

## God level 361

### Chapter 361: New Special Skill of the Sea Soul Staff

When a long row of system prompts flooded the screen as expected, Da Fei felt immensely fulfilled and comfortable, his spirits were incredibly high! At this moment, Da Fei found the air he breathed extraordinarily sweet, and the screams of the Hell Corps from Japanese players falling down were so delightful! Holding the thunder-flashing Titan's Grasp in his hand, the electrifying feeling was as soul-stirring as a massage!

Da Fei, overcome with emotions, put the Divine Spear back into his bag. At this moment, all Da Fei wanted to say to someone was seven words: "Ha ha ha ha ha ha!"

Ah, what a pity to have blacklisted them! Not being able to say thanks really feels incomplete! As for now, of course, it's time to check out the loot, an even more joyful task than defeating a super hard boss.

As for the competition achievements and such, there's not much to say—it's equivalent to obtaining a permanent BUFF; of course, effective only in the Ancient City Ruins competition map. For professional athletes aspiring to compete, this is certainly a great advantage, but for amateur players like Da Fei who count on a Divine Artifact just for casual competition, it's ignorable.

Next up is Nash's Tooth.

— Nash's Tooth: S-grade strategic treasure, accessory, absorbs 1 point of poison, corrosion, and plague damage every second, restores 1 point of health and 1 stamina every 10 seconds.

Not bad! Any accessory is a good accessory. Players have ten accessory positions, or Support Equipment Position, which do not conflict with other parts of the body, and accessories are the hardest equipment to obtain in the game. Thus, the competition reward of an accessory is indeed the most thoughtful setting. This completely avoids any conflict between the competition reward and the player's own "Divine Equipment."

Considering the attribute of this accessory, it is clearly a weakened version of "Crucible" "Funnel," but being a weakened version makes it reliable. If it reached the performance of competition props, it might be considered a Divine Artifact already? Anyway, this accessory, combined with Da Fei's Navigator Skill

"Extreme Survival," greatly enhances Da Fei's troops' ability to cope with harsh environments, which is extremely needed.

Now, Da Fei's attention was on the highlight of this reward!

— City Building Blueprint "Sewer": Fortress facility, can cultivate sewer soldier species, and greatly increase the production of sewer soldier species, greatly improving the city's sanitation environment.

Heroic Creation Era is not just a war, sailing, and trade game, the management and construction of Lord cities are also an important element. Honestly, Da Fei has also followed quite a bit of information during the public test and always felt that he had no connection with city-building, knowing little about it. He truly hadn't heard of any Lord Player's city possessing a sewer facility!

After all, this is a game. Just like how beauties in the game will never defecate or urinate, there are no excrement facilities like toilets in the game either. Thus, player cities in the game should not have sewer-type "city excretion" facilities; if any, they are usually just part of the player's leveling quest scene.

However, now, the appearance of this blueprint has overturned Da Fei's superficial understanding!

Ultimately, the purpose of Lord Players in building city fortresses is to raise armies, make money, and wage war, and whether it's raising armies or making money, all must be based on the most important city indicator—population!

Without population, everything else is futile. Many factors affect population growth; besides water sources, the most important is the sanitary environment of the city.

Once the sanitation environment falls below 50 points (out of 100), it may trigger a plague that causes large-scale population deaths. In the game, facilities that can improve the city's sanitary environment mainly include hospitals, bathhouses, clinics, and barbershops. Of course, just building these facilities is not enough, you also must have NPCs with sufficiently high professional skills. In short, Lord Players really play a different game from ordinary players. And now, Da Fei learns there's another facility—the Sewer!

More importantly, this is not just a functional building but also a military facility! It's a fortress!

What is a fortress?

Lord Players' cities can build fortresses once they upgrade city walls to level 10. The fortress can further enhance the defensive power of city walls, also increase the production of all soldier species in the city, and recruit special soldiers.

And this Sewer blueprint doesn't require level 10 city walls as a prerequisite, only targets the sewer soldier species. What are sewer soldier species? Three words immediately leapt to Da Fei's mind—Slime Monster!

After killing the Slime Monster BOSS in the Corrosion Channel, Da Fei obtained a Slime Monster formula blueprint. At that time, Da Fei was still puzzled, how to produce soldiers with just a formula? Should he build a Slime Monster factory? But now, Da Fei's thoughts began to clarify, the role of the sewers is both "cultivation" and "increase in production," meaning that it has the dual functions of a barracks and a fortress, the Sewer is the soldier construction building for recruiting Slime Monsters!

And it's not just Slime Monsters, those Kobolds, Lizardmen, and bats are also sewer troops, right?

Great! Now, besides the double city walls and a new city hall that came with Radiant City, there's nothing else built. Let's make these sewers my first construction and have the Slime Monsters be my city's underground cleaners!

The earlier a barracks is built, the better, just like the Banshee Camp. Because it was built early, I could accumulate so many troops. And the production rate of Slime Monsters clearly has nothing to do with population, which is precisely the kind of troops I need most at the moment. Anyway, once the competition rewards are handed out, I'll start construction immediately. As for now—the screams in my ears finally became irritating!

Damn! They've been dying for ages and still haven't all died?! Japan's troops are really numerous! No need to say anything else now, clean out Japan first, then charge out of the sewers and clear out the Bell Tower! With my three plagues upon me, why do I need to lift a finger to clear them out? Haha, bwahaha!

Under the oppression of the triple plague and Da Fei's troops, who have reclaimed all buffs, clearing the field, the Japanese players' troops stood no chance; it was an entirely one-sided slaughter. From the corpses of the fallen Hell Army, thick, dark red smoke soared up and drifted into Selvia's Sea Soul Staff.

Just then, a system prompt sounded!

—System Prompt: Your Divine Artifact Equipment, the Sea Soul Staff, has completed the absorption and conversion of the "Artillery Emperor's" soul, gaining 1 low-level Demon Soul Sea Demon +1, and the Sea Soul Staff has gained a special skill: Demon Soul Sea Demon Rebirth.

—Demon Soul Sea Demon Rebirth: The Banshees of the Hell Race are pure Spiritual Bodies. The Sea Soul Staff can absorb and convert the spirits of deceased Banshees into Demon Soul Sea Demons.

Da Fei was suddenly startled, the Sea Soul Staff has gained a new special skill? And it's related to Banshees? Just how special is the Banshee troop type anyway? Before he could think further, Da Fei hurriedly opened Selvia's Equipment Bar.

—Sea Soul Staff: Divine Artifact, Magic Power +20, Knowledge +20, able to absorb souls of creatures killed in sea battles. Stored high-level Sea Monster Leviathan Sea Soul +1, intermediate Sea Monster Narwhal King Sea Soul +1. Absorbing and converting battlefield spirits, currently gained Mana +425 points. Special skills: Ghost Ship Transformation, Demon Soul Sea Demon Rebirth.

Da Fei was so surprised he was speechless! This Sea Soul Staff has already self-discovered two special skills, damn, it really is a Divine Artifact capable of self-evolving! That means, it transformed the just-died Artillery Emperor into a Sea Demon, but what are the attributes of that Sea Demon? How to summon this Sea Demon? Does this mean the Artillery Emperor gets an extra life?

No, no, no! Da Fei quickly shook his head! The Artillery Emperor cannot die! He is my treasure! I definitely won't risk using the Artillery Emperor! The problem is—

Da Fei immediately thought of the dilemma he encountered when he obtained the Sea Soul Staff from Demigod Skira. The Sea Soul Staff, indiscriminate of friend or foe, absorbs souls from any creature that dies on the battlefield, making it extremely despicable as it prevents players from resurrecting their troops. So, if an elite troop like the Artillery Emperor unfortunately dies, it cannot be revived using the

Dark Resurrection Technique. The only option then is not to equip the artifact. But what use is an unequipped artifact? Maybe I should bring a mechanized army instead?

At least now, Da Fei knows one thing; once the Artillery Emperor's soul is absorbed, it doesn't turn into Mana but becomes a low-level unclear strength Sea Demon. If this low-level Sea Demon is weaker than the Artillery Emperor, it would be worrisome and better not to equip this cursed artifact. If it's stronger than the Artillery Emperor, then there's nothing to say.

But wait, I just lost 115 normal Banshees! Since the Artillery Emperor was only transformed into a low-level Sea Demon, these normal Banshees are also pure Spiritual Bodies, wouldn't they directly turn into Mana? Just like the Narwhal previously where, apart from the BOSS, the common form of Narwhal directly turned into Mana.

So, let's wait! To understand the Sea Soul Staff more deeply, the best way is to wait! Let the Sea Soul Staff finish converting all the absorbed souls and see the final outcome. The advantage of the competition server is that whether you die or survive in the arena doesn't affect the player's account in the region server, so this time it's not just about testing the Destiny Coin, but also observing the Sea Soul Staff.

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At this moment, at the Mitsubishi Command Center.

Watching Da Fei effortlessly kill the ultimate BOSS that the designers claimed was currently impossible to defeat, Japan, already numbed by the abundance of Da Fei's anomalies, couldn't muster any energy from the mysterious dark smoke filling the field.

Now, Gunno Yosai's defeat is certain. In this arena, Japan has lost 5 key players, with Sessho Kanpaku losing to China's first person from Hell, Lei Huolong, and the other four all cleared by Da Fei! Now that Japan only has two players left, they are powerless to control the situation, completely defeated!

It's beyond anger and despair to describe the emotions of the Japanese players at this moment. But whether it's unwillingness or dissatisfaction, a loss is a loss. However, Japan can still do one last thing—retreat to the sewer entrance and bolt the lid to keep Da Fei down!

He's powerful, right? Just let him be powerful all alone in the sewers!

### Chapter 362: The Plague Spreads Across the Field

Mitsubishi Command Center, just as Tsukamoto was ordering the remaining two team members to block the sewer exit, the heavily defeated Gunno Yosai suddenly shouted: "I refuse to accept this! Captain, I have a way, I still have value, I can't just be defeated like this, I can still turn the tide!"

Tsukamoto asked in a deep voice: "Does Mr. Tsujiyama really have a chance to turn the tables?"

Gunno Yosai asserted: "Since Da Fei can use the plague against us, of course we can also use the plague against other people in the China Region. I have a way to survive and reach the surface. As long as I infect the Chinese with the plague, we might be able to turn the tables! As for Da Fei being beyond common sense, just trap him in the sewer!"

Igarashi shuddered: "But the plague doesn't choose who it infects, it could very likely spread to our international allies!"

Gunno Yosai furiously said: "Isn't that even better? If we can't make it through, then no one can! It could also clear the obstacles for our team members in the other arenas for the finals!"

Igarashi's face twitched.

Tsukamoto was struck with an idea: "President! Mr. Tsujiyama makes sense, anyway, we have firsthand video evidence of being infected with the plague by Da Fei, then Mr. Tsujiyama can infect other Chinese, and then they infect other allies. At that time, the source of the disaster will be Da Fei, and we can completely explain it to our allies!"

Igarashi had no more concerns and immediately said: "Great! Mr. Tsujiyama, you must survive and make it to the surface!"

Gunno Yosai confidently said: "President, rest assured, I may not be able to save the troops, but I personally have a special skill for soul sacrifice that can save my life, I will definitely make it out alive!"

