himself, how many could other Hell Race players in the Dragon Slayer Guild get? That means the Abyss Blood Pool trip, the real beneficiary was the Dragon Slayer side? Damn! Everyone said the China Region Beastman and Hell weren't good, but I sold a scroll and benefitted the Dragon Slayer's Beastman, now even boosting the Hell Race? I'm promoting a nation's prosperity singlehandedly! I can't stay calm anymore!

Da Fei sourly said, "So, Boss Ma has always been silently making a fortune?"

Lei Huolong chuckled, "No way, ordinary soldier production has sharply declined. Even if there are many elites, we don't dare drag them out and really fight. Otherwise, losing one would be heartbreakingly to tears!"

Ugh! Blowing it out of proportion to fool newbies, huh? Professional players with a whole bunch of elites can't sweep instances for tasks like a snowball? At this rate, I won't be able to sell things to the Dragon Slayer anymore? No way, not happy. While I still have an edge, next time I sell something, I'll make a killing on them!

The competition was about to start. Da Fei replied to each of the handful of friends he could count on his fingers, saying, Don't worry, I've got your back, and then calmly awaited the commencement of the competition.

Yes, very calm, as if I believe it, foreign players united against the China Region? What a joke, if foreigners were really that united, the Eight-Nation Alliance might have wiped out Qing Country back then! Who in the entire world dares to face my lineup when even professional big shots dread it? Who would boldly lead the charge? The Japan zone? Oh, last time at the Pool of Radiance wasn't fun enough; this time I'll fight till I'm satisfied!

At precisely 16:00, Beijing Time.

—China Region Announcement, "Hero World Cup" individual competition international qualifiers begin, wishing contestants good luck.

—System Prompt, Congratulations! You have successfully logged into the World Battle Network System,

—System Prompt, Your current comprehensive military strength is as follows, please choose the military strength to dispatch!

Your troop: 3539 Flower Demons (Command Value 0, unable to deploy), 50 Druids (Command Value 150), 5 Storm Druids (Command Value 50), 200 Secret Archers (Command Value 400)...

Total Command Value of Troops: 1955 points, a total of 7 types of units. Note: Charming Emperor, Artillery Emperor, Banshee Artillery, and Banshee are considered the same type of unit, Druids and Storm Druids are considered the same type of unit, units unable to deploy cannot participate.

Haha! Wowahaha, indeed the Chamber of Commerce's troops can also enter the competition. Druids and Storm Druids are indeed considered the same type of unit. No need to say more, all five major types of troops, full forces attack!

—System Prompt, You have entered a random competition venue "Ancient City Ruins"!

—Competition Rules, In the competition venue, there are a number of other players and powerful monster bosses randomly allocated by the system, as well as various mechanical facilities and buildings that can be utilized by player competitors. You must collect 10 Hero's Proofs to qualify. Hero's Proofs can be searched for in the ruins, dropped from monster bosses, or obtained by defeating other players who have acquired them. Once you are defeated, you will be eliminated.

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Da Fei's eyebrow jumped, the rules changed? There are monster bosses in the competition venue? Wait, what is this Ancient City Ruins terrain? Just as he was astonished, the scene changed, and Da Fei, along with his army, appeared densely in several dilapidated alleys, impossible to see each other from head to tail, unable to coordinate.

Crap! This is a trap terrain!

Looking at his army of thousands completely scattered in a few crisscrossing alleys, and with the tall buildings blocking his vision, Da Fei knew the situation was very bad. This terrain is completely detrimental to the deployment of ranged troops. If the opponent's melee units come out from some alleyway, it's a one-sided massacre like eating sausage. Once melee gets close to ranged, it's a massacre.

But Da Fei quickly snapped back! I always knew there'd be a day like this, so wisely and valiantly, I switched to Flying Eagle Sentinel in the morning. While you're wandering blind in the high walls, I'd know your positions clearly.

Moreover, my main force, the Forest Goddess, are the 44 Elite Cannon Emperors, the rarest, most god-like flying ranged troops in the game. I can completely secure advantageous building terrain at the first opportunity, hold for height advantage, shoot, and move to another building, I'll play you to death! This terrain for ordinary archery sea players means they're done, but for me, this is my home ground, not to mention I have God-level Arcane Magic, wahahaha, besiege me!

Da Fei immediately took out his Sentinel's Flute! Click to use! Speaking of which, this was Da Fei's first time using this profession item obtained.

The effect was just like when the Blood Eagle Flute was used before, a phantom eagle soared, and Da Fei's radar view suddenly widened. In just an instant, four red dots with foreign tiny national flags appeared on the radar, along with a dozen red dots representing monsters.

Da Fei chuckled, I've seen who's there, among these four little foreign national flags there's just one with the red plaster flag! Jeez, they say every four cars in the world must have one plaster brand, yet I face four, and one is plaster; fine, I'll start with you for a sacrifice!

### Chapter 333: Da Fei Takes First Blood

Tokyo Akihabara, Mitsubishi Headquarters Building, the venue dedicated to competition participants was as tense and orderly as a battle command center.

"All team members, report your location and terrain on the battlefield!"

"Number 0131, Hukateng, Dark Swamp!"

"Number 0026, Blood Gun Jiulang, Gravel Wilderness!"

"Number 0006, Gunno Yosai, Ancient City Ruins!"

"Number 0221, Dragon of Echigo, Primeval Jungle!"

"Number 0001, Kai's Tiger, Ancient City Ruins!"

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"All entrants, quickly scout the surrounding terrain and organize your formations!"

Amid these relentless shouts, President Igarashi stood in the center of the venue accompanied by Captain Tsukamoto Hideki, watching the dozens of large screens displaying the tournament fields with a stern expression.

No one paid more attention to this match than the Japan Region. This was a crucial opportunity for Japan to erase the shame of their previous loss in the national war. To wash away this disgrace didn't necessarily mean winning the world championship, but they must thoroughly defeat the China Region. The draw result in the last national war was utterly unacceptable. Over the past decade, the real-life island disputes between Japan and China had heightened tension, extending to sports, competitions, and technological advancements. Therefore, the Japan Region had to defeat the China Region!

Listening to the reports, Igarashi's brow suddenly twitched, and he quickly turned to ask, "Captain Tsukamoto, how many of our key players are in the Ancient City Ruins?"

Tsukamoto Hideki responded gravely, "Sessho Kanpaku, Gunno Yosai, Kai's Tiger, Ghost Half Storage, Haidao Yigong, General Sword Saint are all in the Ancient City Ruins!"

As the user of the God-level Hero Hell Gate Master "Hattori Shoji," Tsukamoto Hideki did not compete, keeping it a secret. Similarly, another God-level Hero, Mobility Master, was also not deployed. The Japan Region believed that even without the Hell Gate Master or Mobility Master, they could secure a win over the China Region. If God-level Heroes were required for Japan to win, how could they face the adversary Korea District, which was equally hostile and more advanced? In that case, the Mitsubishi Team might as well disband. Of course, not deploying God-level Heroes was also a facade; if the battle went poorly, they could always claim a mission prevented the God-level Heroes from competing.

Hearing the captain's report, Igarashi frowned, "It seems the committee's private rumors are true, all players with high Command Power were 'randomly' placed in the Ancient City Ruins map."

Tsukamoto was puzzled, "Why?" Why? As a professional player, he should know why, but that was precisely why Tsukamoto was savvy enough to become a captain.

Igarashi nodded slightly with a satisfied subtle smile, "The committee modified the rules after listening to players worldwide to separate especially strong professional players from ordinary ones, offering regular players a chance to achieve good ranks. However, when the ladder ranking of the Battle Network System is fully implemented in the future, such things won't happen."

Tsukamoto immediately joined in and nodded, "That means this map gathers both the world's top players and the most mundane players! Like some players from the China Region who've been boasting recently."

Igarashi laughed heartily, "Precisely! Before level 50, most players use 1, 2, 3-star regular troops, and Advanced troops are too few to show their power, so there's this boring Human Race archery sea tactic stacking Command Power with a single troop type. While that boring tactic indeed creates strong suppression early against the Hell Race, which lacks ranged troops, enabling some lackluster players to achieve good results, the current map is urban combat, where archery seas have no use. It's the main stage for our high-speed mobile Hell Army, and it'll be a massacre! A cleaning of the weak players—I believe we'll achieve great results, I have confidence in our team members!"

Tsukamoto chuckled, "President is right, weak players remain weak players, even with Divine Artifacts, they can't become real powerhouses!"

Igarashi laughed but sighed, "But there are pros and cons; this situation also significantly impacts Haidao Yigong's Gege troops. However, it's a test of his ability as a professional player to fight in adversity."

Tsukamoto added with a smile, "Haidao Yigong was a top expert of the Elf Clan during the public beta, with incredible judgment of archers' range. I believe he can effectively utilize the narrow urban combat terrain to unleash the concentrated destructive power of Gege Bursting Fireball."

During their banter, a cry suddenly erupted in the room, "Baka! Impossible! This can't be happening!"

Tsukamoto was startled, "Mr. Yamada?"

Simultaneously, one of the screens on the wall suddenly blacked out with the sound of a defeat, echoing throughout the venue! The room was in shock!

