

God level 391

Chapter 391: The Temporarily Promoted Primary Sentinel

Da Fei, feeling excited, walked up to the giant beast's skull, a buzzing sound echoed from within the skull: "Finally, a real hero has come. I can finally pass on my skills!"

—System Prompt: You have visited the Ancient Witch Spirit, whose wisdom can raise your profession level cap. If your profession level has reached Master Level, the Ancient Witch Spirit will temporarily raise it to Master-level for a month. Death will not affect the enlightenment state, please choose the profession you wish to enhance!

Da Fei's eyebrow twitched! Much like the effect from the last encounter with the Mermaid, it's a temporary boost for a month; in other words, this is helping one comprehend the pace of acquiring Master God-level, right? This trip wasn't in vain! And without a main hero profession, the sub-professions to enhance would be Navigator, Treasure Appraiser, Ranger, and Apprentice Reconnaissance Sentinel; which one to enhance?

Does it even need thought beyond a toe wiggle? As someone who has already mastered the knowledge of navigation and nurtured multiple Vice Heroes into Navigators, advancing to Master-level Navigator, then using the Odyssey's insights to advance to God-level Navigator is a smooth process - no need to level up this profession.

Treasure Appraiser, not significant, no need to enhance.

Ranger, already has that Resentful Spirit's quest clue, and each level grants a fixed Attack point, so no need to enhance.

So without a doubt, it's Apprentice Reconnaissance Sentinel!

This profession is intricately linked with my Flying Eagle and offers no advancement clues; it gives no attribute points in its apprentice state, and advancing would be a huge leap, so it's decided!

—System Prompt: You have chosen to enhance your profession "Apprentice Reconnaissance Sentinel"!

A burst of dazzling light erupted from the Ancient Witch Spirit, enveloping Da Fei completely!

—System Prompt: The Ancient Witch Spirit has temporarily raised your profession to Primary Reconnaissance Sentinel; you have gained a temporary 39-point Attack bonus to the Reconnaissance Sentinel profession and received the temporary professional skill "Stealth Master." The temporary effect lasts for one game month.

—Primary Reconnaissance Sentinel: Secondary hero profession, increases troop marching speed by 10%, increases hero's vision by 5%, effect stacks with logistics, reconnaissance skill. Sentinel's reconnaissance pet Attack +1, Defense +1, Damage +1, Life +5, Stamina +10.

—Stealth Master: Increases the hidden effect of your stealth skills with the enhancement of professional level; when your troops enter combat, there is a certain chance of not being exposed. Prerequisite for learning: Master-level Reconnaissance Skill, Stealth Skill.

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Da Fei was momentarily stunned! Temporary! It turned out to be temporary? Could it be that transitioning from apprentice to qualified is as difficult as a master advancing to grandmaster?

Indeed, the skull of the witch spirit again resounded with a buzzing voice: "Unfortunately, the profession you want to enhance is not something the average human can undertake regularly; I can only temporarily enhance you, but I believe with your prowess, you will surely find a way to formally advance..."

What the heck! I'm so busy now, where would I find the time to scour the world for advancement paths?

The witch spirit continued, "Hero, you are exceptional, and I have to tell you something. Many years ago, I was the guardian of this space, but the Multi-headed Snake Hydra invaded; it was a tough battle, and in the end, I was defeated, and Hydra was severely injured too. Over these years, Hydra has been entrenched at the roots of the World Tree, stealing nutrients to recover itself while trying to further evolve. We must remove this tumor before it fully recovers; its weakness is the ice-breathing head, which was the part critically wounded by my divine power and is the hardest to restore. Once the battle begins, you must first take out that head to make it bleed continuously. Farewell, hero..."

After speaking, the light from the skull fizzled out, and then the skull shattered into millions of star-like points and disappeared without a trace.

—System Prompt: You have obtained information on the Multi-headed Snake Hydra! Your Intelligence Analysis Skill has acquired weakness information on the Multi-headed Snake Hydra.

Da Fei stood numb for a while, suddenly realizing, "Did the elder ask me here just to have him tell me these things?"

Billbo seemed shocked by the scene just now and only came back to his senses after a while, nodding, "Perhaps, anyway, the witch spirit would not tell us, because we were not strong enough."

Wrong! Because I am a player, all game information is meant to serve players! I knew it, how could they provide a demigod as a quest monster casually? In the end, it had to be wounded with a weak point!