Tsukamoto decisively said: "Good, Mr. Fukuda, be careful to maintain distance from the sewer entrance and avoid infection. Once Mr. Tsujiyama breaks out from underground, immediately cover up the lid."

"Report, Captain, two Chinese forces are sticking to me and Mr. Yamada, just waiting for Mr. Tsujiyama to come out of the sewer, we can infect them with the plague in no time!"

Igarashi clenched his fists and gritted his teeth: "It's now or never. Even if our entire team is wiped out in this arena, we must pave the way for our second echelon of players to win the championship!"

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Just as Da Fei was distracted by the Sea Soul Staff, the Japanese opponent's army in front of him suddenly turned and pulled back into the sewer.

—System Prompt: Japan Region player "Gunno Yosai" has fled the battlefield, losing a third of his current forces. You have won the battle.

Da Fei was taken aback! They ran? Damn it! If you're going to run then why not do it sooner? Even an amateur player like me knows to retreat immediately when the formation in front isn't right. Well, I want to see how a professional player, without BUFFs and unlikely to survive the extreme conditions, handles the triple plague. Follow them!

Da Fei pursued closely, and along the road were the corpses of the Hell Race low-level soldiers. Da Fei was even more puzzled now; they were already so defeated, what difference would running away make? But on the other hand, these low-level soldiers should not be underestimated in a player versus player fight, simply because the Hell Race's Tier 1 "Demon Child" is the only low-level strategic troop among the races!

The Divine Skill of the Demon Child is "Mana Stealing"; as soon as it's their turn to act, their huge numbers can completely steal the mana of the opposing hero or magic forces! So, the Hell Race's sea of low-level soldiers is the bane of magic heroes. When fighting the Hell Race, you have to be ready for a situation where the battle starts and you're immediately drained of mana and forced into a melee to the death.

So, Japan's desperate charge is understandable—they tried to steal all the mana from Vice Hero Serbia. But Serbia no longer had much mana along the way, it was the mana stored in the Sea Soul Staff. Not to mention, most of those little 5-HP creatures, the Demon Children, would fall to the plague before they got a chance to act.

Now, Da Fei, chasing the Japanese, returned to the sewer manhole cover.

So that's it, the Japanese planned to ambush me at the sewer exit! Damn, did they get their brains pinched by the manhole cover? As soon as the battle starts, they'll be infected; how the hell are they professional players!

—System Prompt: The sewer manhole cover has been covered with a heavy object and cannot be opened!

Ah crap! Da Fei sprayed out a mouthful of blood in frustration! Damn those Japanese, playing such childish tricks, acting like they are professional players, goddammit!

Da Fei banged on the manhole and cursed: "Damn Japanese, let Brother Fei out! I'll destroy you!"

But as much as he cursed, Da Fei knew he'd been played by the Japanese. What now? Wait, I should be able to get through, right?

Da Fei immediately took inventory of his Hero's Proofs—sure enough, he had 12 of them! The Korean girl gave 2, the Korean dude 1, the Lizardman BOSS 1, the Kobold 1, the Bat Monster 1, the Golden Cockroach 1, two Slime Monster BOSSES 2, and Baron Nash 3, more than enough for the 10 needed to qualify!

Click the prompt?

—System Prompt: You have obtained a total of 12 Hero's Proofs and have qualified for the next round of the competition. Do you wish to proceed to the next round?

—System Prompt: The number of your Hero's Proofs does not meet the conditions for achieving the Plague achievement. If you proceed to the next round now, you will not be able to complete the Plague achievement.

Da Fei frowned! That's right, the 2 proofs given by the Korean girl, as well as the 2 from the Lizardman and Kobold, were obtained before contracting the plague. It meant he had to collect at least 2 more, preferably even more. For someone who used a Divine Artifact, merely qualifying was meaningless—a cursed state awaited him in the next battle with zero hope. The key was to achieve the triple plague, but now he was locked down by the Japanese players—what to do?

Two options: One, keep wandering in the underground sewer to find BOSSES and collect more proofs? But, were there any BOSSES left? Killing BOSSES for proofs was nowhere near as fast as Brother's headhunting. But you never know—Brother just wiped out two Japanese without shedding a crumb.

Second, ask Hemorrhoid Ointment or the Goddess for help to lift the lid?

Seems like there were no other options. However, asking the large guilds for help was something Da Fei instinctively resisted. But those who accomplish great things must have thick skin—well, Brother can just sell you a Divine Artifact later on and not rip you off too much.

Da Fei hastily messaged Ma Yinglong: "Chairman Ma, I have my Divine Equipment and I'm ready to go on a rampage, but I'm blocked by the Japanese in the sewer and can't get out. Can you send someone to back me up? My coordinates are..."

Soon after, Ma Yinglong replied: "Sewer? Your coordinates seem to be near two of Star's members—we can't get there. We in the China Region are outnumbered 10 to 1 by the Multi-National Joint Army and are completely watched; impossible to spare extra members. But I'll let Star know right away—as long as they know Brother Fei is geared with Divine Equipment—oh right, what's Divine Equipment? Anyway, I'll contact them immediately!"

You could imagine the shock Ma Yinglong felt while replying to that message. As the leader of a large guild, he was privy to some hidden data through headquarters relationships, like the cave in the jungle map, ancient tomb in the Gravel Wilderness, and ancient beast remains in the Dark Swamp, and so on. Now, concerning this sewer and the Divine Equipment mentioned by Da Fei, even without details, he could guess a great deal. No wonder Da Fei had been quiet for so long—he'd discovered a hidden map! With his army strength plus the Divine Artifact, how much advantage could he gain?

Ma Yinglong felt extremely uncomfortable. Although at the start the China Region gained an advantage by assembling first, and some players from the European Union Zone deliberately threw the game to spark a mini-climax, after all, the Multi-National Forces outnumbered them and were closely monitored. It wasn't just about looting or collecting Hero's Proofs—even self-preservation was tough.

While we were desperately fighting in the front, all the benefits were taken by this Da Fei. Anyone in the know would feel upset. Even more annoying was that now the China Region could only rely on him decked out in his Divine Equipment to break the siege—a chance for both fame and profit! This Da Fei was truly a rascal, no simple rogue, but one with capital to be roguish.

While Ma Yinglong was contacting Star, and Da Fei was seeking help from the Star Goddess, the battlefield situation suddenly changed!

Two main players from the Star Guild, Earth Fierce Star and Earth Demon Star, were infected with a mysterious triple plague. Apart from a small number of Unicorn troops, other low-level troops instantly lost mobility and became fish on the chopping block!

At this moment, Bu Feiyan immediately replied to Da Fei: "Brother Fei, bad news! Although we have two members near your coordinates, they're infected with a severe plague and can't move at all. Do you know what's going on, Brother Fei?"

Da Fei was taken aback—Bro! Of course, he knew! So that little Japanese ran for his life just to use Brother's plague to kill! That was way too cunning! Turns out their heads weren't just squished by manhole covers!

Da Fei could only clear his throat and replied: "Well, I'm infected with the plague too, but the Divine Equipment is holding up, won't die just yet..."

Bu Feiyan immediately said: "It seems that only the Undead players on Dragon Slayer's side might save us. Hang in there, Brother Fei!"

Da Fei sighed inwardly; it seemed he couldn't rely on anyone. Even the Japanese players knew how to use the plague to harm others. The pro players from Star were no saints either—likely to use the plague

to drag others down with them. Seems the whole surface world would be in turmoil. Well, I'll look for BOSSes myself. Besides, I still want to see the effects of the Sea Soul Staff, not in a hurry for time.

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Just as Da Fei predicted, those two players from the Star Guild, representing the highest level of Chinese players, surely wouldn't just sit and wait for death. They decisively launched a suicidal plague offensively against the Multi-National Forces that besieged them.

In just a few minutes, the plague rapidly spread across the Ancient City Ruins map, nearly 80% of the players lost fighting capability. The situation in the Ancient City Ruins alerted the global eSports media, and all eyes focused on this map for a time.

At this moment, the Japan Region seized the opportunity to release a video of Da Fei killing the ultimate BOSS, Baron Nash, and infecting his own country's players with the plague—"Chinese Region player Da Fei, the source of the plague, suspect of exploiting a BUG, a breaker of rules, strongly requests the competition committee to disqualify his participation and cancel his rewards!"

The world was shaken in an instant!

#### Chapter 363: Ancient City Ruins, Currently No One Emerges

Beijing Time, 17:00 sharp. Heroic Creation Era's first International contest has been underway for an hour. The intensity of the competitions at various venues has reached a fever pitch, yet the Ancient City Ruins, the center of attention representing the highest level of world competition, is shrouded in deathly stagnation!

Almost all the competitors are immobilized, even those from the Undead Race who claimed to be immune to the plague seem to not have much of an advantage faced with the special plague of this venue. All eyes are focused on the live feed from Japan, and once again, Da Fei, the Chinese player who boasted about his Divine Artifact and vowed to win the championship before the game, has come under the global spotlight.

Everyone is discussing two questions: First, did Da Fei use a BUG? Second, how many people will be able to advance from this venue?

Meanwhile, Da Fei, who was aimlessly searching for bosses in the sewers, receives an urgent message from Ma Yinglong and the Goddess and is scared pissless on the spot!

Da Fei exclaimed frantically: "Are you kidding me?! The Japanese are clearly framing me, okay? A guy with a Divine Artifact could win with his eyes closed, and a little competition is just a piece of cake, right? Do they even know what a BUG is? If my account gets banned, it will be a disgrace for the China Region, an outright breach of the game company's contract not to intervene with legal gameplay. Chairman Ma, you guys have to hold the line!"

Ma Yinglong replied solemnly: "Brother Fei, don't worry, as long as it's not an illegal program attacking the server, banning your account is impossible. In any case, when it comes to Japan, we Chinese players are definitely united against the external world. Anyone who dares to make noise knows what will happen!"

Da Fei nodded hastily: "Exactly, exactly! With such an advanced and awesome Hero server, high-tech illegal programs are like Star Wars level stuff, I can't even imagine using them, how could I possibly cheat?"

Bu Feiyan also sent a message: "Brother Fei, rest assured, our Star team has already started fighting with Japan on the Hero Headquarters forum. We will also mobilize the Navy on the forums to create momentum. I've sent you the link, you can go check it out yourself!"

Da Fei hastily followed the link provided by the Goddess and saw various posts like "Japan questioning game rules and BUGs is questioning the competition committee's professionalism," "Japan is seeking excuses for their incompetence," and "The plague is clearly a sinister plot by Japan with ulterior motives" with support numbers already in the tens of thousands!

Not only that, it seems that players from Europe are also posting long titles to attack Japan—"Japan's actions in collaborating offline against the China Region is an extension of filthy politics into the game, polluting the gaming environment" and "The Japanese are the true source of the plague!"

These are our international friends!

In this instant, Da Fei feels touched, moved by China! What virtues and abilities do I possess for everyone to speak up for me like this? In the end, it's because I am a Chinese person! Ah, I have long been an international celebrity, I should indeed pay attention to my personal image, for my personal image represents the image of the nation.