A team member abruptly stood up, bowing as he said with shame, "President! I'm sorry, I failed, I was beheaded by Da Fei. An unidentified ghost dragon descended from the sky, scattering my formation and using aging and slowing effects. I couldn't escape!"

The venue was in uproar! While everyone was still strategizing and observing the surroundings, a main player got instantly killed by this legendary amateur player from China? Was this rapid tactic due to his extraordinary skill, or was it too amateurish? But those details were irrelevant; the key was his ability to behead Yamada's main account before he could react—just how strong was he?

Tsukamoto immediately commanded, "Silence! All Ancient City Ruins team members, hide your troops in any available building shelter, Mr. Yamada, report your position!"

Igarashi also reacted immediately, pulling out his phone with a grim face, "I must contact my international friends immediately, Da Fei has appeared, he must be eliminated!"

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—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have defeated the player "Ghost Half Storage" from the Japan Region, and you have won the battle!

Da Fei laughed wildly! Awesome! Just what is needed, now I understand why Americans love using drones to kill, it must feel like this! This goof was still looking around, unaware that I was watching from the sky! This goof was still amassing troops into a tight formation, unaware that Deirdre's team crushed down from above! I bet he didn't even know how he died, I attacked the unexpected!

Gotta say, thank goodness for the surprise attack, almost let him hide in that broken house by the street! Otherwise, a failed hit would've left my Necromancer Dragon surrounded, unable to return. Lucky I had the Necromancer Dragon, otherwise the beheading might've failed. And he had so many soldiers, packed full on several streets, over a thousand perhaps, no less than eight hundred! If they all attacked from every direction, I'd have no place to run! Seems like international competition doesn't attract mediocrities!

While fortunately reflecting, Da Fei's avatar on the national server received alert sounds with messages. Needless to say, they were updates on the tournament maps from Hemorrhoid Ointment and the girls. Da Fei switched over to take a look, there they were!

Lei Huolong: "Brother Fei, I'm at the Ancient City Ruins grounds, which ground are you on?"

Huh? I'm there too!

Bu Feiyan: "Brother Fei, which ground are you on?"

Harem Beauty: "Brother Fei, my friend Fleeting Blossom is in a field called Castle Ruins, it's very unfavorable, where are you?"

Da Fei was extremely surprised! Such coincidence? Also in the Ancient City Ruins? Could it be the same field? Though the number of qualifiers was much smaller, grounds were naturally fewer than qualification rounds, so being in the same field wouldn't be impossible, right?

Da Fei instantly replied to all with pride, "I'm also in the Ancient City Ruins, just beheaded a Japanese player named Ghost Half Storage, send your coordinates!"

Lei Huolong was shocked, "No way? It just started seconds ago? That's a key player from the Japan Region, super strong!"

Hahaha, turns out he was a professional player! No matter how professional, facing my advanced crushing he's down! Da Fei was smug at heart and made a confirmative sound, "Strong my foot, he's a goner! Be quick, serious business!"

Lei Huolong hurriedly said, "Brother Fei, you rock, my coordinates are..."

Bu Feiyan was similarly shocked, "How could this be? Ghost Half Storage is on par with Uranus, and he got beheaded just like that?"

Hahaha! Even the Goddess is startled! I love showing off and keeping mystery in front of the Goddess! Da Fei said, "Sis, busy with serious stuff now!"

Bu Feiyan quickly came to her senses, "Right, our guild's Uranus, Neptune, Heavenly Kill Star, Earth Demon Star, Earth Fierce Star all are on the Ancient City Ruins map, we need to confirm if it's the same map, then we'll unite when we meet."

Wow, your guild's emulating Outlaws of the Marsh? Da Fei laughed and said, "Okay! My principle is Chinese don't fight Chinese, united against others!" Tch! Confirming the map's easy, I just need to fly the Necromancer Dragon high up, ask if they see me? But that's a fool's move, and I, of course, wouldn't do that.

While Da Fei was busy exchanging messages and networking, other countries' professional players in the venue seemingly also received reports from the Japan Region and reacted immediately, hiding in buildings! Both commanders and soldiers hid in buildings to avoid being slain by Da Fei, then acted according to the situation and collaborated. Though being slain seemed unbelievable, for players with Divine Artifacts, everything was possible.

The battlefield turned strangely calm.

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Now, Da Fei's Reconnaissance Eagle started heading toward the first coordinate reported by Fleeting Blossom, assuming they indeed shared the same map. Da Fei then successively discovered players from other countries and BOSS-level monsters roaming the streets.

Da Fei realized the trouble, each player spotted had significant forces! Though not as many as his own, engaging would mean losing hundreds while killing a thousand, wouldn't it? The rules had changed, killing players was useless; the Hero's Proof must be obtained by defeating BOSSes or exploring. With formidable enemies surrounding and uncertainty of BOSS strength, fighting BOSSes was indeed highly risky, it wasn't an ordinary mess.

Then, as the eagle flew, a yellow dot suddenly appeared on the radar, yellow dot? What was that? Da Fei quickly switched to eagle view and zoomed in, finding a manhole cover! Manhole cover?

While puzzled, the eagle circled, and the yellow dot disappeared on the radar. Disappeared?

Da Fei's brow twitched, was this a hidden mechanism facility? Yes! The rules mentioned players could use various mechanisms and that some hidden ones were only discoverable with a high level of Reconnaissance Skill. Such suddenly appearing and disappearing yellow dot must be a hidden mechanism, and a rather advanced one, because the eagle and I shared vision, shared God-level Reconnaissance Technique! A yellow dot vanishing so quickly under God-level Reconnaissance, ordinary players couldn't possibly notice, right?

In just a mere venue, why arrange such secretive mechanisms? Could there be deeper meaning? Fine! The so-called possessing what others lack, maybe that's my breakthrough point through the mechanism?

While pondering, the eagle's target reached, and sure enough, it spotted a Five-star Red Flag, Fleeting Blossom! They truly were in the same map! And her situation was perilous, already tracked by two foreign players, both parties holding a tense standoff at a distance!

#### Chapter 334: Da Fei Rescues the Beauty

The professional gaming community may seem large, but it can also feel incredibly small for those who are well-connected—like fish in water with information flowing freely. For those out of the loop, however, it's vast and murky. Chinese players are experts at networking and even if unable to penetrate certain circles, bribing insiders for information is not a problem. Therefore, Japan's scheme to unite against the China Region was hardly a secret. News of their hurried messages being sent all over the Ancient City Ruins quickly reached the professionals in the China Region.

It's undeniable; there's hardly any true fairness in offline esports competitions. However, this also serves as a comprehensive test of the skills of both the players on the field and their teams off it.

Japanese messengers, worried about saving face, didn't disclose that a main player was taken out instantly. They only warned everyone to be cautious of a Ghost Dragon which, after preliminary damage data analysis, might be a boss-level creature. However, the Chinese professional gamers weren't concerned about Japan's reputation! When Da Fei blurted out that he took down a Japanese player named Ghost Half Storage instantly, Star and Dragon Slayer were shocked but immediately spread the word.

Not just spreading the word but doing so in an exaggerated manner like "Striking down players instantly like a divine soldier descending!" stripping Japan of its dignity while also intimidating international players into restraint.

In that moment, Da Fei was demonized.

Yet, professional gamers have their proud dignity and won't be frightened by an amateur, so the more Da Fei is demonized, the more it fuels the professionals' discontent and outrage—prompting the immediate response from international teams: Da Fei must be taken out!

Of course, this also served another secret purpose for Star and Dragon Slayer; letting Da Fei attract the world's attention by becoming a target.

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In the Ancient City Ruins, Fleeting Blossom's over two thousand archers were scattered throughout a large expanse of streets, and Fleeting Blossom was stunned on the spot!

The strength of an all-ranged unit lies in concentrated firepower, keeping the enemy at a distance. Its weakness lies in low defense and poor melee capabilities. Now divided by buildings and unable to concentrate their firepower, any enemy rushing down the street would mow them down!

Worse still, Fleeting Blossom saw a Canadian player at the end of the street, from the Dwarf Clan, with a group of Level 1 dwarf shield guards and Level 3 charging dwarfs—plus the mandatory dwarf charging runes, a perfect counter to archers!

Fleeting Blossom's first reaction was to station her troops in the broken houses lining the streets, hoping they would function like bunkers. But she knew these doorless bunkers were practically suicide—if two or three Level 3 soldiers got in, they could wipe out all the archers in a house!

But that wasn't all. As Fleeting Blossom frantically set up her formation, her large troops quickly caught another player's attention—a Spanish player appeared, from the Human Race, also seemingly an archery sea, but unlike her, he seemed to have many level 3 soldier shield guards whose shields with a special skill that reduce 50% of ranged damage—another nightmare for an archery sea!

Now, caught between attacks from both sides! The foreign players had indeed united against the Chinese players!

Fleeting Blossom yelled anxiously, "Wife, has Da Fei responded yet?"

At this moment, Little Li, acting as a contact, also said anxiously, "Don't panic, he just said he killed a Japanese player and will come check on us soon!"

Fleeting Blossom exclaimed angrily, "Check what the heck! He just killed a Japanese player, boasting without drafting, by the time he gets here I might as well hang up, we're not even sure it's the same battlefield! Why am I so unlucky!? If it had been in the jungle, I wouldn't fear them!"