Da Fei laughed, "Okay, this day is almost over too, let's go back and see how everyone is preparing."

Billbo nodded spiritedly, "Yes, I am very eager to see how Lord City Lord deals with those crows!"

Da Fei laughed heartily, "If you see it, we must become friends, right?"

Billbo laughed, "Certainly!"

On the way back, the boys began singing cheerful songs again. Meanwhile, Da Fei started to thoroughly study this temporary "promotion" to a new profession.

Obviously, this was not a combat profession, yet it still gave me a 39-point attack bonus, pushing my attack from 60 gold up through the 100 mark; this was nearly a doubling of damage! The upgrade was tremendously huge! Moreover, this professional skill surprisingly increases the hidden effects of stealth skills, and for someone like me with a God-level Reconnaissance Skill, what does this imply? This is practically the Stealth Master!

In any case, we must seize this opportunity of temporary enhancement, by any means necessary, ensure formal transition within a month! Even the Ranger can be cross-racial; nothing is impossible with the Sentinel; where there's a first time, there's a second time.

Then Da Fei began checking the attributes of the Flying Eagle. At this point, a day had passed, and Little Fei's stamina was almost fully replenished; with the bonus from the Primary Sentinel, Little Fei's basic attributes were boosted again:

—Growing Reconnaissance Spirit Eagle (Little Fei): Tiny Spirit Elite Creature, Attack 9, Defense 2, Damage 3-4, Life 26, Mana +15, Command Value: 0, Attack Speed: 15, Stamina: 47/58. Special Skills: Flying Creature, God-level Reconnaissance Skill, Plane Surveillance, Long Sky Eagle Strike, Glide.

At this moment, Little Fei's attributes were incomparable to before, but the key was still the stamina! 58 basic stamina, coupled with my 15% plague achievement stamina bonus, that was 66, plus a 50% reduced stamina consumption in glide state, it already surely reached the stamina level of human units. In any case, deal with the crows first, then the crocodiles, and finally take a look at whether the Eight-Headed Snake is indeed a scrawny camel that is bigger than a horse.

In the midst of singing, Da Fei returned to the village.

The elder and Tai Da were already at the dock to greet them, the elder smilingly asked, "Lord City Lord, what are the gains?"

Da Fei burst into laughter, "The gains are substantial, thanks to the elder's guidance; I also feel a strong sense of urgency, can we set off now?"

The elder smiled, "Worthy of Lord City Lord, we are already prepared and waiting for you."

Tai Da also hurriedly stated, "Lord City Lord, shall our logging team set out for support as well?"

Da Fei nodded, "It's a must!"

Now, Da Fei's team once again took the raft back to the island where the passageway was located; dozens of rafts and hundreds of Hobbits were already assembled, carrying baskets, and waiting in anticipation.

The elder chuckled, "It's the time when the mercury vapor in the Black Forest subsides; let's set off, Lord City Lord, please!"

Da Fei smiled, "Alright!"

Da Fei walked at the forefront of the troop with head held high, imagining the Hobbits' shocked expressions upon seeing the mountain of crow corpses. Witnessing such a mighty force, you'd better not waste my time and just kneel. Vigilance and suspicion are futile.

With a change of scene, Da Fei was back at the Black Forest's teleportation gate, and at that moment, a cacophony of noisy cries resounded in his ears, and the entire mini-map on the radar turned into a red cloud!

Da Fei was stunned on the spot! This can't be right! Didn't I completely clear this area yesterday? Could it be the system refreshing the monsters? However, game rules dictate an outdoor map monster and resource refresh once every game week, refreshing this place after just one game day seems excessively fast!

At this time, Elder Tai Da also teleported over, and was also dumbstruck.

I'm not a liar! Da Fei urgently exclaimed, "I really killed them all yesterday!"

The elder solemnly nodded, "I know! If not completely wiped out, sir and his logging team couldn't possibly reach here unscathed!"

Da Fei let out a big sigh of relief, truly an understanding elder! If the NPCs said so, it meant this wasn't a system refresh but a scenario event!

The elder continued in a deep voice, "I have always suspected these crows are creations of an Evil Wizard, and judging from now, these crows can even resurrect during the mercury vapor period, something beyond the regular wizard capabilities."

Da Fei gritted his teeth, "In that case, we should not let them encounter the mercury vapor again; I will kill them all once more, and everyone immediately transport the corpses out!"