As for those trivial matters when the game first started, in the end, who hasn't gone through some struggle in the early stages? Even little kids often fight over candy, and back then, I also said, wealth should be accompanied by virtue, right. Look at this Hemorrhoid Ointment, haven't I become much more presentable than that internet café thug from back in the day? But my current wealth is still far from fortune, and as for matters of virtue, well, that has to wait, too. Anyway, the chances of Japan banning accounts this time seems unlikely, but it does mean being too high-profile makes one an easy target. Being a target is something that Brother Fei will not do. After this contest, I'll just low key build my city and quietly make my fortune.

While Da Fei was steeped in deep emotion, a system prompt sounded!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Hero Deirdre has crushed the forces of the China Region player "Dragon Teeth," and you have won the battle!

Da Fei is thunderstruck! A China Region player? What the hell! A Chinese should not attack another Chinese, right! How could I face the tens of thousands of compatriots supporting me on the forums! Dragon Teeth? Isn't that the leading deity of the Dragon Slayer Guild? How, how did he fall at Deirdre's hands? Wasn't Deirdre just guarding the tower?

Sure enough, Da Fei's message notification chimed immediately, what kind of face should he put on to face him? Boss Ma just spoke up for Brother Fei!

At that time, the message from Ma Yinglong carried a feeling of not having said enough: "Brother Fei, this, this..."

Da Fei replied with great shame: "Boss Ma, you know, my Vice Hero has become independent, she's out of control..."

Ma Yinglong sighed: "It's our team member who wasn't careful enough. We originally thought the Undead forces were less affected by the plague, so we wanted to come and take down Asan to alleviate the situation for Brother Fei."

Da Fei hurriedly said: "I'm really so sorry, I am ashamed! I let down my country, I... I'm a national sinner!"

Ma Yinglong laughed: "What are you saying! It's not as serious as all that, it's fine, completely fine. At this point, it's impossible for everyone to collect 10 Hero's Proofs to advance; let's just take it as coming here to have some fun. Actually, we have some issues with Asan, and wanted to take this opportunity to meet them."

Holy crap! So much for Hemorrhoid Ointment, this is outright robbery amidst the fire, wanting to take over Brother Fei's Bell Tower, and Brother Fei is not cold in his grave yet! No, Brother Fei isn't dead yet!

Da Fei hurriedly sent a message to Harem Beauty: "What's the situation at the Bell Tower?"

Harem Beauty immediately replied: "Everyone's contracted the plague, just sitting around waiting to die. In any case, we're really sorry, Brother Fei, we can't hold out much longer."

Chapter 364: Ancient City Ruins, No One Out Yet\_2

Sure enough! Da Fei sighed, "Thank you guys, but I'm really sorry, I've been screwed over by the Japanese and can't make it out now."

Harem Beauty laughed and said, "No way, Brother Fei, what's remarkable is that you managed to pull off this infection that spread all over the place."

"Hey hey, that was clearly the Japanese's doing."

"We saw the video, you were so awesome in the sewer, you even beat the BOSS and they couldn't fight back!"

"Hehe, that's the Divine Artifact for you. Those clueless Japanese thought it was a BUG, pfft!"

"Brother Fei is so impressive!"

While Da Fei was joking with the beauties, the system alert sounded again!

—System Prompt: We regret to inform you! Your Vice Hero Deirdre has exhausted her life in the plague, and your Independent Expedition has been disbanded.

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Deirdre is a Trial Hero; her death cannot be resurrected in hero mode. She will await your summoning again in the form of a Banshee Soul, waiting for you to re-train her!

Da Fei was suddenly startled! Deirdre died! But she didn't truly die!

That's how it is! That's how it is indeed! Think about it, after all, it's just a game, no matter how tough the difficulty is, it wouldn't leave the players utterly devastated with nothing left, right? At this moment, Da Fei was moved to tears!

This is the advantage of the competition server! I can use the competition server to predict the future! Even if I make irreparable mistakes in the future, as long as my beloved doesn't truly die, no matter how hard it is, even if I have to start from scratch, I will nurture you back!

Just then, Harem Beauty sent another message: "Brother Fei, it seems like your Bell Tower's Ghost Dragon and troops have all scattered away?"

Da Fei sighed with a smile, "Yes, my Vice Hero couldn't withstand the plague, she died. Why don't you take over that Bell Tower?"

Harem Beauty laughed, "It's too late, she's out of potions too, she's going to fall as well, anyway, thank you, Brother Fei. We had a lot of fun."

Da Fei sighed with a smile, "How about this, after the competition ends, should I meet up with that friend of yours? Will she welcome me?"

Harem Beauty was shocked, "Meet up?"

Da Fei patted his head with a smile, "Oh, meet up in the game, you know, add each other as friends or something. She and I actually came from the same newbie hall, she was the one who calculated the examiner NPC's chicken and duck questions back then; her mental arithmetic is super powerful!"

Harem Beauty exclaimed, "So it's fate! Definitely meet up, definitely add as friends, she's been talking about your name every single day—ouch—she hit me—"

Da Fei couldn't help but laugh heartily! This time, Da Fei laughed with great joy. Knowing the fate of Deirdre and being able to make friends with a decent and understanding female player made life quite fulfilling!

Just at this moment, the system alert sounded again!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Leader-level troop "Charming Emperor" has defeated the troops of the China Region player "Dragon Soul"; you have won the battle!

Da Fei was suddenly struck dumb! What? Charming Emperor? Deirdre was down, and they were still alive? Damn, of course, they've got the special skill for an Independent Expedition with a thousand drops of blood as a BOSS!

Wait a second, Dragon Soul? Killed another compatriot by mistake? And from the Dragon Slayer Guild again? Damn it! There were so many foreigners at the scene, why kill only the Chinese? Hemorrhoid Ointment, what the hell are you doing? You're definitely scheming against my Bell Tower, aren't you? Brother still hasn't turned cold in his grave... oh wait, I'm not even dead yet!

Da Fei's messages pinged again, and he couldn't bear to look.

Ma Yinglong: "Brother Fei, about that, uh, don't worry, it's our team member acting recklessly, walking carelessly. No big deal, no big deal."

Holy crap! As professional players, one down wasn't enough, they had to continue dying? Just how careless could they get?

Of course, Da Fei, being the nation's offender, had absolutely no room to quibble. Some things are better left unsaid, so he could only keep apologizing: "I'm so sorry, really sorry, Boss Ma, please don't take it to heart!"

Ma Yinglong laughed heartily: "Brother Fei, you really shouldn't mind it at all. In the end, if you and I don't mention it, no one else would know."

Da Fei chuckled awkwardly: "Understood, understood!"

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Meanwhile, at the Dragon Slayer Command Center, two consecutive infiltrators aiming to stealthily take down the Bell Tower were decapitated, leaving the guild's upper echelons in turmoil!

Ma Yinglong was so shocked he was at a loss for words!

Initially, this plague was an unexpected boon for the Dragon Slayer Guild, whose main force was mostly composed of the Undead, which should've been somewhat immune. Despite the special nature of this plague, not even the Undead could dodge it completely; nevertheless, they were less affected than living beings, allowing the Dragon Slayer Guild to instantly take control of the competition.

However, other countries are now solely trying to blockade China, not bothering to defeat the BOSS and collect the Hero's Proof. With nobody likely to advance, killing became pointless, and the Undead Army, afflicted by the triple plague, no longer had the strength to fight the BOSS. Hence, the most meaningful action now was to steal Da Fei's Bell Tower. As soon as Da Fei's out-of-control Vice Hero falls to the plague, Dragon Slayer would immediately take over.

To steal the tower, Dragon Teeth abandoned the large but weakened main army, bringing only a handful of elite ghosts for infiltration. For professional-level players, especially those at their level, preventing a large airborne entity like the Ghost Dragon from executing a decapitating strike was way too easy. Therefore, Dragon Teeth wasn't decapitated by the Ghost Dragon but was instead killed by an assassin

lurking on the lower floor of the tower! And the damage dealt by this assassin troop was terrifyingly high; just how strong was Da Fei's trump card?

In the end, Dragon Teeth had acted too soon. They would just have to wait. Players were continually getting knocked out by the plague on the battlefield. Da Fei's mere Vice Hero couldn't possibly carry enough potions to last long. Whoever holds out to the end is the victor!

Finally, Da Fei's Vice Hero dispersed like birds and beasts, and the second wave, Dragon Soul, took over. And what happened? They still got wiped out by Da Fei! What the heck was that? How could Ma Yinglong remain calm about this? No wonder Japan made such a concerted effort against Da Fei - they rely on more than just Divine Artifacts!

Right, this competition fully achieved the goal of understanding the level of other players. Resolute, Ma Yinglong decided to call Lei Huolong: "Lei Ren, your performance was very good this time. If not world-class, you've certainly given the Japanese a hard time. I've decided to invest the power of two big studios into developing the Hell Race, all under your control. You have to develop them well. I have high hopes for you!"

This was exactly what Lei Huolong had been longing for!

"Thanks, Boss, I'll give it my all and show some serious gameplay!"

...

As for this match, knowing the strength of China Region's players, aren't all the regions in the world roused to intense competition, stepping up their investments?

Now, the whole battlefield was left with just one person - Da Fei stood alone! On the Ancient City Ruins battlefield, no one has qualified yet!

### Chapter 365: The Ruins City Lord's Treasure Ice House

Now, Da Fei had roughly understood the situation on the field from Ma Yinglong. He might be the last person on the field. The last person, huh? He was invincible! This meant that all the monsters and

treasures on this big map were his, and no one would come to the Bell Tower to snatch it? This feeling really made Da Fei inexplicably excited!

But the reality was that Da Fei had been wandering in the sewer for more than twenty minutes and still couldn't find a way to escape from it. The more he wanted to find the BOSS, the harder it was to find it! Could it be that such a large sewer had no BOSS at all? Or were the remaining BOSSES hidden so cleverly that they were difficult to discover?

If there really was no BOSS, how could he secure the three plague achievements? Could it be as the prompt suggested, just hang on through it? Until the plague was cured and the competition server was shut down?

Da Fei checked the more than 1000 mana points recently added to Selvia's Sea Soul Staff and suddenly felt confident to hang on. Even if his BUFF time was up and his stamina dropped to the point where he couldn't walk, he could still rely on Selvia's Healing Skill to endure, right? Speaking of which, having the Sea Soul Staff acquire more than 1000 mana points in such a short time was really thanks to the many Demon Child souls sent by Japan. The best retaliation against the enemy was to say, "Thank you!"

Da Fei took another round in the sewer and seemed to circle back to the previous old path. Da Fei could already conclude that he had walked through the entire sewer network. Maybe there was truly no BOSS in the sewer, so he should prepare for the painful task of enduring the plague. Actually, there's not much to prepare, just solve personal issues by ordering takeout for food and drink.

Speaking of which, he had been busy all morning after returning from sea in the morning and hadn't rested for a while before the competition started in the afternoon. This person was really rather tired. And he still had to help his little sister move tomorrow. Ugh, exhausting. In short, he had to quickly finish the competition and wash up to sleep.

Just as Da Fei was muddling and resting, Catherine suddenly said, "Commander, have you noticed that the water temperature here is slightly lower than in other places?"

Da Fei's spirits suddenly lifted! Catherine was playing the system prompt role again! There's hope! Regardless of whether he noticed or not, Da Fei busily nodded and agreed, "Oh my! Now that you mention it, I really did notice!"