Little Li sighed, "What about reaching out to other friends?"

Fleeting Blossom snapped, "Already on it, can't you see I'm typing furiously?"

Seconds ticked by, and the enemy troops began to stir, while the replies Fleeting Blossom got from friends were disheartening—"Not in the same battlefield." "Let me ask around." Fleeting Blossom, frustrated and gritting her teeth, thought, "Great! Can't rely on anyone! I'm just playing casually anyway, I'll fight them with all I've got!"

Little Li chuckled awkwardly, "Exactly, since we're amateur players, losing won't be embarrassing!"

Just then, the enemy players in front of Fleeting Blossom suddenly stopped moving. Fleeting Blossom curiously remarked, "Huh? Why'd they stop moving?"

Little Li wondered, "Maybe the rules changed, and killing doesn't count anymore, or maybe your troops are too many, and they want to conserve their strength?"

Little Fang shook her head, "Unlikely, even I, as an amateur, can see that they can't pass up such a clear advantage unless they aren't really united!"

Suddenly, Little Li exclaimed, "Da Fei responded! He said he saw you, and told you to first run to the tower at coordinates (2421,6431), then turn to (2411,6320) and charge straight, he'll come to support you!"

Little Fang alarmed said, "Charge all the way? Is he joking? The streets are full of BOSSes!"

Little Li hurriedly said, "He said there are no BOSSes, no players!"

Little Fang's eyes widened: "How is that possible! How does he know? Is he using a full map cheat? Isn't he fighting the Japanese? How can he come to my aid?" Without further thought, Little Fang raised her head to look at the coordinates mentioned by Da Fei, and indeed, there was a tower in that direction!

Little Fang frowned and gritted her teeth: "Fine, we're doomed anyway, let's just go with his nonsense. With my Master-level Logistics Skill, hopefully these archers can escape!"

Thus, Little Fang's more than two thousand archers retreated in a panic along the streets like a tidal wave.

At this moment, the two opposing players hesitated briefly, then immediately began to chase! Especially the Dwarf Clan player from Canada, who activated a Charging Rune and the street-full of dwarfs, as if injected with adrenaline, quested frantically nonstop with astonishing speed, dimming the luster of Fleeting Blossom's Master-level Logistics!

Little Fang's expression darkened, knowing with the Dwarf army's high stamina, even if they can't catch up immediately, their persistence alone could exhaust her troops to death. If there really is no reinforcements, the grand debut of her going abroad for the first competition would end up in her being a mere spectator and providing easy kills!

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When Da Fei's Reconnaissance Eagle spotted Fleeting Blossom's troops, Da Fei's information lit up again, from Dragon Scale and Bu Feiyan. Da Fei felt helpless, why do you guys have so many issues during a competition? Are all large guilds like this?

Regardless, the only ones who could save Fleeting Blossom were Deirdre's Flying Army, along with Charming Emperor Didi and Lili who could go on an Independent Expedition as a BOSS. Let them go for the rescue, and continue beheading to gather more kills. Let's see what the message had to say.

Dragon Scale: "Brother Fei! Well done! Although the Japanese won't admit it, a key player really did get beheaded right at the start!"

Da Fei angrily said: "Damn! When I say I killed him, I did, just forgot to send a screenshot over. Does that allow him, little Japan, to deny it?"

Dragon Scale laughed heartily: "Okay, Brother Fei, sending the screenshot over now isn't too late. Your opening success has boosted the morale of the China Region. We immediately reported Brother Fei's achievements to the world. This is shaking the mountain to scare the tiger, deterring them from acting rashly!"

Da Fei roared with laughter: "What shaking the mountain to scare the tiger, some petty Japan counts for nothing as a mountain, a bunch of foreigners aren't worth a hair as tigers!"

Dragon Scale laughed heartily: "With Brother Fei's words, this time we'll definitely make little Japan spew rubbish from their mouths!"

Then came the message from Goddess Bu Feiyan: "Brother Fei, your achievements have alerted professional teams worldwide. Now all professional players have started to take shelter in buildings and bunkers, paying attention to air defense, and discussing their next joint actions. Beheading tactics won't be easy anymore, be careful!"

Da Fei chuckled: "Thanks for the heads up!"

Damn, just one kill stirred the whole world? I haven't had enough of beheadings yet! At this moment, looking through the eagle's view, the two groups of players surrounding Fleeting Blossom were indeed missing their leaders! Goddamn, they really did hunker down? This is going to be tough now. With so many low-level soldiers on their side, there's no way Deirdre's small force can manage the rescue now!

Wait! Playing turtle, huh? Perfect chance to run, right? If you dare come after us when you peek out? Hmph!

Da Fei's Flying Eagle quickly scanned the surrounding terrain and monster distribution, promptly devising an escape plan, then he sent a message to the Harem Beauties: "Tell your friend to run towards the tower to break through the encirclement first, then turn towards..."

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In the narrow alleys, three streams of people were sprinting, with the desperate Fleeting Blossom in front and two groups of foreign players behind. Human Race archers simply couldn't match the agility of Elf Clan archers, and Fleeting Blossom was indeed no Elf Ranger in terms of speed. Watching the increasingly close pursuing dwarfs from behind, and the desolate unoccupied tower in front, Fleeting Blossom sighed long! Cursing the heavens and the earth, she could only blame her own weakness, ultimately acknowledging she wasn't cut out to lead troops in battle!

Just in despair, a trail of white smoke whizzed by low in the sky. Fleeting Blossom looked up to see something flying in the sky! The Five-star Red Flag! It was Da Fei! It was Da Fei's Flying Soldiers! He really came!

Fleeting Blossom was ecstatic beyond words, not even making out what the huge white smoke in the lead was before a colossal explosion resounded from the street, sending dust flying everywhere! The street-full of pursuing dwarfs immediately ceased their chase, panicking and scattering in a rout that implied their leader had been beheaded and their troops collapsing!

Won! Truly won! In that instant, Little Fang couldn't help but cry out loud, tears streaming down her face!

And at this very moment, Little Li also excitedly yelled: "Brother Fei has called. We've dealt with the Dwarf bloke, now aiming to counter-attack the Human Race bloke!"

Fleeting Blossom laughed heartily: "Man, I'm so freaking hungry for this!"

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—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have defeated the North America Region contestant "IronHerat," achieving victory in the campaign!

Beheading successful! Da Fei roared with laughter: "Just playing turtle wasn't enough, had to stick your neck out for me to chop, looks like you weren't all that tough!"

The news that IronHerat, a main player on the Canadian Iron team, was again eliminated by Da Fei within the first 3 minutes of the game spread immediately, sending shockwaves through the industry! It wasn't because he was such an amazing player, but because his failure proved that Japan's opening defeat was no fluke.

In fact, when that Canadian player targeted a Chinese player, he was instructed to stay put and prepare for a decapitation defense, which greatly displeased him. Not to say whether the Japanese inadvertently stepped on some shit and provoked the BOSS of the battlefield, but at the very least, the place where the Japanese player lost was far from himself, and it was very unlikely that trouble would find its way to him, not to mention that there was a Spanish player nearby to coordinate with. Then, the Chinese player started to flee, truly challenging his patience as a professional player. He began to give chase, and then a huge shadow descended from the sky!

Now, the upper echelons of professional teams from around the world had to face a problem they could not ignore but had to confront: this famous Chinese player who had killed a Demigod, this player who had successfully snatched the Flying Banshee Hero during the first National War, these two occurrences of his long-distance precise aerial ambushes—were they due to his long-distance reconnaissance capabilities, or a result of offline player coordination? Or could it be that the rules of this competition allowed him the freedom to commandeer high-end NPCs? The implications of Da Fei's existence for the future direction of the National War were all too imaginable. That the competition could unearth such a formidable opponent was in line with the original intention of the competition.

In any case, Da Fei was an absolute BOSS-like presence in this battlefield! If not handled properly, this map could become the Chinese's home ground! A concerted effort was a must.

While the professional teams of various countries were ducking their heads, sharing coordinates and locating each other, the professional players from the China Region used this precious time to march forcefully and converge.

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Meanwhile, in the ruins of the Ancient City, upon seeing his Canadian comrade collapse in an instant, the Spanish player was petrified and immediately hid inside a house, contracting his forces as much as possible, and resisting stubbornly yet hopelessly with his Professional Level skills.

While Da Fei was sending screenshots to Dragon Scale and Bu Feiyan, he was also messaging the Harem Beauty, with everyone praising and thanking Brother Fei, full of pride and triumph! Right in his moment of pride, a System Prompt suddenly sounded!

—System Prompt: The Stamina of your Reconnaissance Blood Eagle is insufficient, it will disappear soon. It can only be resummoned after its Stamina is fully restored.

Then, everything went dark in front of Da Fei, as he lost contact with the front lines.

—System Prompt: You have lost the vision of the front line and cannot control the actions of Vice Hero Deirdre, her actions will switch to Independent Expedition mode.

Da Fei was stunned on the spot! Damn it! Can you believe the timing of this blackout? This low-level Blood Eagle with only 37 Stamina could only last for 4 or 5 minutes? Isn't that barely any better than the original Blood Eagle Flute? Damn, damn, damn! There's an ongoing battle at the front!

What now? Now that he had lost contact with the front, it meant that Deirdre could not follow his command overseas, and she was left to her own devices based on her AI. But how different was her AI from that of a wild monster?

During public beta, Vice Heroes leading troops on Independent Expeditions were usually a mess; even if they didn't lose the battle, the casualties were unbearable. In other words, the current state of Deirdre, in the hands of these professional players, probably couldn't expect any good outcomes. Brother Fei had given Deirdre the Supervisor Whip, a treasure that added +100 command points, to lead the expedition; she had taken the Necromancer Dragon and most of Brother Fei's Forest Goddess units, leaving Brother Fei lacking vision and without much of a Flying Army left, no different from the other participating players. How could Brother Fei continue to fight? Damn it! Those are professional players, with kick-ass skills, and unless it's a one-hit kill, they can keep fighting even when wounded. Without the advantage of high-tech, what's the point of fighting?

In the midst of his shock, another message arrived for Da Fei!

Damn it! Can't you guys send fewer cheat messages? Brother Fei isn't a god anymore, barely even capable of self-preservation, and now it's your turn to save Brother Fei!

Da Fei, frustrated, took a look, and again, it was the Harem Beauty!

The Harem Beauty urgently said, "Brother Fei! Why are your troops attacking our soldiers?"

Da Fei was taken aback: "What? Attacking your soldiers?"

The Harem Beauty urgently said, "Yes! That Spanish player has a strong defense, we couldn't take him down for a long time, and now your Flying Army flew behind us and started attacking our soldiers! We've been caught in a pincer attack!"

Da Fei's jaw dropped! Indeed, the rules of the game state that anyone other than oneself is the enemy! The supposed alliance was merely in terms of player coordination and understanding, not teaming up! Obviously, the battlefield didn't permit teaming up. That meant Independently Expeditioning Deirdre, as well as Didi and Lili in the same mode, didn't care whether the others were Chinese or not—enemies were just for hitting!

Damn it, this is a major screw-up! Now what to do? If he has become the enemy of everyone, finding it hard to protect himself, and has lost control over his ace unit, and there's no knowing when the Blood Eagle Flute will regain Stamina, could it be that Brother Fei, a great hero, will be stopped here?

Da Fei suddenly remembered the sewer manhole cover he saw earlier with the Flying Eagle! Cities have sewers, right? Could this Ancient City map actually have a sewer mode? Right, Brother Fei would just hide in the sewer. You all won't find Brother Fei, and by the time your Hero's Proof is nearly collected, it will also be when Brother Fei's Blood Eagle has its Stamina back. By then, Brother Fei will reemerge from the manhole and slaughter you, leaving you beaten and overflowing with piss and shit!

Wait! That's impossible too. Even if the Blood Eagle recovers Stamina, how would Brother Fei know where Deirdre has flown off to? She might even have been wiped out by now?

In the midst of his dilemma, the Harem Beauty sent another message: "Brother Fei! You've got to say something! You promised to cover for us, how could you let this happen!"

Da Fei let out a long sigh! Many heroes often can't overcome the temptation of a beautiful woman. Even if the other side isn't a beauty, but just an average Jane, Brother Fei wouldn't stand by idly and do

nothing. After all, Brother Fei did have his limits and principles; although very low, it didn't mean they were nonexistent.

Da Fei could only reply: "I'm sorry, greatness comes at a cost. I had a blast one-shottting people but I also lost control over my troops. Now tell your friend to make a forced retreat, take the route I mentioned earlier, and then reconvene at coordinates (2418,6280). No matter how many soldiers die, just stay alive!"

The Harem Beauty was taken aback: "How could this happen? Alright, I'll go tell her right away!"

Da Fei shook his head, sending a distressing message to Hemorrhoid Ointment and Goddess: "I've got some bad news to tell you. My troops are causing a big mess..."

#### Chapter 336: Occupying the Death Bell Tower

"What? Brother Fei's beheading squad lost control? How did this happen?" As expected, this was Ma Yinglong and Bu Feiyan's first reaction.

Da Fei silently sighed and had to continue making excuses: "There is no gain without loss, strength always comes with a price. Anyway, I can't control that squad now, everyone just be careful."

When it comes to his core secrets, Da Fei would definitely not reveal a single word, and that's how all the experts act, isn't it? If it were not for the fact that he'd seen his teammates preparing to fight together against outsiders, Da Fei wouldn't even bother to notify them.

"Who else knows about this?" Their second reaction was somewhat unexpected to Da Fei.

Da Fei said in surprise: "A friend..."

Ma Yinglong urgently said: "Brother Fei, make sure your friend keeps it a secret quickly. Once it gets out and foreign players know about it, you'll be in danger!"

Bu Feiyan also quickly replied: "Where are your coordinates? We'll see if we can figure out a way to come to your aid!"

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched, damn! There's even such consideration! I was really careless! Although it's unlikely that Fleeting Blossom would deliberately mess with me, what if she can't hold her breath and complains to her friends, and then it spreads... wouldn't that screw everything up?

Da Fei immediately messaged Harem Beauty to keep her mouth shut, and then... wait! This incident reminded me, the world is full of dangers! How close am I to you all? My reputation has been completely tarnished, why should I still expect care from bigwigs in large guilds? In the end, it's just because I'm useful! My primary value was to start with a bang to scare the enemies, attract hatred, and act as a target!

Now that I've lost the beheading squad, what value is left? Only the lucky Divine Artifact and a final desperate fight to the death with the enemy! If I revealed my coordinates and you guys sold me out behind my back, wouldn't I be unjustly killed fighting against the whole world? Anyway, one must always be wary of others.

Da Fei smiled faintly: "No need to bother, there are no China Region players within hundreds of coordinates around me. Anyway, I'm just an amateur player who has already killed two, and that's enough for me. The rest is just about guerrilla warfare. You guys stick to your plans and don't worry about me, I still have the Divine Artifact up my sleeve."

Bu Feiyan chuckled: "Then Brother Fei, take care of yourself. If you run into players from our guild, you can always ask for help."

"Definitely!"

Da Fei sighed helplessly again. The world is dangerous, right? This is exactly why I don't like being with other players. Otherwise, where would all these troubles come from? And that Fleeting Blossom wouldn't sell my coordinates, would she?

Of course, what Da Fei didn't realize was that Ma Yinglong and Bu Feiyan were relieved at this point! To be honest, the strength that Da Fei had shown was even frightening to them! If he continued to be so awesome, how could they cope with that? His loss of control indicates that Da Fei has weaknesses! For professional players, it's not about how awesome you are, it's about whether you have weaknesses.

No matter what, the professional guilds have never placed their hopes of victory on an amateur player. Da Fei's early intimidation of foreign players had already bought a lot of time for the China Region's professional players to regroup. Anyway, Da Fei can cool off for now. The only variable is to see who gets hindered more by Da Fei's annoying squad. It would be best if they were eliminated by foreign professional players to save us the trouble. For professional players, uncontrollable factors are the most annoying.

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At this moment, Fleeting Blossom's troops endured the barrage from Da Fei's uncontrollable Flying Army as they made a tactical retreat from the tower. Fleeting Blossom's heart was bleeding with anger and her teeth itched with hate!

Initially, they were supposed to reach the bell tower and then make a detour to retreat. But now, Da Fei's "rebel" forces had directly occupied the tower! From the high position in the tower, Da Fei's forces had the advantage of range and power. They could shoot at Fleeting Blossom, but Fleeting Blossom's forces couldn't shoot back at them! This was definitely computer-level operation! The squad had truly lost control!

Speaking of computer-level operations, Fleeting Blossom remembered the painful scene of the Spanish player they had just encircled. That Spanish player was definitely professional, and their operations were definitely computer-level. Earlier, when she counter-attacked, she had the upper hand, but still suffered heavy casualties and couldn't take him down! And her own Longbowman... where the hell were they stuck in the alleyways, unable to join the battle! This is infuriating!

Legend has it, what would happen if 10 archers from an ordinary player faced off against 10 archers from a professional player? The result would be 10 to 0! Fleeting Blossom didn't believe it before, but she does now, after having witnessed the legendary Extreme Step Shooting in the alley fight.

What is Extreme Step Shooting? Also known as Phantom Step, it means that the archer takes a step forward just enough to hit the opponent, and one step back to be out of the opponent's range, while also avoiding being hit. This is precise operation achieved within the small time difference between drawing and aiming the bow.

And this maneuver is just the basics because the damage dealt by Extreme Shooting of archers is very minor, so it's also essential to master focused fire in stride, ensuring that your troops can inflict casualties on the enemy as soon as they engage. In professional gamers' battles, merely injuring troops

is meaningless. Timely withdrawal of wounded soldiers from the front line is the most fundamental skill, and it's much simpler than striding. After mastering the basic stride and targeted shooting, one must continue training to increase the number of troops they can control.

Of course, even this isn't enough. Top professional players also take into account the influence of terrain and wind direction in an instant, reaching a state comparable to human computers, which is beyond normal human capability.

So when casual gamers arrogantly think that since everyone has archers, who's afraid of whom, and just push their troops forward, in that instant they enter firing range, they only see the enemy troops waver like phantoms, followed by a barrage of misses, while their own side suffers casualties in a row. This is the origin of Phantom Step.