Catherine immersed her hand in the water and said gravely, "There is a cold current flowing into this sewer. If we follow the direction of the cold current, we will definitely find the source of the cold current!"

So that's how it was! Finally, no more boredom. This was definitely a hidden BOSS. But even someone like Baron Nash was taken down by him, and no hidden BOSS could possibly be his match anymore. He still wanted to enjoy the thrill of Titan's Grasp one more time.

Now, under Catherine's guidance, Da Fei's team started to move upstream to find the hidden source.

But Da Fei didn't know that he wasn't the only person in this arena. Dozens of eyes were using a god's-eye view (GM view) to observe his every move!

They were the developers of Heroic Creation Era Headquarters and the competition committee members from various countries! Da Fei's astonishing performance, and Japan's complaints, certainly drew the committee's high attention. So the committee wanted to see just how amazing Da Fei really was.

Of course, a player's account was the player's top secret, and also the server's top secret. Even committee members couldn't directly view a player's account. Observing meant pulling up the arena footage and analyzing it with computer assistance to see if there were any data anomalies.

And just as Ma Yinglong said, as long as Da Fei didn't use illegal programs like plug-ins to attack the server, then complaints about account banning were hard to establish. So the committee's main task was to assess whether the difficulty of the arena was appropriate! After all, the competition server was an independent server that didn't interfere with the intelligent mainframe of various regions' heroes, so the committee could manually set various data for the competition server.

...

After wading for a period of time, Da Fei's team finally found the source of the cold current, a drainage hole hidden at the corner of the water floor, with a diameter only the size of half a brick.

Da Fei was immediately excited! Under normal circumstances, it was extremely difficult for players to find a small hole underwater in such a dark environment! And where there was a small hole, it meant that the wall the hole was on definitely had more secrets, or where else would this cold water be coming from?

Da Fei started knocking and tapping on the wall, groping all around!

...

At this time, there was a burst of marveling at the committee's monitoring site!

"He must have discovered the ultimate facility of the field through a non-clearing mode, the Ruins City Lord's underground treasure room! These facilities are positioned by the map random system randomly, he couldn't know in advance!"

"Deserving of being a miracle-creating player, his success indeed isn't without reason."

"In fact, it's all thanks to his intelligent Vice Hero's cues. The higher the intelligence of the hero, the greater the advisory role they can provide, proving that players ignoring Vice Heroes during early leveling is a shortsighted approach."

"Yeah, players leveling so fast has indeed put great strain on our work progress. We should slow down the players' leveling speed, or else our workload will be unbearable."

"It's hard, the players' determination to reach level 50 is hard to shake!"

"No no no, haven't you seen this Da Fei? They're all female heroes, not missing a single one. This is a man's instinctual desire, only female heroes can stop players' leveling momentum. Shouldn't we propose to increase the appearance rate of female heroes?"

"The load on each region server would collapse."

"Let's focus on the proper business, he is about to enter. Can our Lich City Lord stop him since our Baron Nash totally failed?"

The venue sighed, "Unless he makes some basic mistakes, it's clearly impossible, Baron Nash was the strongest..."

Just then, a senior committee member hurried to the podium in front of the big screen and gestured for silence: "Ladies and gentlemen, first of all, congratulations to this Chinese player's wisdom and luck for defeating each seemingly powerful BOSS, and also defeating us arena designers for not fully considering the impact of Divine Artifacts on the competition. Since this competition's main purpose is testing, now there is an emergency proposal from the Japanese committee to urgently upgrade the ultimate BOSS. The reason is that the competition reward of the ultimate BOSS would hugely impact the game balance at this stage! Also, overly weak arena BOSSES will make players' participation purposes opportunistic. Now for vote approval, please raise your hand if you agree to urgently upgrade the BOSS!"

"Oppose!" A Chinese committee member stood up and said, "The Japanese committee's proposal is entirely out of selfish interest to protect its own team."

The senior committee member shook his head, saying, "Mr. Lin, as a competition committee member, our task is to ensure the game is good, the arena is good, and to adjust game balance. Don't you think the arena monsters are too weak in front of this Chinese player?"

The Japanese committee member also stood up and calmly said, "The arena's BOSS monsters are too favorable to the players. Players absolutely don't have to worry about losses and can give their all to speculate. This greatly impacts the instanced dungeons and wild BOSS across regions. When all players cherish their troops and don't attack instance zones but speculate in competitions, the game's fun diminishes, and it severely negatively impacts the game's market balance! And the China Region has the most players and definitely is the most affected. I am considering for the healthy development of the game."

For a time, more than twenty committee members raised their hands in the arena.

The Chinese committee member sat down helplessly while shaking his head and lightly sighed, "Increasing the difficulty of BOSS means the BOSS drop will increase accordingly!"

All the committee members laughed, "If this Chinese player can also defeat the upgraded BOSS, we have nothing to say!"

The chairperson immediately announced, "A majority of committee members have agreed, the technical group immediately loads the upgraded difficulty for the total BOSS of the Ancient City Ruins online!"

...

Da Fei's groping on the wall soon bore results!

—System Prompt: Warning! Your Reconnaissance Skill detected an unknown mechanism facility, please remain vigilant!

Found it! Haha! With a crashing sound, a whole damp wall collapsed revealing a pitch-black iron door!

Oh yeah! It indeed had layers! In the face of Da Fei's God-level Reconnaissance Technique coupled with Invincible Luck, the rusty lock on the iron door clearly couldn't stop Da Fei. With a crisp sound, the iron door swung open and a bone-chilling cold swept in!

—System Prompt: You discovered the Ruins City Lord's Underground Treasure Ice House, unknown opportunities and challenges await you! (Warning! The difficulty of this scene is extremely high, players should enter with caution!)

Treasure room? Ruins City Lord? Finally, the true antagonist appeared, corrupt officials' treasures, stolen and dare not be reported! Extremely high difficulty? In front of Da Fei's sky-sweeping battle enthusiasm, it was directly ignored! Enter!

—System Prompt: Scene transition in progress, please wait a moment.

Da Fei couldn't help but be taken aback, wait a moment? Well, since it is a foreign battle server, sometimes the internet speed can be slow, so he waited. As a result, this wait took a whole half-minute! Da Fei even wondered whether he had crashed!

In short, the transition finally completed. Da Fei and his team appeared in a hall filled with swirling cold air and packed with various instruments, and in the center was a large pile of frost-covered treasure chests and a pearl-studded coffin.

—System Prompt: You have entered the Ruins City Lord's Underground Treasure Ice House. All of your troops are affected by Ice Sealing Extreme Cold, Life Limit -30%, Stamina Limit -30%, Attack Speed -30%, Move Speed -30%, while your troops' life and stamina decrease 2 per second, with a certain chance of permanent frostbite causing damage to your troops!

Da Fei's eyes narrowed in shock! Damn! This surpassed the Arctic Cold, with 4 levels of debuffs hanging over him, how could he possibly survive?

And just then,

—System Prompt: Congratulations! The harsh environment dispelled the evil of the Plague, you successfully overcame the Plague, and earned the achievement "Plague Antibody"! The achievement will be sent to your account in the region server after the competition ends!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! The harsh environment dispelled the evil of the Insect Plague, you successfully overcame the Insect Plague, and earned the achievement "Insect Plague Antibody"! The achievement will be sent to your account in the region server after the competition ends!

Da Fei was taken aback again, then came back to himself with joy and excitement! Damn it! He miraculously cured both of his plagues! True enough, plagues happen in spring and summer but will definitely not last through the winter because the winter's severe cold kills the plague bacteria. So the key to removing the plague was finding this ice house? Haha, hahahaha! After all, no matter how pitiful the game difficulty was, it would always provide a way for the player!

Curing the two plagues greatly boosted Da Fei's confidence. Staring at the clearly BOSS coffin in the pile of treasure chests, Da Fei clutched the Titan's Grasp in his pouch, proceed!

...

The competition committee's monitoring site erupted with astonished laughter!

Turning to look at the large screen on the wall behind them, the chairperson chuckled with tears and laughter, "Can anyone explain to me why this Ice Sealing Extreme Cold could cure his plague?"

A Chinese committee member laughed heartily, "Because our game is the greatest game in the world, the most realistic fantasy game!"

The chairperson helplessly splayed his hands, "So, we're actually helping him?"

The Japanese committee member coldly said, "The increase in difficulty is not only to impose a more severe environment, but the BOSS's own strength is also definitely not weaker than an MVP."

The senior committee member smiled wryly, "Alright, let's see how long Da Fei's wisdom and luck can last!"

#### Chapter 366: Absolute Misfortune Strikes Again

"Who dares to disturb my slumber!" A muffled roar erupted from the crystal coffin as a Skeleton Mage shrouded in chilling aura rose into the air, floating in the middle of the hall.

—System Prompt: Battle started! You are facing the powerful Ancient City Lord, who possesses a strong Magic Shield that can absorb tons of physical magic damage. Players can also flee the battlefield if the battle turns unfavorable. Good luck!

Da Fei's eyebrow twitched. The system prompt directly introduced the BOSS skill, just like with that Baron Nash! At that moment, the City Lord, floating mid-air, flashed with black light! A dark shockwave with a piercing howl swept across the arena! Da Fei's army's advance slowed once again.

—System Prompt: The Ancient City Lord cast the Dark Magic "Banshee's Howl!" Your troop's Morale -6, Luck -6, Attack Speed -12%, Move Speed -12%! This state lasts until the end of the battle.

Da Fei was shocked! Damn, this BOSS casts spells while floating in the air! Are you kidding me? Even though my Artillery Emperor and Forest Goddess are flying and ranged units, in battle, they have to stand on the ground! How can the melee troops fight like this? How can I use the Titan to poke it? And

magic BOSSes are acknowledged as the trickiest bosses; they fundamentally differ from a player's Magic Hero because their Mana Value is so high it drives players nuts!

But soon, Da Fei noticed the row of glowing instruments around the hall transmitting energy beams to the airborne BOSS. So, those instruments were the key to breaking the situation? The problem is, Baron Nash wasn't a lone Commander; could this City Lord be fighting alone? As his mind raced, the BOSS flashed with black light again! A black mist enveloped the entire army!

—System Prompt: The Ancient City Lord cast the Dark Magic "Great Delay Technique," reducing your and your entire army's Attack Speed on the current basis by 30%! This state lasts for one game day.

Damn, casting a spell again, is it never-ending? Now Da Fei realized the severity of the situation: initially, the severe cold reduced speed by 30%, and two spells continued to slow down. Even though Selvia's Nun skill could counter Dark Magic, her speed was oppressively slow, and by the time she could act, I guessed I'd be covered in Dark Magic spells!

Indeed, the BOSS wasn't done!

—System Prompt: The Ancient City Lord cast the Dark Magic "Great Weakness Curse," reducing your and your entire army's Maximum Damage by -6! This state lasts for one game day.

Ugh! Da Fei spat out old blood! Maximum Damage reduced by -6! This must be Master-level Dark Skill, right? With maximum damage reduced by -6, all Level 1 and Level 2 Soldiers don't need to fight; their damage is directly zeroed out!

The BOSS flashed with black light again! Da Fei crumbled! Da Fei's army hadn't gotten a single arrow off, and they've already been hit with four spells! It's not solely due to the severe cold-induced slowdown; the opponent's attack speed was also astonishingly high!