In short, the title of "professional gamer" isn't claimed without reason. They undergo monotonous and arduous training that's unimaginable to ordinary players, requiring not just effort but talent too. Those who get overwhelmed with more troops and blink to find their soldiers dead, should honestly stick to casual gaming; they simply lack the talent. That's why professional gamers can create miracles with a minimal number of troops that ordinary players can't even fathom.

At this point, Fleeting Blossom was like a crumbling mountain, her confidence severely battered. Spanish professional gamers aren't considered top-notch in the world, so what if she were up against the legendary Korean masters known as human computers?

It looks like I've been too naive. I thought that as long as I secured a strategic and economic advantage, I could steamroll with sheer numbers. But it seems someone mighty once said, without effective execution, the best strategies and tactics amount to nothing. It's not as if there hasn't been an incident where thousands of Persian troops were trampled by 300 Spartans. I just got "Spartan-ed" myself!

Forget it, I'm not cut out for this. Better to stick as an ordinary Gold Coin gamer, earning money is fine, no need to deliberately compete for rankings anymore.

The defeated troops fled and finally made it out of the tower's shooting range. Without other tall buildings around, if Brother Fei's out-of-control troops continued pursuing, Fleeting Blossom's troops could stand a chance. But fortunately, the out-of-control troops didn't waste their energy on a futile chase, not pursuing when they saw no advantage. Thankfully, that Spanish gamer seemed scared enough by Brother Fei not to give chase; otherwise, I would have been done for.

Fleeting Blossom did a headcount of her troops – from a grand entrance of 2,500 soldiers, she had lost 320! About 100 were killed by the Spanish gamer, while she killed less than 20 of his. The remaining 200+ were killed by Brother Fei's high-level troops occupying the Bell Tower.

The more Little Fang thought about it, the more indignant she became. Could it be that Brother Fei did it on purpose? There are so many positions nearby he didn't call me for, why insist on this Bell Tower! But it had to be said, this Bell Tower indeed stood out like a crane among chickens in this cluster of buildings. If I were him, perhaps I would have subconsciously noticed here too?

Just then—Dang!!! A deep bell tolled from the top of the tower, resounding through the battlefield!

—Battlefield information: China Region player "Brother Fei" has occupied the Death Bell Tower, obtaining a competition reward of 10,000 Gold Coins and the rights to recruit Stone-statue Gargoyle Watchers. Other players can contest for the Death Bell Tower to obtain the occupation rights for Stone-statue Gargoyle Watchers!

Instantly, all the gamers on the Ancient City Ruins battlefield turned their heads towards the Tower where the bell sounded, causing a stir in the command centers behind the scenes!

Only then did Fleeting Blossom realize, the Bell Tower was a troop recruitment structure on the battlefield, no wonder it was so eye-catching! This Brother Fei is quite formidable, isn't he? Just not sure what level the Stone-statue Gargoyle Watchers are? Are they only for the competition, or are they also awarded to the player after the competition?

Amidst her surprise, Little Li next to her shouted, "Brother Fei has spoken, he said for you to hurry to the designated rendezvous point, he won't wait for you!"

Pfft! Acting all high and mighty! Originally, Fleeting Blossom teamed up with Brother Fei before the match, hoping for a strong alliance to stir up some trouble and fish for some ranking bonuses and fame. But with the current terrain, having witnessed the power of professional players, and considering the alliance situation in other regions, Fleeting Blossom is feeling a bit disheartened. If she encounters a foreign opponent on her way to regroup, she's certain to be doomed.

So, better not to. After all, I'm still the number one Female Lord in the China Region. It would be beneath my feminine dignity to be looked down upon by such a ruffian like Brother Fei, and it would be detrimental to my future social interactions if it got out. I'd rather take my own chances.

At that moment, the Spanish gamer's troops finally mobilized, aiming for the Tower!

Fleeting Blossom firmly decided, "Honey, reply to Brother Fei and thank him for his help. Now I'd like to return the favor by helping him guard the tower!"

Little Li exclaimed in surprise, "Are you serious? Weren't you just lamenting your losses? What will you defend with? How will you help?"

Fleeting Blossom laughed, "If I'm not wrong, Brother Fei's troop's AI program is designed to attack the weak, so as long as I keep all my troops fortified inside the rooms, he probably won't attack if he sees no advantage in doing so. Anyway, I'm no longer that interested in the competition, let's just make this a personal connection."

### Chapter 337: The Implications of the Death Bell Tower

Da Fei was heading towards the location where he discovered the sewer, utilizing his Phantom March. However, the effects of Phantom March couldn't cover the entire army; the troops that were obstructed by buildings and far away from Da Fei couldn't be in a state of Phantom March, creating a sensation of being unable to manage both ends at the same time. In the end, Da Fei's level was too low, and the hero's abilities could only cover a limited area of the battlefield.

But it didn't matter—Da Fei's advantage now was in moving while the enemy remained still. He had five skill books awarded by Makar in his backpack; nothing else to say, he decided to learn Logistics Skill to increase mobility. After all, it's a competition server, so whatever he did wouldn't affect his account on the national server. Naturally, Master-level Logistics Skill was something he'd learn eventually, as it was a prerequisite for advancing to a Grandmaster Navigator.

Da Fei's advantage wouldn't last long. For professional players, it didn't take long to consolidate their forces, and after 4 or 5 minutes of silence, the coordinates of professional players from various countries were spread like stars in the night sky on the simulation maps in the command centers of different countries, a vast net already set up. The next step was to close the net! As for how to deal with Da Fei's decapitating units, it wasn't a problem for professional players—they had their commanders

walk close to the walls, especially the roots of narrow alleys. The vast size of a Ghost Dragon made it hard to attack targets by the walls.

At this moment, Da Fei received a message from Ma Yinglong: "Brother Fei, the foreigners have already consolidated. It's best if Brother Fei avoids being discovered by them before we start the battle. Brother Fei's Reconnaissance Skill level is high, right? Use this advantage to detect and avoid them in advance. Once discovered, they'll lock you down and launch a multi-pronged attack, and then it will be a hassle."

More than a hassle—it'd be disastrous! Da Fei felt a pang of panic and quickly asked, "When will you start the battle?"

Ma Yinglong laughed and said, "We'll start once our forces have gathered! At that point, we'll focus on the scattered, which will allow us to dictate the battlefield. Then Brother Fei can fish in troubled waters."

Da Fei nodded, "I see!" Brother Fei couldn't meddle in matters of professional players—self-preservation was the priority now. With his God-level Reconnaissance Technique combined with basic Treasure Appraisal, he could see further than ordinary players even without a Flying Eagle. He could see them, but they couldn't see him, especially since his troops were in a semi-Phantom March state.

At this moment, a bell rang throughout the battlefield's sky!

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Deirdre occupied the Death Bell Tower. You received a competition reward of 10,000 Gold Coins and acquired the right to recruit Stone-statue Gargoyle Watchers. Note: The gold coin competition reward will be sent to your account in your region after the competition ends.

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Deirdre recruited a Stone-statue Gargoyle Watcher. You acquired partial battlefield visibility.

—Stone-statue Gargoyle Watcher: Born within the Bell Tower Time Rift, this is a small spiritual creature with 6 Attack, 20 Defense, 6–9 Damage, 5 Attack Speed, 50% Magic Resistance, 90 Health, 0 Command Value, Recruitment Gold: 0, Special Skills: Flying Creature, Advanced Defense Skill, Petrification, Area Surveillance. (Note: This unit is a special unit for competition use. The Command Value and Recruitment Gold are both zero, no tactical position required, and it can provide area surveillance only in a petrified

state. If the player also possesses Defense Skill, this unit will further reduce damage by 30% in addition to the player's skill damage reduction.)

—Battlefield Information: China Region player "Da Fei" occupied the Death Bell Tower...

Seeing a sudden flood of information on the screen, Da Fei was startled. It turned out it was another one of his good deeds!

At the same time, a distant shadowed area on Da Fei's map lit up with a lighthouse, making the surrounding area bright. It was precisely that high tower he had just discovered! Damn, it turned out that tower was a battlefield facility, and he hadn't noticed it! He wasn't as capable as his independently conducting, out-of-control vice hero!

Da Fei immediately zoomed in, and indeed, saw atop the tower stood a stone monkey with a pitch-black body, bat wings, and a long tail! So this was a Stone-statue Gargoyle Watcher? Though completely on a different level than the Mage Academy's second-level soldiers, what was up with these extreme attributes?

The Attack and Damage were on the level of third- to fourth-level soldiers, magical and blood defenses were on the level of sixth-level soldiers, and then there was the agonizingly slow 5-speed attack—bloody hell, even zombies found a unit slower than them! So what level was this Stone-statue Gargoyle considered? Fifth-level? Like a zombie, possessing Defense Skill—but it was advanced, which meant this unit's role was a meat shield? A flying meat shield descending from the sky? Damn! This unit was awesome! Lame-legged zombies couldn't compare!

The question was, what was the point of just one? Was it to act like a camera and reveal the map? Hahaha, a great way to reveal the map!

Da Fei immediately saw Deirdre's troops stationed and defending at the bell tower, mixing surprise with delight! Finally, he could see them—his troops were no longer out of control!