In that instant, Da Fei suddenly recalled when he was on the ship on Newbie Island, where a playful ghost BOSS tortured Tao with a barrage of Dark Magic spells! After all, this was the terror of Dark Magic controlling the entire battlefield! Especially in the large-scale battles that occurred in the mid-to-late game. Of course, Light Magic and Dark Magic had many skills that were completely opposite; as long as Selvia could make her move in time, had enough Magic Power, and enough Mana, she could completely

cast "Great Blessing Skill," "Great Haste Technique," etc., Light Magic to counteract the effects of Dark Magic step by step.

So, Dark Magic weakened enemies, and Light Magic enhanced oneself, which one was superior? Expert public tests gave the answer: Dark Magic was superior. As long as Dark Magic weakened the opponent, even if you had few troops yourself, you could still overcome overwhelming odds and inflict significant losses on the opponent. But Light Magic wouldn't work the same way; it required strong base stats. Otherwise, even if you led a group of Human Race archers, fully buffed with Light magic, you'd still be instantly killed by the Elf Ranger's Jungle Hunters. Dark Magic was completely different. Dark Magic could allow Archer Troops to achieve an easy victory.

Just as the BOSS cast the dark light, a golden flash appeared, and it was finally Selvia's turn to act!

—System Prompt: Selvia cast the spell Undying Light, and the City Lord's spell "Great Rotting Curse" failed to release.

Da Fei felt a twinge of relief. It seemed like this spell was meant to reduce Life Limit, and my limit couldn't afford such a hit. But the BOSS had cast four spells already, and Selvia had only cast once; the gap was so significant it was impossible to balance!

At the same time, Da Fei's troops also took their first shot! Even with Invincible Luck bonuses, the damage was unimpressive after reducing the maximum damage by 6 points, not to mention how thick this BOSS's Magic Power might be!

—System Prompt: The Ancient City Lord summoned a Dark Magic "Dark Army!"

Da Fei was suddenly shocked. The BOSS indeed wasn't fighting alone!

The entire hall's floor began to rumble, countless skeletal ghostly claws burst from every inch of the ground, and Da Fei's ranged units were about to be completely swarmed by the Bone Army!

Da Fei gritted his teeth, determined to take them down before they fully emerged! My Artillery Emperor, with its inherent total firepower, could still unleash an incredible sea of fire even with the

maximum damage reduced by 6 points! I refuse to believe it: if I could easily defeat a BOSS like Baron Nash without those two viruses, what reason would I have to lose now?

And clearly, the BOSS wasn't idle either, casting another dark beam down forcefully!

Damn! What kind of damned spell is this? Da Fei couldn't help but feel a sense of urgency!

—System Prompt: The Ancient City Lord cast the Dark Magic "Great Misfortune Technique," reducing your Luck Value by -10! This state lasts until the end of the battle!

What? Casting a Great Misfortune Technique on Invincible Luck me? Are you kidding me?

And just then, a strange sound effect suddenly echoed in Da Fei's ears: Mortal! Your luck is nearing its end! If you can still survive, you will be the warrior chosen by the Misfortune Demon King!

Da Fei was stunned! Hadn't a day passed yet? Was this the moment I'd been waiting for? Good, I was waiting for this moment! But why now, of all times, bravely fighting the final BOSS? Or was this BOSS's magic prematurely triggering the Destiny Coin's effect?

There was no time for Da Fei to think further; a mutation occurred. A dark red light surged into the sky, shattering the rainbow light above Da Fei's head as dark clouds of red swirled over him!

—System Prompt: You did not heed the donor of the Destiny Coin's admonition, and fell into the trap of Demon Temptation. You were chosen as the warrior by the Misfortune Demon God. Your life will now sink into creating misfortune and misery for others. You gained the hidden profession Heavenly Destiny Knight and learned a Basic Misfortune Skill! You are no longer lucky; your God-level Luck Skill transformed into the Divine Professional Skill "Critical Strike" of the Heavenly Destiny Knight! Your Hero Special Ability has transformed into "Misfortune Skill Special Ability!"

—Heavenly Destiny Knight: A demonic profession impervious to misfortune and transfers misfortune to others.

—Basic Misfortune Skill: Decreases enemy's Luck Value by -1.

—Critical Strike: 5% chance for a lethal blow to the enemy, which does not affect Heroes or Leader-level creatures but grants more than triple Misfortune Strike damage bonuses.

—System Prompt: The God of Luck effect from the Destiny Coin has ended. You have entered Absolute Misfortune status, lasting one month of game time. The Destiny Coin has expired, and you have lost the Destiny Coin, but you gained +1 Gold Coin.

...

Da Fei's eyes narrowed in shock! Misfortune Skill! Just like Gambling God Buffett's situation at the time! Luck and Misfortune Skills are incompatible; using the Destiny Coin to its limit zeros out Luck Skill and comprehends Misfortune Skill! But for me, it's different. I not only comprehended the Misfortune Skill, but also directly learned a new profession! It also converted my God-level Luck Skill and personal special abilities!

Was this compensation for clearing the God-level Luck Skill? Damn! This Heavenly Destiny Knight skill is awesome: Critical Strike, the iconic skill of a Level 6 Undead Death Knight, known as a God skill among elite assassins!

Even though Da Fei had prepared himself, the sudden influx of information momentarily short-circuited him! Similarly, the unexpected mutation amazed the venue's committee members into silence: "What is this? Gaining a new profession during a competition?"

"Oh my! A Heavenly Destiny Knight! There's actually a player who managed to achieve this!"

"This is a Divine Warrior! Already one level above the usual hero profession!"

"But ladies and gentlemen, even if he comprehended a God-level profession, how can he turn the situation around now?"

"Isn't it obvious? After becoming a Heavenly Destiny Knight, he's immune to misfortune but will transfer misfortune to others. Now he's delivering an unstoppable Absolute Misfortune! In a sense, Absolute Misfortune is equivalent to Absolute Luck! No, Absolute Misfortune is much more powerful!"

"Oh my! Exactly—"

The entire committee in the hall rose in amazement!

...

At this moment, Absolute Misfortune enveloped the BOSS and the Bone Army summoned by the BOSS like a plague!

Da Fei finally regained his senses, overjoyed! Such a familiar scene! Such a profoundly satisfying feeling! Isn't this the godlike skill "If I Don't Get Unlucky, You Will" that allowed me to rampage the Nether Sea and burn cities with misfortune? Haha, wahahaha!

According to Angel Brother's theory, because I achieved God-level Luck Skill, I gained the power to resist Heavenly Destiny, so as long as I don't mess up, misfortune won't affect me. The Power of Misfortune will accumulate substantially, and as soon as someone gets close to me, misfortune will latch onto them!

And now, misfortune doesn't require me to spend time accumulating; it directly reaches the same effect as before, which means God-level Luck Skill was just one step away from becoming Heavenly Destiny Knight? When I comprehended God-level Luck Skill, I also gained information about Heavenly Destiny Knight, which must be the opposing profession to Heavenly Destiny Knight, right? I finally understand what this coin is; only someone with God-level Luck Skill can play with it, otherwise who knows how badly it could trap someone?

While Da Fei's thoughts raced, Da Fei's troops were ready to strike again; as an expert in luck, Da Fei could guess what would happen!

Boom! The Flame Chain Demon Bullet once again spread a sea of fire, reducing countless rising skeletons to dust!

—System Prompt: Your Artillery Emperor species delivered a Critical Strike to the "Summoned Army," decimating the Summoned Army!

—System Prompt: Your Druid delivered a Critical Strike to the "Summoned Army," decimating the Summoned Army!

Exactly! Under Absolute Misfortune, the other side is guaranteed to have extremely bad luck with a 100% Critical Strike from the divine skill, which is remarkably similar to the 100% chance of special skill activation under Invincible Luck!

Not only that, but the instruments around the hall suddenly exploded amid flying flames, and the City Lord, suspended mid-air, toppled over with a crash!

Da Fei broke into wild laughter! Even if the Necromancer Dragon City Lord of the Nether Sea met my Absolute Misfortune, it would kneel, let alone this small room's minor City Lord! I said there's no way I could lose; from the moment it encountered me, its fate was sealed, and that was to grant me rewards! Hurry up, I'm freezing here, haha, wahahaha!

#### Chapter 367: Reward of the Ancient City Lord

As the instruments around the hall exploded, the entire ice house turned into a sea of fire!

—System Prompt: You destroyed the Magic Energy cooling device of the ice house, the effect of Ice Sealing Extreme Cold on you disappeared, and your troops' Life Limit, Stamina Limit, Attack Speed, and Move Speed returned to normal.

"Hahaha!" The negative effects vanished too, was this a case of one good turn deserving another? Turning the tide was just that simple! There's nothing to say now, just swarm it and beat it up! How many hits could a BOSS afflicted with Absolute Misfortune's 100% Critical Strike withstand, no matter how many shields it had? Not to mention, without the impact of extreme cold, Selvia's speed matched up. Whatever Dark Magic the BOSS used, it was countered to death instantly!

Victory was beyond doubt!

At this moment, Da Fei's heart was racing with excitement and a sense of incredible luck. Exciting because he finally learned the secret of the Destiny Coin through this match. Lucky because this battle was truly perilous! Da Fei honestly didn't expect the BOSS to be this powerful. Just before the coin's

mutation, Da Fei was completely at a loss, even thought he might lose! Fortunately, it was a thrilling victory, and only such a win felt truly exhilarating.

Honestly, it was difficult for Da Fei now to distinguish between Absolute Luck and Absolute Misfortune. Or perhaps, when both luck and misfortune were at such an "absolute" state, were they essentially two sides of the same coin with no difference?

Actually, there was a significant difference. Whether it was against Baron Nash or this BOSS, Invincible Luck exposed its limitations, meaning one's strength had to be solid. Otherwise, when faced with impossible Blood Defense full-effect immunity from the other side, no amount of luck would help. In this regard, the difference between luck and misfortune resembled the difference between Light Magic and Dark Magic, right? The extreme status of luck was, after all, too unique, and with the disappearance of this coin, it likely wouldn't reappear. Now the question to consider was how to deal with this coin?

Keep it for personal use? Or sell it?

If for personal use, he'd have to sacrifice the God-level Luck Skill—could he bear it? Sure, he was quite powerful now, but it was the Absolute Misfortune that was formidable, not the Knight of Misfortune! What's more, his part-time careers like Treasure Appraiser and Ranger all hinged on the Luck Skill. Once he became a Knight of Misfortune, those careers would be scrapped, wouldn't they? In any case, he already obtained the information about Heavenly Destiny Knight, not to mention the deceptive Gru Inheritance waiting for him. There's no reason to switch to Knight of Misfortune. After all, as a man full of positive energy, he didn't become a pirate back then, so he definitely wouldn't become a minion for the Demon King, right? In short, using it for himself was not worthwhile.

Then only sell it? At what price? This issue was equally vexing! Without someone with a God-level Luck Skill, whoever used it would be in trouble. If he set an astronomical price, any dispute involving a large amount of money would definitely attract the internet police! Should he just tell Ma Yinglong, "Buy it for 10 million, and a year later when you have bred a player with God-level Luck, you'll have a God-level profession?" But Ma Yinglong isn't stupid. Who would use valuable funds now to buy something for next year? He would still have to consider the "sacrifice of God-level Luck Skill" issue then, wouldn't he?