—System Prompt: Sorry, the troops are currently on Independent Expedition status. Your commands cannot be conveyed.

Da Fei was suddenly stunned. What was going on? The Stone-statue Gargoyle had lit up the map and linked up, but why couldn't he command them?

No, the connection wasn't established! This was different from before! Could it be that his Blood Eagle was in the sky over the battlefield, equivalent to his avatar being in the sky over the battlefield, hence he could command? Meaning the Blood Eagle was essentially his avatar?

Just then, Da Fei received another message—no doubt, it was someone again coming to sing his praises, even though he liked listening to them, but he really wasn't in the mood now!

#### Chapter 338: The Implications of Death Bell Tower\_2

"Sure enough, Ma Yinglong was shocked at first: 'Brother Fei, you're awesome!'

Da Fei chuckled lightly, 'Not really, it was the out-of-control troops, had nothing to do with me!' At that moment, Da Fei was pondering whether to head to the Bell Tower to join up with the out-of-control troops to gain control or to continue towards the sewers.

Ma Yinglong quickly said, 'Our professional team encountered the structure of the Death Bell Tower in a certain instance during the public test. In the game, every hour, which is every 6 minutes in real time, a bell rings, producing a regular Stone-statue Ghost. After 12 hours, or 1 hour and 12 minutes in real time, it produces a BOSS with Time Freeze ability, which is a game-changer, powerful enough to reverse the battle. Foreign professional teams will surely be aware of this Bell Tower's characteristics and will definitely launch a fierce attack on it. If Brother Fei can defend it, do it, if not, continue with the guerrilla tactics.'

Da Fei suddenly understood, 'So you mean I have to defend for 1 hour and 12 minutes to get results?' Damn, didn't realize the international competition maps were this deep. Now I really want to check out the sewers.

Ma Yinglong hurriedly added, 'I'm not sure if the Death Bell Tower in this competition venue has the same attributes as the one in the public test instance, but I am sure that the battle for the Bell Tower will be intense.'

Just then, a red dot flashed on Da Fei's radar mini-map, as a player army faintly appeared at the end of a side street! Damn, the enemy moved!

Da Fei said urgently, 'I don't care about the losses of a city or a pool, I'm going guerrilla!'

'Brother Fei, be careful.'

Damn it! With my God-level Reconnaissance Technique, I can see them, but they can't see me! Da Fei immediately started using a Skill Book, learning the sub-skill Rapid March from Logistics, sacrificing a lot of troop Stamina to greatly increase marching speed!

It wasn't that I was afraid of them, I just worried I couldn't finish them off quickly and they'd call a group to gang up on me. Looks like foreign players are starting to contest the Bell Tower, right? The road ahead looked bumpy, and what about Fleeting Blossom? A tagged-along is so inconvenient!

Da Fei sighed and sent a message to Harem Beauty: 'The battle situation has changed, tell your friend to hurry and join us, time's running out, and if you're late, I won't wait!'

No damn way I'm actually waiting, I never intended to wait! It's not that I'm disloyal, it's just that I can't protect myself! Fine, say what you will, I'm disloyal, but it's not my fault, we don't even have that kind of friendship anyway. To be honest, a woman who never reaches out unless she needs help wouldn't be any decent help, right? In these times, it's wise to sell out a teammate.

Shortly afterward, Harem Beauty replied, 'Brother Fei, my friend said she thanks you for saving her once, so she wants to return the favor by helping you defend the tower. So, Brother Fei, you don't need to worry about her.'

Da Fei was taken aback, no way, there's actually such a loyal woman? I've already sold her out, and she's still helping me defend the tower? A strange feeling suddenly surged in my heart! What is this feeling? It's touching! It's the long-lost feeling of being touched! It moved China's conscience! Moved Da Fei!

Damn it! No way someone can be that nice! She's definitely aiming for my tower! Da Fei shook his head abruptly to dispel the strange feeling in his heart! Pfft! It's good to have no tag-alongs, I was just worrying if this woman would sell my coordinates. Fine, playing solo is relaxed, easygoing, no worries.

Da Fei replied with feigned sincerity, 'Alright then, since we're all just casual players here, tell her to be careful.'

'I know, thank you, Brother Fei.'

'No problem, no problem.'

...

At this time, the Dragon Slayer Command Center, Star Command Center, and Ninth Heaven Command Center were in an uproar.

As the top-tier professional teams, they had a close relationship with the headquarters of the game company, knowing many secrets unknown to regular players. Now they knew the latest internal movements of the international gaming network, where the parent company was incentivizing and encouraging more players to participate in the network competition by offering facilities such as soldiers and minerals in the gaming network map as competition rewards, which would be sent directly to the player's account in their region after the match. This meant that some high-end facilities and high-end resources, which regular players would never encounter under normal circumstances, could be found in the competition map, and even regular players could pick up some resources on the battlefield.

Now, with Da Fei occupying a Stone-statue Ghost Tower, it meant that if Da Fei successfully held the tower until the competition finished, he could very likely be rewarded with a building blueprint for the Death Bell Tower. And this blueprint was exactly what a large guild needed!

Ma Yinglong chuckled at the avatars of two other big bosses on the TV screen on the wall, 'Brother Long, Brother Huang, you're tempted, right? Yes, I'm tempted too, I think this is a good thing, I don't believe the foreigners aren't tempted. Once they are, their alliance will have gaps. As Da Fei said earlier, he doesn't care! So let's not let amateurs see us as a joke; let's seize this opportunity to make a move, at which point we'll see whose it is. Let's not let domestic players be a laughingstock, anyway, it can't fall into the foreigners' hands, what do you say? It's rare for us to have fought so many years, let's join forces for once.'

Divine Emperor chuckled, 'Does Da Fei know they'll award the blueprint?'

Eternal Star sighed, 'We know too much, and that's why we worry ourselves.'

Ma Yinglong laughed heartily, 'Alright, time is short, let me Ma be the vanguard. I've been long fed up with that Sessho Kanpaku, this time I'll take him down myself!'

Eternal Star snorted, 'Come on, old Ma, can you still hold the controller? Don't embarrass Chinese players!'

Ma Yinglong laughed angrily, 'Not convinced? Duel me! I've been tearing dragon sinews and eating dragon whips for years without a break!'

Eternal Star got angry, 'Duel it is! Eat my dragon whip!'

Divine Emperor sighed, 'Can you two not joke about bromance in front of me?'

...

At this time, Da Fei marched all the way to where he originally found the manhole cover, and sure enough, a big yellow dot appeared on the mini-map. Damn, could spot it this close only with my God-level Reconnaissance Technique, otherwise, it's nearly impossible to find it!

—System Prompt: You need a Reconnaissance Skill sub-skill Mechanical Locking to enter!

Damn! So non-pro thieves can't get in? But can I be stumped by this? Although all five of the Skill Books from the Makar Award were used on Logistics, I still have one Skill Point on me and haven't used the Skill Book awarded by Old Coltner with the Extreme Survival Skill Book! That's the advantage of saving Skill Points!

Chapter 339: The First Contest of Professional Players

—System Prompt: You failed to open the sewer mechanism!

Da Fei was shocked! No way! His Lock Opening Skill supported by the God-level Reconnaissance Technique actually failed? Does it take a profession beyond the God-level Reconnaissance Technique, like a professional locksmith or something? Never mind whether such a profession exists, the key point is how can ordinary players play with such a setup? Who can be as awesome as him to reach the God-level? It's just a mere arena, not some hidden instance, why make it so frustrating?

No rush, no rush! The system prompt just mentioned that the sub-skill of the Reconnaissance Technique can be used, so it must be able to open. Maybe the design is just to frustrate players a few times, try a few more times, isn't it just a manhole cover? It must be stuck with some junk, that's why it won't budge, I don't believe it! I continue!

...

While Da Fei was wrestling with the manhole cover, professional teams from various countries were beginning to move into action.

Foreign professional players had the advantage in numbers, while Chinese professional players had the advantage of combining initiative, and now, the China Region decided to fire the first shot and capitalize on their initial advantage fully.

Now Sessho Kanpaku of the Japan Region was surround by Star Guild's Earth Fierce Star from the China Region, Dragon Slayer Guild's Lei Huolong, and Ninth Heaven's Divine Mist. To be precise, it was Sessho Kanpaku who acutely and promptly detected the China Region's intention to gather forces and, despite the threat of potential decapitation by Da Fei, stood blocking the only road the three Chinese players must pass.

This meant he was in a very dangerous situation. Likewise, if the three Chinese players couldn't quickly remove this roadblock, they would be encircled and attacked by the combined forces that were forming, making their situation equally as dangerous. This was a life-and-death ordeal for both sides!

Professional players were skilled and courageous, and Sessho Kanpaku was so confident because there were several BOSSes wandering the nearby streets. As soon as the Chinese players dared to attack, they would definitely alert these BOSSes. It's undeniable that as a top professional player in the Japan Region, Sessho Kanpaku had an extremely precise and sharp eye and positioning.

However, Chinese professional players weren't no-names themselves. After an emergency consultation by each guild's think tank, the China Region decided to use a strategy against their expectation, attacking from the place considered most likely by the enemy. But they needed to wait for the best timing. Every second of deadlock only disadvantaged the China Region further.

As the bell ringing resonated across the battlefield, after a brief colloquy following the Da Fei Bell Tower incident, the timing the three major guilds had been waiting for finally materialized.

On the street, a BOSS monster wandered into a narrow alley on the side, clearing the way. This was the moment they were waiting for!

"Attack!" The Dragon Slayer Guild president decisively ordered the assault!

The core striker from the Dragon Slayer Guild, the number one in the Hell Race from the China Region, known as the Dog King, Lei Huolong, who had been on standby outside the BOSS alert range, moved! His Hellhound Army surged forth like a roaring torrent, like a sharp red blade straight into the core of the Japan Region's formations!

"Prepare!" Simultaneously, a call erupted from the already tense Japan Command Center! President Igarashi, who had long diverted his attention from the Bell Tower to here, was completely focused on the large screen on the wall, with fists tightly clenched!

According to the think tank's predictions, Sessho Kanpaku was mostly going down due to being outnumbered, but his sacrifice could at least severely damage two Chinese players. However, there was still a possibility of survival if Chinese players made mistakes in handling the road-blocking BOSS. Now the battle had commenced, with backstage think tanks unable to function anymore, and the competition relied purely on both parties' players' field performances and tactical execution levels.

Indeed, the China Region deployed the fastest Dog King, Lei Huolong, into battle; however, who else could be more knowledgeable about the Hell Race than our Japan Region? As the Chinese saying goes, flaunting one's skills before Guan Gong! Hellhound's multiple attacks, high Attack, and high speed were a major force among the Hell Race's standard forces, but with low Defense and health, they were usually not used in the first wave of attacks without low-level cannon fodder to cover or high-level troops to lead. The Hellhound Army was simply a suicide squad without backup strength. And there's no doubt that the China Region's move of sending Hellhounds straight into battle meant they were sacrificing them to quickly open up the situation.

In essence, the new professional player Lei Huolong was nothing more than a rookie inexperienced in international competitions, let alone considering that the China Region's Hell Race wasn't very impressive to begin with. Sacrificing him seemed quite justifiable. So, as they wished, arrange for the cannon fodder second-tier Demon Governors to sacrifice themselves with them, because cannon fodder deserves to be dealt with by cannon fodder. The defense should focus on the other two sides, the Human Race, and Elf Clan.

At this moment, the rookie Lei Huolong, who had no international competition experience, stared at the enemy lines up ahead with a tense yet excited expression.

The main focus of Dragon Slayer Guild was on the Undead Race, and the Hell Race that Lei Huolong managed had limited prospects. If he couldn't make a mark, he'd hardly ever get noticed in the expert-heavy Dragon Slayer Guild, relegated to earning a mere 20,000 to 30,000 a month as a basic salary, slightly above a player farming gold for a large gaming studio.

The opportunity came during the first National War, but Lei Huolong didn't seize it. To be precise, then Lei Huolong was more focused on leveling up, with his primary goal being to secure the reputation of the China Region's number one in the Hell Race just to prove himself. He didn't expect opportunities to drop out of the sky so quickly.

Having missed the first opportunity wasn't too awful because, influenced by Da Fei, the Hell Power in the China Region was quietly undergoing changes. Even an amateur player produced such significant energy; how could a professional like him endure that? Lei Huolong would never let an opportunity slip again; he had always been prepared during this time, knowing success always favors those who prepare for it!

Now the chance to prove himself was right in front of him! As long as his Hell Race could topple the Hell Race that the Japan Region prided itself on, then he'd indisputably become the China Region's number one in the Hell Race! His salary would instantly shoot up to six figures!

Advance! Charge! The vanguard passed through the BOSS!

The BOSS turned quickly, and a red light flashed before the eyes!

—System Prompt: Please note, your troops are about to enter Ruins Annihilator's alert range; the battle is about to commence!

Even though they waited for the BOSS to clear the road, they were still discovered by it, and their troops faced the embarrassment of being severed at the waist by the BOSS. Of course, all of this was expected and part of the guild's strategy: to bypass the BOSS as best as possible, utilizing the high-speed mobility of the Hellhounds to ignore casualties and speed through straight into enemy lines to create chaos! This would facilitate the encirclement of the other two units, and surely such a simplistic strategy was well expected by the Japan Region, right?

If everything fell within others' expectations, then winning was impossible! He'd merely be the cannon fodder the guild arranged!

Was he genuinely cannon fodder? If he could only perform at a normal level, then he indeed was cannon fodder! But with his 20 Elite Hellhounds, he had no intention of being cannon fodder. In truth, the guild leader had subtle expectations for his 20 Elite Hellhounds, not wanting him to simply be cannon fodder either! Otherwise, the usually stingy guild leader wouldn't have been so generous to arrange them to spearhead an attack!

Thus, the real intent of the guild leader was to hope he could perform beyond his normal level, and should he succeed, then what seemingly was cannon fodder might become unexpectedly the true, swift, decisive main force! So underneath the fate of cannon fodder, create an unexpected miracle!

Lei Huolong pulled out a sparkling magical scroll, and with a sudden crush, he flashed, instant teleporting to the street front!

Teleportation Scrolls are applicable only to heroes individually and can't be used under combat conditions.

At this moment, Lei Huolong was alone, only an arrow's distance from the enemy lines! All the Hellhounds were far left behind him, and in that instant, all the Hellhounds accelerated dramatically, chasing at shocking battlefield speed never seen before! The strategy to cut through the middle by the BOSS turned into a tail interception, minimizing losses!

Indeed, the slowest units always restrict an army's marching speed, and among Lei Huolong's units, the slowest was himself as a hero. Troops couldn't move independently from their hero, so even if a hero leads high-speed flying troops, in normal non-combat circumstances they'd still walk obediently with the hero. But a flying hero is different; a flying hero's value is immeasurable, hence why Da Fei's Banshee flying hero caused such a massive reaction among national professional teams when she appeared at the Pool of Radiance! Unfortunately, Lei Huolong didn't have the capacity to capitalize on the Banshee Hero then.

His past mistakes continuously urged Lei Huolong, as a two-legged Demon Envoy, limiting the Hellhounds' speed. At the stage below level 50 without a mount, it heavily constrained the strike capability of a Hellhound hero, so he thoughtfully and persistently acquired an expensive Teleportation Scroll! This adventure-type scroll that could transport only the hero himself couldn't be used in combat, or else players might turn into a Great Demon. Therefore, Lei Huolong used it at the very moment before entering the BOSS combat zone.

The sudden teleportation took the Japan Command Center by surprise, and a smile spread across Ma Yinglong of the Dragon Slayer Command Center! A good start is half the success!

But merely bypassing the BOSS's interception was only completing the command center's task; the real chance to prove his merit has arrived!

0.5 seconds! 0.6 seconds! 0.7 seconds! Lei Huolong rapidly and accurately calculated, at a millisecond level, his entrance into the BOSS battle!

0.8 seconds! He stepped towards the enemy line! Simultaneously, Hellhounds at the rear of his legion took the initiative to face the pursuing BOSS!

—System Prompt: Your legion has launched an attack on Japan Region player Sessho Kanpaku!

—System Prompt: Your legion has launched an attack on the Ruins Annihilator!

The entire Dragon Slayer Command Center erupted! Ma Yinglong's recently fading smile suddenly froze!

Lei Huolong attacked both Japanese players and the BOSS simultaneously! Meaning, Lei Huolong pulled both the BOSS and Japanese players into the battleground! This meant that the BOSS was no longer a natural barrier for the Japanese players but became a wild mob brought in by Lei Huolong; using layman's terms, it's about "pulling in mobs for player killing!"

From this moment, whether Lei Huolong was defeated or fled, the BOSS on the same battlefield wouldn't spare Japan Region players, even if they were separated streets apart beyond the alert line!

The battle instantly and dramatically reversed!

Finally, Ma Yinglong came back to his senses, couldn't help but rise clapping and laughing loudly, "Good! What a Divine Dragon Tail!"

The entire command center exclaimed in amazement! At this moment, Lei Huolong was full of tears; he finally proved himself! Now, he only wanted to tell one person, Da Fei! He finally made it! He truly was a professional player, hahahaha!

#### Chapter 340: Encounter with South Korea's Rising Star

The battle in the Ancient City Ruins had already commenced in a region unknown to Da Fei, while he still struggled over this manhole cover! Why? Why was Brother Mao's God-level Reconnaissance Technique going to fail? The progress wouldn't even pass 20%? Impossible! This is impossible!

What to do! What to do? Just give up like this? Damn it! The more inaccessible a mechanism is, the more likely it leads to treasure, right? How could I give up after coming this far! Ask Hemorrhoid Ointment and the Goddess? Damn it, tell others the treasure's location? Am I that type of person? Definitely not, I'd rather not get it myself than let someone else have it! I don't trust these scheming bigwigs, I only trust NPCs!

Alright, I only have these trustworthy NPC beauty heroes around me, I'll call them to help out and brainstorm!

Da Fei immediately called out to Catherine, Selvia, and Anlicia, "Come, come, let's all help open the cover!"

Anlicia smirked with indifference, "Commander, please refrain from doing meaningless things on the battlefield!"