Or, exchange artifact for artifact with someone?

Never mind, no need to consider that much now. Anyway, he already had the video recording going. After the match, he'd upload his heroic exploits to the forum and let whoever wanted it bid for it! Hahaha!

The tournament committee observed the scene, the members leaned in and whispered. The committee members from Japan looked ashen.

Mr. Lin, the committee member from the China Region, calmly stood up and made a respectful bow to the whole room, smiling, "Ladies and gentlemen, there's no need to worry. Although this player will receive substantial rewards, since this BOSS was enhanced and thus appears overly advanced, the rewards will also be highly advanced, which is beyond what current players can utilize. It's like rewarding a primary school student with an adult suit, which they can only keep in the closet waiting for that future day. Hence, his reward won't overly impact game balance."

The Japanese committee member coldly replied, "Mr. Lin, don't be so smug; the Ancient City Ruins has a hidden storyline as a test map for new instances, and the lord's item was the reason for the city's ruin. The lord's drop may not be a good thing for players."

The China committee member smiled faintly, "For a player who has turned to Knight of Misfortune, opportunism is his conduct. As committee members, we have no reason to interfere in player interests."

The Japanese committee member snorted coldly.

Now, the chief committee member adjusted his glasses nervously and gazed at the entire crowd sincerely, "Ladies and gentlemen, first, we congratulate this Chinese player again for bringing us a pleasant surprise. He has revealed the deficiencies in our work with his superb skills and showcased the highest standard of current players. We have a long way to go, and our time is indeed pressing. Of course, our focus still lies in preparing the competition and keeping the game balanced. I have two proposals: First, enhance the strength of BOSS-level monsters in the arena; second, prohibit artifacts from competing. All in favor, please raise your hand!"

Everyone raised their hand.

"Great, let us give a round of applause and congratulation to player Da Fei for achieving an unimaginable victory!"

Applause sounded loudly!

Treasure Ice House. With a clear sound, the Magic Shield surrounding the BOSS turned into magic light fragments and disappeared, simultaneously, a flash of golden light!

—System Prompt: Selvia released the spell Undying Light, the Ancient City Lord's spell "Netherworld Impact" failed to activate!

The BOSS had no means to turn the tide and finally issued a reluctantly tragic cry and exploded to its death! Meanwhile, Da Fei awaited the system's reward with eager excitement! Even Baron Nash rewarded him with a blueprint and S-level accessories. How could the lord sleeping in the treasure chamber possibly reward lesser than a baron?

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You successfully defeated the ruler of the Ancient City, "Ancient City Lord"! You received Hero's Proof +3 and gained the match achievement "Ancient City Ruler." In the match server, you will receive a "spell effect damage +15%, Mana Value +15%, Life Value +15%" reward.

—System Prompt: You successfully defeated the Ruins City Lord and received match rewards: Gold Coin +800,000, S-rank strategic treasure "Necromancer Calamity," city building blueprint "Netherworld Treasury," Ancient Granite +50 units, Ancient Ironwood +50 units, Refined Crystal Gem +30 units, refined gold iron ore +30 units, Mithril +30 units, Refined Crystal Sulfur +30 units, Concentrated Mercury +30 units. The match rewards will be sent to your region server upon the match's conclusion.

—Necromancer Calamity: S-rank strategic treasure, city equipment. Equipment location, town hall. Total city Casting Soldier production +20%, environmental hygiene score -20 points. When the city environmental score is below 50 points, there is a certain chance to trigger a Corpse Mutation Plague.

—City building blueprint "Netherworld Treasury": A special warehouse building with the ability to harvest Netherworld's wealth, increasing city funds each day and receiving small random resources each month. The quantity of funds and resources increases with City Level. Meanwhile, dangerous undead from the Netherworld will appear around your city.

Da Fei widened his eyes, examining the drop from this BOSS word for word! City equipment! Building blueprint! Damn, worthy of a lord, indeed high-end, luxurious, and sophisticated. If it drops, it drops something city-related; no petty items like weapons or armor here!

So-called city equipment is just like ship equipment, specifically used to enhance cities. For example, common city equipment includes city gates, alarm bells. Even some ordinary barrack buildings, blacksmith shops, merchant shops have equipment—"signboards"! The importance of a good signboard to a store is self-evident!

In short, Heroic Creation Era is a vast game; with equipment alone, it involves heroes, soldiers, ships, machinery, buildings, and so on. To become proficient in this game, a professional attitude is essential.

And now, faced with the lord's reward, Da Fei snapped back to reality and laughed heartily! He happened to have an empty city; this was like delivering a pillow to someone who's just about to sleep, a fortune delivered to his doorstep!

What about the Necromancer Calamity? Weren't Da Fei's Flower Demons Casting Soldiers? Didn't he have over a hundred suspended Flower Demon Barracks at the Pool of Radiance? Those were all his water territorial city soils, increasing production by 20% was equivalent to a 20% production increase for all his Flower Demons. This was just regarding the Flower Demons. Wait until he prospered in the future, constructed various Druid Barracks, even developed Forest Goddess species, wouldn't that be an unimaginable pleasure? As for the -20 points in environmental hygiene, huh, let's not mention the Pool of Radiance was the purest place, didn't he at least acquire a sewer blueprint? This just perfectly counterbalanced it, a positive and negative offset each other, right? Hahaha!

Regarding this Netherworld Treasury, that's a no-brainer—build it! As for dangerous undead appearing around? Huh, wasn't my territory under the World Tree? Wherever dangerous undead appeared, it would be courting death, right?

Damn, I became powerful! I couldn't wait! Let's see if I advanced!

—System Prompt: You acquired the Hero's Proof needed for advancement, and the quantity of Hero's Proof also satisfied the achievement "Corpse Poison Plague Antibody." Do you wish to advance?

Da Fei laughed wildly, without hesitation—Advance—wait!

I have one last thing to take care of, and that's to check the Sea Soul Staff's result after absorbing the Banshee Soul! I almost forgot in the midst of my pride, steady! Keep it steady! Whether the Sea Soul Staff transformed the Banshee Soul into Mana Value or Sea Demon Soul, this test opportunity could only

be tried in the match server. As for now, it's time to upload the video to the forum and let you see my Divine Artifact, hahaha!

### Chapter 368: Japan Fascinated by the Divine Artifact

"If I had to use one word to describe Da Fei's mood right now, it would be 'winning the lottery'! Although Da Fei had never won one, he imagined it felt just like this. Da Fei was currently idling in the competition server, uploading videos on forums for advertising and basking in admiration, and handling greetings from the few friends, big shots, goddesses, and little brothers in his regional server. In short, nothing beats being famous and adored by everyone. I wonder if anyone's interested in the Divine Artifact? Or maybe I should talk directly with Ma Yinglong? The problem is how to start the conversation. I hate getting too friendly, since once that happens, I always end up at a disadvantage. It's a matter of pride! In any case, this big deal must be handled carefully!"

By the way, I promised to add Fleeting Blossom as a friend after the competition. Being a man of my word, I'll lower my standards and reach out to her. Of course, for the sake of a woman's reputation, this should be done low-key. Maybe I'll invite her to a small tavern in the countryside, hehe.

...

While Da Fei was busy, the folks over in the Japan zone weren't idle either.

The competition wasn't over yet, but the complete defeat at the Ancient City Ruins made the Japan zone's chances of achieving a good result very slim. Just then, in a heavy mood, Igarashi received a mysterious phone call.

"Mr. Igarashi, how are things going?"

Igarashi's spirit was suddenly jolted: "Mr. Ogaki! Things aren't going smoothly for me!"

"It's evident that our athletes lost to an amateur player named Da Fei. If not handled well, this could severely impact their future competitive state."

"Hey! Thank you, Mr. Ogaki, for your guidance. I will certainly pay attention."

"By the way, how is our zone's hell unification strategy progressing?"

Igarashi replied quickly: "We've made a breakthrough with the World Tree. Given some time, we're sure to achieve results."

"Mr. Igarashi, I have a suggestion. With the current player's strength, it's impossible to quickly eliminate the Elf Clan's NPC forces. At the minimum, you need a Divine Artifact, especially one that has a multipliers effect."

Igarashi raised an eyebrow: "A Divine Artifact? You mean?"

"Destiny Coin! The Destiny Coin of that Chinese player Da Fei! According to the committee's supervision and observation, the attribute of this coin has been discovered. It's a key to advancing to a God-level profession, the Knight of Misfortune. After using it, the coin provides nearly a day of Absolute Luck effect. A lot can be accomplished in a day's time, as you have witnessed. After the effect expires, it will grant a month of Absolute Misfortune. Mr. Igarashi, have you watched that Da Fei's video? Even with the Absolute Misfortune effect, he was able to turn the tide in adversity and defeat the strong while being weak. That's the power of the Divine Artifact! A month of in-game time can achieve much more. In short, the value of this Destiny Coin is these 31 days of Absolute Luck."

Igarashi was shocked: "Are you suggesting we buy that coin at a high price?"

"I'm merely making a suggestion. Besides, it seems that the Chinese player has hinted at the willingness to sell on the forums. How you handle it is up to you. That's all I have to say, goodbye!"

Igarashi quickly held the phone, bowing: "Hey! Thank you, sir, for your guidance. I will consider it carefully!"

After hanging up the phone, Igarashi's emotions were like cascading waves, overwhelmingly turbulent: "Mr. Tsukamoto, under normal circumstances, how do we trade with players from other zones?"

Tsukamoto responded without hesitation: "Normally, players reach level 50, enter the City of Gods in the New World, and conduct transactions. Or we could register a trading alt in the China Region now, get hold of the Divine Artifact first, and then wait until level 50 to..."

Tsukamoto shook his head: "That takes too long. If we wait until we enter the New World to trade, then part of our hell unification strategy loses its timeliness. We must eliminate the Bright Alliance forces in our zone as much as possible before entering the New World to establish a massive military-industrial base for our Japan zone's national war. What we need is a chance like the one last time to enter the China Region during the national war!"

Tsukamoto frowned: "That might trigger an Epic Quest, which requires convening a strategy conference for joint research!"

Igarashi approved: "Realizing the limitations of personal ability is your strength, very good. Immediately organize a strategy conference, and all members, including the logistics team, must participate! We need collective wisdom! Of course, we will secure that Divine Artifact now, and start arranging for someone to create an alt to handle it!"

"Hey!"

...

In Rapids Town, the largest inland river city of Lionheart Empire in the China Region, Da Fei entered a private room on the second floor of a tavern under the watchful eyes and exclamations of players. This room was, of course, pre-arranged by Fleeting Blossom.

Actually, for Da Fei now, making player friends wasn't all that important. But female player friends were different; they were a symbol of success for men in games, especially someone like Fleeting Blossom, a woman who had achieved something in the game, which satisfies a man's vanity! I'm just an ordinary guy!

In the private room were, of course, Fleeting Blossom and another Harem Beauty, both in flamboyant dresses, further fulfilling the man's fantasy of having two women! Yeah, with effort, dreams eventually become reality! Once I get rich in real life, there's nothing I can't do! Wahahaha!

The two laughed foolishly like blooming flowers: "Brother Fei! So nice to finally meet you, welcome!"

Da Fei laughed heartily and started reminiscing to build rapport: "You're too polite, beauties. After all, we all started from the same newbie hall!"

Fleeting Blossom mocked slightly: "Brother Fei is so naughty, many people say that to try to get close to me!"

What the hell! I took the initiative to get close to you and you're playing coy! I'll demote you to the cold palace and stop playing with you at once!

Da Fei chuckled: "Wasn't there a player before you with a great Lord trait, who ended up being sent to mine by the NPCs? The NPCs immediately asked what you could do, and you said build a farm! Everyone thought you were going to be unlucky!"

Fleeting Blossom widened her eyes, clapping excitedly: "Oh wow! Brother Fei really did come from the same newbie hall as me! It's fate, fate! It seems our group churns out talent, like Brother Fei just mentioned, the Evil Little White Wolf, who is doing well now in the Death Mountain Range. If Brother Fei needs anything big done over there, let me know first. I know him well!"

Hold up, are you showing off how many people you know and how wide your connections are? If it's a man, that's impressive, but you're a woman, okay! Do you know that can make men uncomfortable? Is she perhaps a career-oriented strong woman? Well, in that case, it's even better—meeting briefly and parting isn't complicated. Perfect for a one-night stand, wahahaha!

Da Fei laughed: "I'm just running maritime transport. I don't have plans to expand inland just yet."

Fleeting Blossom chuckled: "What if Brother Fei's ship could travel deeper inland via river?"

Da Fei exclaimed: "Deeper inland? Big ships can only reach Rapids Town at most, right?"

Fleeting Blossom smiled: "Actually, I have a big venture to discuss cooperation with Brother Fei. I am forming a Canal Company, to dig a canal across the Lionheart Empire's interior. Of course, many things

are still in the planning stage, and there's nothing to cooperate on yet, but I thought it'd be good to let Brother Fei know in advance."

Da Fei's brow twitched: "A company? Like that Skyshattering Thunder's smithy?"

Fleeting Blossom laughed: "His place can barely count as a workshop, but fundamentally, yes. In short, creating a waterway needs Canal Company funds, and company funds, chamber of commerce funds, and city funds operate on the same principle. That is, they must be obtained through in-game transactions. Even if a player studio churns out a bunch of gold coins, it's useless. As president of the top chamber of commerce, you should understand this, right?"

Da Fei immediately understood: "So our chamber of commerce primarily conducts transactions with your company to increase your company funds?"

Fleeting Blossom said with a smile: "Exactly! I plan to rent a company office in the port of Saint Paul, to trade with Brother Fei's chamber of commerce. Clearly, Brother Fei's chamber of commerce is still in the starting phase and hasn't expanded its business to Saint Paul, and my company also doesn't yet have products to sell. So, everything I'm saying is a bit premature. Brother Fei, don't laugh at me."

Da Fei quickly shook his head: "No, no, I wouldn't. How does your Canal Company make profits?"

Fleeting Blossom smiled: "Of course, by charging tolls once a section of the canal is open, just like toll roads in the world, right? But in the game, we could also take a small portion of a ship's cargo as toll, and these would become future company products."

Damn! It's like collecting tolls on the freeway, a God-level financial path for making a fortune!

Da Fei understood: "So, your initial funds are tight?"

Fleeting Blossom shook her head with a smile: "Hold up! Saying more would sound like I'm asking to borrow money from you! In short, if our company gets on track, will we cooperate in the future?"

Uh, let's hold that thought. I'm not the sucker handing over money to every girl I meet. Hmm, no wonder it's just handshakes for life.

Da Fei shook his head, laughing: "Sure! You know the situation with my chamber of commerce. If it develops well, we'll cooperate for sure!"

Fleeting Blossom beamed: "Great! Cheers to our future cooperation!"

"Cheers!"

Hm, this is just a game for now. If we meet in real life someday, I'll toast with you guys, and then you'll know, wahahaha!

While the three were enjoying their banter, Da Fei's competition character on the game server received a system prompt! Is it here?

Da Fei hurriedly switched to look, and indeed!

—System Prompt: Your Divine Artifact Equipment, the Sea Soul Staff, has completed absorbing and merging the souls of 100 deceased Banshees, gaining +2 Low-level Sea Demon Demon Souls, and the Sea Soul Staff gains a special skill: Banshee Demon Soul Fusion.

—Banshee Demon Soul Fusion: The Banshee of the Hell Race is a purely spiritual being. The Sea Soul Staff can absorb and transform the spirit of a dead Banshee into a Demon Soul Sea Demon. Some of the lowest-level Banshees lack independent consciousness and cannot transform into independent Sea Demon Demon Souls. The Sea Soul Staff can gain a new Sea Demon Demon Soul by fusing a large number of low-level Banshee souls.

Da Fei suddenly realized! Banshees truly aren't digested into ordinary Mana values! Fifty dead ordinary Banshees equal one dead Elite Cannon Emperor! I haven't waited in vain for over half a day!

Now, no more attachments in the competition server, I'm advancing!

## Chapter 369: Returning to Radiant City to Work on Urban Construction

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have successfully qualified for the preliminaries of the international competition. You have earned 31 Battle Network Points. You have also received an extra reward "Death Bell Tower Blueprint" for the competition. Achievement rewards and resource rewards obtained during the competition will soon be sent to the mailbox of your account in your region server, please wait patiently.

—Death Bell Tower Blueprint: A troop-production building that can create the special soldier, Stone-statue Ghost. The higher the building level, the stronger Stone-statue Ghosts it recruits. Their production does not require city population. Additionally, the bell tower provides the city with timing and early-warning functions.

—System Prompt: The next match will be held at 16:00 on March 5th, please pay attention to the match time. Thank you for participating in the competition, please rest well and maintain a good state for the competition...

Da Fei was suddenly stunned, blueprints! The blueprints for the Death Bell Tower! Damn, no wonder Asan went to such great lengths; turns out there's good loot after the match! This is a flying meat shield troop, super rare! Looking across all races, aside from level 7 troops like Green Dragon Angel Ghost Dragon, the only other low-level troops that hold this title are those disgusting level 3 Ghosts from the Undead Race! Even those level 2 Stone-statue Ghosts from the Mage Academy that fly slower than infantry don't count! Moreover, this kind of half-machine, half-spiritual body troop, which only requires materials and no population, fits perfectly with the current situation of my territory!

Haha! Wahahaha! Perfect timing, no more talk, I'll head back immediately to focus on building. I can hardly wait for my blueprint!

Da Fei immediately stood up and said to the two beauties in the private room with a smile, "Brother Fei's competition qualifying reward is here, Brother Fei has to go back to handle it. No need for you ladies to see me off!" There are so many players watching at the entrance, they all saw Brother Fei come in. If I go out with them, wouldn't that spark rumors? That would break so many young girls' hearts who have a secret crush on Brother Fei! Wahahaha!

Fleeting Blossom and Harem Beauty immediately understood and said with a smile, "Congratulations to Brother Fei for advancing to the next round, take your time Brother Fei. Leave a message if there's anything you need!"

Da Fei laughed heartily and said, "Sure!" Why not stay in touch by phone, right?

Once Da Fei got to the first floor of the tavern, he saw a Human Knight decked in shiny golden armor standing impressively right at the entrance. Damn, who the heck is this guy? Could you not block the way?

"Brother Fei has come down! Brother Fei has come down!" The players in the tavern began to shout one after another.

The golden-armored knight immediately came forward to greet, "Hello Brother Fei, I am Shenlan from Ninth Heaven. Thank you for your care in the recent match. Could I trouble Brother Fei to add me as a friend?"

—System Prompt: Player Shenlan has sent you a friend request, do you agree to accept?

The recent match? Have I seen you before? Da Fei immediately realized, I knew it, as an international celebrity like me, even the Dragon Slayer Star Goddess has established contact with me, and it's only just now that Ninth Heaven has made a move, which is abnormal! Of course, the main reason is that Brother Fei has been drifting overseas, not giving them a chance. As for now, well, nothing much to say, agreed!

Da Fei added him as a friend and said with a chuckle, "Not at all, this match got screwed by the Japanese, it was really a helpless situation."

A room full of players started cursing, "Damn those little Japanese! They're nothing good!"

Gosh! So many little brothers, this guy has a presence!

Shenlan laughed and said, "No matter what, we still managed to show the spirit of the China Region. In the end, it's all thanks to Brother Fei's impressive start. If Brother Fei needs any help in the future, just let me know. I also have some say in Ninth Heaven."

Da Fei laughed and said, "Right, right! Brother loves to make friends with experts. But I've got urgent matters now, shall we keep in touch by messages?"

Shenlan laughed and replied, "As expected of Brother Fei, take your time with your business!" After speaking, he stepped aside from the entrance, "Brother Fei, after you!"

The roomful of players shouted in unison, "Farewell to Brother Fei!"

Gosh! Even though Brother knows this kind of scene is rather common, why does my heart feel as sweet as if I've drunk honey, my whole body utterly relaxed? Could it be that the longer you stay in high positions the more you enjoy flattery? Haha, wahahaha!

.....

After teleporting along the way, Da Fei returned to the underground Radiant City and calmly awaited the distribution of the competition rewards. At this moment, a bunch of NPC Mages were encircling the Teleportation Array casting spells; needless to say, they were in the midst of upgrading it to level 2.

Seeing Da Fei appear, the advisors came forward and said, "Welcome, Lord. Is there anything you command?"

With no blueprint in hand, Da Fei chuckled, "I'm here to inspect. You carry on! Call me later when you need to."

"Understood, my Lord!"

Now it's time to focus on city construction. I have to plan properly. Da Fei opened the city panel to check the attributes.

The general attributes of Radiant City are as follows:

—Radiant City: Level 23 city. (Each construction or upgrade of a city building increases the city's level by 1. The higher the city level, the more conducive it is to attracting population and talent growth.)

—Radiation Territory Range: Entire territory of the Pool of Radiance.

—City Population: 3539 Flower Demons.

—City Military Strength: 200 Forest Goddesses, 50 Druids, 3539 Flower Demons, 44 Artillery Emperors, 116 Banshees...

—City Supplies: 1050 units of food.

—City Funds: Raising in progress.

—City Facilities: Level 10 city outer walls, level 10 fortress, level 1 Military Teleportation Array, level 1 Administration Office, level 1 Supply Warehouse. 124 Banshee Camps (outskirts constructions).

—City Under-Construction Facilities: Level 2 Military Teleportation Array.

—City Officials: 13 part-time consultants.

—City Sanitation Score: 69 points. (Environment is satisfactory but still facing pollution issues.)

—City Safety Score: 18 points. (Warning: A large number of enemies have been spotted in the outskirts of the territory, and the safety score is related to the military strength comparison between us and the enemy.)

—City Culture Score: 0 points. (Warning: Only by enhancing the cultural grade of the city can it attract more high-level talents to settle in.)

—City Prosperity Score: 0 points. (Warning: You need to open trade to increase the prosperity of your city. Low prosperity may cause your citizens to leave and the city to go bankrupt.)

The specific attributes of the buildings are as follows:

Level 10 City Outer Walls: Each section has 100,000 Durability, 500 Defense Value. Special Skill: Self-Healing.