Damn it! What do you mean by meaningless things, do you know anything? Forget it, she's definitely inadequate in intelligence replication, not expecting her to help, but why the smirk?

Selvia casually said, "Commander, I think this matter might require a tool."

Da Fei's brow twitched, a tool? What tool? A shovel? Damn it, her intelligence must also be this limited in the competitive servers; she's not reliable either.

Now, only Catherine was left, silently staring at the manhole cover!

Da Fei felt a spark. She hadn't responded yet? Was she pondering? Right, a pirate by nature, having plundering skills, was akin to unlocking skills; perhaps she had a way?

After a while, Catherine lifted her head and said solemnly, "Commander, I think you should concentrate fully and try again, maybe there's still hope."

Concentrate fully? Damn it! You've been staring for a long time just to give such a useless piece of advice? This is a game, how can I concentrate any harder?

Huh? Wait a minute! My current God-level Reconnaissance Technique was activated along with Phantom March! Was she suggesting I shouldn't use Phantom March while unlocking mechanisms? Makes sense! No matter how powerful a main skill is, multitasking with two statuses might still be too much, right?

Da Fei immediately canceled the Phantom March state, and the troops emerged from the shadowy state. Da Fei then tried to open the manhole cover again.

—System Prompt: You are attempting to open the sewer mechanism...

The progress bar for opening the mechanism reappeared, and this time, the speed of the progress bar was notably faster than previous attempts! In an instant, Da Fei sensed the aura of success!

Five seconds, six seconds; in just under six seconds, the progress bar broke through the previous 20% barrier!

Da Fei finally understood! How could Brother Mao's God-level Reconnaissance Technique fail? So that's it, sub-skills in the game need to have related sub-skills turned off to maximize their effect; such a simple principle, yet I never paid attention to it until now! Haha, wahahaha! It's like I've opened a door to enlightenment! The treasure isn't in the sewer, it's in the process of opening the sewer, damn it, I'm so profound, wahahaha!

30%! 40%! 50%! 60%!

Just as the progress bar was soaring towards success, Da Fei's radar suddenly flashed red, and a red dot appeared!

Damn it! Someone's coming! And at that moment, the progress bar's speed suddenly slowed down! So Reconnaissance Technique alerts also drain unlocking resources, damn it! Now's not the time to worry about this, right?

At this moment, the red dot on the map was heading decisively in Da Fei's direction, and Da Fei indeed saw a player army at the end of the alley, their red and blue Taiji flag! South Korea's Ssmida! Korean pro-gamers?

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat! Although Da Fei was a casual amateur player, he knew how formidable the Ssmida players were in games!

This is trouble, just based on their Ssmida reputation, they're not coming with good intentions! But could they be kidding me? I struggled with unlocking for so long, and now when I'm about to succeed, they come to mess it up, and their direct approach clearly indicates they found me, right? Did my unlocking attempt dull my Reconnaissance Technique or is this Korean's Reconnaissance Technique also impressive?

Should I activate Phantom March and run away before the battle starts?

Run like hell! Their Reconnaissance Technique clearly isn't much lower than mine! Plus, I haven't opened the manhole yet, so where can I go? The whole world is hunting me down! Counting on the large guilds for salvation? Damn it, even if they are willing to help, I don't want to owe this favor, lest I can't haggle over prices when selling divine artifacts in the future!

Beat them! I've never in my life seen firsthand what this legendary Korean expert is all about, let's see how big the gap is between the world's greatest amateur and a professional gamer! Even though this terrain put me at a disadvantage like a tiger in flatlands, my troops are way better than Fleeting Blossom's pitiful 2nd-level archers, who are more a hindrance than help. My troops consist of 115 level-4 Banshees, 200 legendary level-3 Elite Secret Archers, 50 level-4 Druids, plus 44 Flying Elite Cannon Emperors, and a few Forest Goddesses with 5 level-7 Storm Druids. What's that concept? That's high-end and classy! Even the Dragon Slayer from the grand guilds acknowledges my might!

I refuse to believe my substantial force can't take them down! Even if this Korean gathered his entire guild's high-level soldiers, my divine artifact should definitely work!

As for how to fight, isn't it obvious! Even an NPC like Deirdre knows to occupy high ground and fortify; how could I not know? The buildings on both sides are natural bunkers, right? Have the Elite Cannon Emperor occupy the rooftops, Banshees who can Chain Shoot and charm occupy the middle floor windows. Oh, yeah! Banshees have Chain Shooting, hitting a whole string of foes, their firepower in these streets and alleys is formidable indeed! During public testing, the Hell Race's first three levels didn't have long-range troops, but once they got 4th-level Banshees, it was a qualitative leap, demonstrating the Banshees as a vital strategic force in the Hell Race! By the way, my Banshee army is my secret, foreign players surely don't know, so I can completely catch them off-guard.

However, to maximize the Banshee's Chain Shooting, the opponents must all be within firing range, unlike Fleeting Blossom and the foreign player earlier who shot from afar, that just won't work, need to devise a strategy! Speaking of strategies, what would professional gamers think of an amateur gamer like me? Isn't it obvious? Given my fame as the first Demigod slayer, my reputation alone should terrify them! Arrange the troops, now!

...

While the Japanese were conspiring internationally against the China Region, there was always one country that would never buy into Japan's schemes, and that was South Korea.

South Korea was proud and self-assured, yet was oppressed by Japan and ironically, Japan shamelessly gloried in it. South Korea's hate and disdain for Japan were palpable, and their boycott of Japan was all-encompassing. For instance, in automobiles, electronics, and sports, Koreans claimed anything the Japanese had, they themselves had too, and would never be inferior; South Korea would never buy Japanese products.

Even Japan's most prized AV industry was boycotted by South Korea, with the people declaring they'd make local youth watch domestically-produced AV, hence South Korea vigorously developed their AV industry! What's that called? When the dog eats shit, Ssmida follows to learn from the dog!

Ssmida's mindset could indeed be perplexing at times. Perhaps it's precisely this perplexing mindset that breeds countless e-sports talents?

Right now, in the Ancient City Ruins. South Korean e-sports prodigy, former world top pro-gamer Jin Xiyong's most cherished apprentice, a darling poised to be South Korea's next e-sports queen, known as the Star of Tomorrow—Li Yinzhu—was riding her Unicorn King across the battlefield, searching for Da Fei.

As for the alliance resolution advocated by the Japanese, it was flatly ignored by her and her mentor team.

Her Freedom Wings Team, Tatazu, received insider information before the competition, stating that players with high Command Power would be isolated in a super map, demanding extremely high player skills. Meaning, this map gathered the world's acknowledged strongest players.

This did put the Freedom Wings Team in a quandary. The Koreans never played with soldier seas. However, the training opportunity was too good to pass up. With Freedom Wings' prowess, creating a Super Hero wasn't hard. But between the three rising stars—Hongg Xiuying, Zhao Shizhe, and Li Yinzhu—who should go on stage?

The answer was undoubtedly Li Yinzhu, because her mission developed into a Unicorn Boss, the Unicorn King. The legend was that unicorns allowed virgins to ride on their backs, meaning Li Yinzhu came to possess a Unicorn Boss as a mount, greatly enhancing troop mobility, second only to flying heroes!

Under normal circumstances, this mission Boss wouldn't easily accompany players into battle, but the competition's purpose was to gauge player strength, so even mission Bosses could contend, not to mention the Unicorn King came with a squad of Unicorn Elite Guards, which could also combat, plus high-level troops borrowed from other teammates, making Li Yinzhu's prowess obvious!

Not to mention, forget elites, Boss-level Unicorns, even ordinary Unicorns were formidable, core 5th-level troops of the Elf Clan, comparable to the 6th-level troops of the Human Race and Ghost Clan, already beyond most players' reach.

So under these competition rules, Li Yinzhu's military force was indeed overwhelming, so her mentors intended her to just stroll around, learn about what might become a future international competition arena, then casually survey the troops other players had, gather 10 Hero's Proof to advance, then leave.

However, this idea was directly dismissed by the mentors in less than a minute after opening! Da Fei's arrogance and dominance were extremely vexing! Koreans disliked Chinese people, especially arrogant ones like Da Fei! And killing Da Fei would highlight Japanese incompetence, also educate this self-proclaimed world's number one amateur player from China, letting the whole world know, that divine artifacts and Boss units couldn't defeat Korea!

But where was Da Fei? This Da Fei with no less Reconnaissance Skills must have employed Stealth Skill to hide.

Though Korea didn't agree with Japan, it didn't impede Freedom Wings from obtaining other contestants' coordinate information from the alliance, further analyzing potential zones where Da Fei might exist. The Unicorn King, as a high-level Bright Creature with the special skill Dark Sense, had a keen scent for Dark Creature stench, consistently seeking out Da Fei, who might possess Dark Creatures.

Within a top professional team's calculations, the search zone would inevitably shrink, and Da Fei would eventually become exposed under the Unicorn King's scent.

Yet the Koreans were taken aback when Da Fei suddenly appeared! His potent Dark Creature stench prompted the Unicorn King to sneeze from afar!

Li Yinzhu screamed with excitement, "Mentors, found the prey!"

The mentors behind her chuckled, "This is your test, you handle it yourself!"

Li Yinzhu scornfully cut in, "Understood, full force when a lion hunts a hare!"