Level 10 Fortress: Each section has 100,000 Durability, 500 Defense Value, Special Skill: Up to 100% increased production speed of city troops.

Here, let me introduce the city walls—an extremely crucial facility. Only the land surrounded by city walls can be called the inner city. Also, only constructions within the city are accounted for in the city level. Now, the city walls of Radiant City only encircle the little island and do not include the 124 scattered Banshee Camps in the Pool of Radiance, so the city level is 23, not 147. If Da Fei has enough money to build a Great Wall around the edges of the territory of Radiant City, namely the shore of the Pool of Radiance, then Radiant City would certainly be a large city with a level of 147.

When it comes to the money for building city walls, this is the first key issue facing Lord Players.

The construction of city walls is calculated in "segments," with 1 segment being 10 meters long. The cost for a level 1 city wall is 10 units of stone, 1000 Gold Coins, which refers to the price for building 10 meters of wall. The perimeter wall in the lake around the small island of Radiant City is approximately five hundred meters long and wide, totaling a circumference of 2000 meters, or 200 segments, with a total cost of 200,000 Gold Coins, 2000 units of stone.

This is just a level 1 wall, and its only purpose is to enclose land and signify the city level, hardly sufficient for defense. Thus, constant addition of materials and funds are required for upgrading. By the time it reaches level 10, it will cost at least one or two million Gold Coins, and then installing additional facilities like Arrow Towers on the walls is another expense. And if the city walls are destroyed, it's also measured in "segments," meaning a breach that is 10 meters wide.

Once the city has level 10 walls, you can then build fortresses. A fortress, in fact, is the inner wall that protects important constructions like City Hall and the Supply Warehouse. Fortresses can also be built directly with the outer walls, further enhancing and reinforcing them. The fortress of Radiant City was

built around the small island just like that. Its cost is the same as that of the walls, also requiring one or two million Gold Coins.

So, it's justified that Da Fei's city owes the Kingdom five million in funds. Fortunately, both the city walls and the fortress, the two most expensive facilities, are all sorted out, and the debt is paid off, making the remaining costs for troop buildings and other facilities mere trifles, amounting to just a few thousand Gold Coins.

However, regarding the sewers, it's very likely that they're also built by segment like the city walls, right? No worries, just another few million; Brother here has easily made countless millions from just this competition, so let's build! These kinds of barracks must be built early to reap the benefits, just like my Banshee Camp—if it hadn't been built early, where would I have gathered more than a hundred now? And more so as I'm full of anticipation for the Slime Monsters!

Just as Da Fei was intently planning, the long-awaited system notification arrived!

—System Prompt: Your mailbox has received competition rewards from the Battle Network System! As a player can only carry a maximum of 10 units of resources, you can claim your resource rewards at the bank or rented warehouse in the city you are in.

—System Prompt: As a Lord Player, you can directly receive the mail in your city's warehouse. Would you like to accept?

Hahaha! Here it is! Having my own city and warehouse, of course, I'll accept it for myself! This is the thrill I live for—accept!

—System Prompt: You have received competition reward of 2.44 million Gold Coins, and your city warehouse has received: Ancient Ironwood +100 units, Ancient Granite +100 units, Concentrated Mercury +80 units, Refined Crystal Gems +60 units, Refined Crystal +20 units, Refined Gold Iron Ore +70 units, Refined Crystal Sulfur +70 units, Mithril +60 units.

—System Prompt: You have received competition reward Skill Book +1, Life Book +3, Great Life Book +1, S-rank strategic treasure Nash's Tooth, Evasion Talisman, Necromancer Calamity. You have obtained blueprints for "Slime Monster Manufacturing Recipe," "Netherworld Treasury," "Sewers," "Death Bell Tower."

—System Prompt: You have earned the achievement "Insect Plague Antibody," increasing your troops' Stamina Limit by 5%, Life Limit by 5%, and reducing the effect of Insect Plague on your troops by 50%!

—System Prompt: You have earned the achievement "Corpse Poison Plague Antibody," your troops...

—System Prompt: You have earned the achievement "Corpse Poison Plague Antibody," your troops...

...

Looking at the flood of system prompts, Da Fei laughed heartily and with a grand gesture, "Gentlemen advisors, let's start construction!"

Chapter 370: High-End Buildings Require High-End Ores for Construction.

—Death Bell Tower: A building for producing special soldiers, Stone-statue Ghosts. The higher the building level, the more powerful the Stone-statue Ghosts recruited. The production of Stone-statue Ghosts does not require a city population. At the same time, the bell tower provides the city with timekeeping and early warning functions.

Building requirements: 20 units of stone, 20 units of wood, 10 units of iron ore, 5 Unit Crystals, 5 gemstones, 10000 Gold Coins. Can be upgraded multiple times.

(Note: Each set of blueprints corresponds to one building. When that building is destroyed or dismantled, the blueprints can be used to construct it again. Blueprints for buildings that have already been constructed cannot be traded or sold.)

—Sewer: A fortress facility capable of cultivating sewer troops and enhancing sewer troop production, greatly improving the city's sanitary environment. The larger the scale of the sewer, the more obvious its function in improving the city's sanitary environment.

Building requirements: 5 units of stone per section, 1000 Gold Coins.

—City Building Blueprint "Netherworld Treasury": A special warehouse building capable of absorbing wealth from the Netherworld, adding a certain amount of city funds daily, and randomly obtaining a small amount of resources each month. The amount of funds and resources increases with the City Level. Additionally, dangerous Undead from the Netherworld may appear around your city.

Building requirements: 20 units of stone, 20 units of wood, 10 units of iron ore, 10 Unit Crystals, 10 units of mercury, 10 units of sulfur, 10 gemstones, 100,000 Gold Coins.

...

When the advisors saw the three blueprints in Da Fei's hands, they couldn't help but exclaim in amazement, "As expected of Lord City Lord, these are extremely rare high-end buildings indeed, they will surely greatly enhance our city's attributes!"

The economic advisor was even more excited, "Lord! The Netherworld Treasury can actually provide city funds, which is equivalent to our city having an invisible trade route; it might just meet the prosperity index needed for city completion!"

Damn! Can't they see the dangers of this treasury? How can the advisors be as neglectful as me and turn a blind eye? Da Fei chuckled and asked, "So, can we build it now?"

The advisors excitedly said, "Yes! As long as Lord is willing to pay, there's no problem!"

Money, of course, not only refers to the material cost of the building itself but also the hefty labor cost, sometimes an outrageously hefty cost. Like that inexplicably expensive Banshee Camp labor cost. However, for the current Da Fei, money is no object!

Da Fei, with high spirits, grandly declared, "Then let's start building!"

It was at this moment the military advisor suddenly interjected, "Wait! Lord, I have a small suggestion. Did you add a lot of rich resources to the city warehouse?"

Da Fei raised an eyebrow, "Rich resources? What do you mean?"

Rich resources of course referred to the resource rewards from this competition. Rich resources are usually found only in the New World, where 1 unit of rich resource = 10 units in the Old World. But 10 units in the Old World do not equal 1 unit of rich resource; there is no reverse comparability. Some especially high-end Miracle Buildings (equivalent to Divine Artifacts in buildings, such as pyramids, etc.) or high-end potions must use rich resources to be created. Whereas the resources required by Da Fei's three blueprints are just ordinary resources.

The military advisor spoke in a serious tone, "Let's not discuss the sewer for now, the key point is that the Lord's Bell Tower Blueprints and Netherworld Treasury Blueprints are very rare. In my view, the functionality of this Netherworld Treasury is enough to be called a Miracle Building. To build it with ordinary resources seems a waste!"

Da Fei suddenly realized! I get it now! Isn't this just like when I cultivated the Anemone Barracks before? My Anemone Barracks were created with high-class rich resources! Speaking of which, buildings made from rich resources should definitely be stronger than those made from ordinary ore, right?

The economic advisor firmly shook their head, "I don't recommend it! Using rich resources to build would mean spending ten times the cost, but the gains are definitely not ten times more, not even just one time more. It might not even improve by 10%, the cost-performance ratio is just too low. Also, it might affect later upgrades, because after constructing with rich resources, the future upgrades will likely also require rich resources."

Da Fei's brows jumped again, spending ten times the cost to pursue a 10% improvement?

The military advisor urgently said: "You businessmen always think too highly of yourselves, it's so frustrating! Talking about competing in national power, economy, and population, when will it end? Throughout history, a nation's fate often rests on one crucial battle, and one crucial battle often comes down to the performance of elite forces in a small-scale combat! Even a mere 10% improvement could sway the course of a war!"

Huh? That makes sense!

The economic advisor shook his head and sternly said: "You military folks only know how critical the elite are, but don't realize that the formation of elites is a concentration of a nation's comprehensive strength. Throughout history, I've never heard of a weak country changing its destiny with just elite

troops—weak countries can't even cultivate elites! With Lord's current situation, we simply can't afford the waste in the early stages. Without early accumulation, there will be no elite troops later!"

Huh? That makes sense!

The military advisor snorted coldly: "Then just forget what I said, Lord, it's up to you."

The economic advisor indifferently said: "The Lord's talent is exceptional, not something we ordinary people can aspire to understand, it's up to the Lord to decide."

Damn it! A small issue causing discord between my civil and military officials? No, I must make the decision myself! Actually, is there anything to really consider? I never flinched when I used rich mines to build the Anemone Barracks, so what's there to agonize over if I continue doing the same? I'm not like Ma Yinglong, with market research teams for assessments and budgets. I play the game based on feelings and mood, and haven't I made it this far anyway?

Da Fei made up his mind: "I will use rich mines to build!"

The military advisor happily said: "Lord, are you wise?"

The economic advisor asked in surprise: "And what is the reason, Lord?"

Da Fei laughed loudly: "You're right, no early stage means no late stage. I believe stockpiling resources early on means missing precious development time in the early phase. Anyway, consider it an investment. I really want to see what kind of attributes the building made with rich mines will have. Maybe it will improve by more than 10%? Maybe it'll yield a highly valuable mutant troop? Maybe it can even reach the level of a Miracle Building? This uncertain anticipation gives me a huge motivation!"

The economic advisor bowed: "So that's how the Lord perceives the early and late stages. I've learned something new. I will fully assist in the construction and ensure the requisitioning of materials."

The military advisor laughed loudly: "Construction? You're not up for it, neither am I, but the engineering department is professional. Oh right, they've taken the Tree Spirit workers to cut wood in

the Nasir Ancient Tree Space. Let's call them all back to further expedite the construction. Rest assured, Lord, give us the blueprints, we guarantee to finish in the shortest possible time!"

I am wise, indeed! Da Fei laughed loudly: "Then I'll leave it all to you!"

—System Prompt: You have used the sewer blueprints, and your Radiant City has begun preparations for sewer construction. Construction period is unknown.

—System Prompt: You have used the Death Bell Tower blueprints...

—System Prompt: You have used the Netherworld Treasury blueprints...

Da Fei let out a long sigh of relief, having finally settled another major issue. At the same time, a huge wave of exhaustion swept over his entire body. Indeed, after staying up all night sailing for so many days, and hardly sleeping well this morning before the competition, even an iron man couldn't stand it!

Anyway, there's nothing to worry about now, time to sleep! Tomorrow, I still need to help my sister move.