The elder immediately responded, "Alright!"

Just right, letting Little Fei gain more experience; I was just feeling there weren't enough crows to kill here!

Now, Little Fei soared into the sky again, and under Da Fei's skillful maneuvering, began circling the field once more to gather the crows. The Hobbits did not shrink back into the spatial passage, instead, they raised fishing nets to cover the crowd. Seems these Hobbits were not completely defenseless against these crows. Da Fei even more felt this race was worth befriending.

The massacre commenced! Once more, Little Fei transformed into a bloody phantom, weaving through the clouds of crows, as countless crows fell like black raindrops. This time, Little Fei's attack was enhanced by 39 points, massively improving the efficiency of clearing the field. In no time, the elder watched on with trepidation, and Billbo couldn't help but exclaim with surprise!

This was precisely the effect I wanted!

Soon, the crow swarm surrounding the entrance to the spatial passage was cleared away, Da Fei began delving into the forest to continue the sweep, the Hobbits busied themselves immediately, while Tai Da led the logging team to start clearing the path, rendering the Black Forest more bustling and lively than ever before.

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Now, the Black Forest is bustling with activity. Da Fei also ventured deeper into the forest away from the carpet-style monster clearing by the masses. At this moment, the sentinel skill "Stealth Master" started to show its amazing effectiveness—Little Fei was fighting, while Da Fei who also entered the battle was still in Stealth State, and the crows finally stopped pecking at the Da Fei beneath the trees!

This completely subverts the rules of stealth, meaning that the sentinel class has finally become the invisible rogue that everyone in traditional games resents! Does this mean I can stealth through other unknown spaces by myself?

Indeed, technology changes tactics! Fine, first, I'll not be in a hurry to tough it out with the Eight-Headed Snake; once the situation here is handled and wrapped up, I'll stealth through to scout the path first.

With a clear plan in mind, Da Fei's confidence soared, and the process of killing crows became satisfactorily thrilling. Now, the only concern is the total BOSS behind these crows. Will the large scale of the forest draw out the BOSS? But the elder and his entire tribe are mobilized, so even if the BOSS appears, we wouldn't be utterly powerless, right? If the BOSS shows up, it would be better to take it down with the help of the Hobbits rather than struggling alone.

Next are the Tree Spirits left at the entrance. I wonder how they've fared after a day? Anyway, first clear the area and rendezvous, the forces left in the wilderness must maintain contact from time to time, or else they could become wild monsters or run away. And the timber must be moved sooner rather than later, as the game might refresh and wipe them out after a week of game time.

Time passed by, the Hobbits with baskets kept moving in and out through the Space Gate, and the sound of the logging team cutting trees resonated throughout the forest. The BOSS never appeared, and Da Fei returned to where the Tree Spirits were stationed.

A day has passed, and these Tree Spirits seem to have a faint silver coating, shining with a metallic luster from afar. Da Fei couldn't wait to check their attributes.

Their life force was damaged, but it was unclear whether it was corroded by mercury or they hadn't recovered from yesterday's battle with the pursuing Spider Demons. Their Stamina was also insufficient, and it was again unclear whether it was due to mercury or lost during the overloaded fighting from yesterday. Then their Attack and Defense were normal, and there was no change in damage.

In any case, they've survived! Both Tai Da and the elder were right; Tree Spirits are classified as Spiritual Creatures, much more resistant to mercury and poison than creatures of flesh and blood. Da Fei breathed a sigh of relief and thought, following this trend, they could last a few more days. Also, an idea sparked — these Tree Spirits are tough and capable; could they be the perfect workers for the Mercury Mine?

Speaking of which, the workers of the Mercury Mine are the highest and lowest paid in the game. In the Light Camp, they are the highest paid — no one wants to do such deadly and arduous labor, and if you hire puppet workers from the Mage Academy, the cost is equally high. In the Dark Camp, they are the lowest paid since the miners are Skeleton Zombie workers. From this perspective, the Dark Camp indeed has a huge advantage in production.

In any case, although there might be a BOSS in Mercury Lake, it's still too early to think about that, but as a Lord, I must have strategic foresight and plans, wahahaha!

Soon after, a flash of white light in the sky!

— System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Reconnaissance Spirit Eagle Little Fei has grown in battle! Attack+1, Defense+1, Life+3, Stamina+5. A new special skill has been comprehended: Dive.

— Dive: The Reconnaissance Spirit Eagle can perform a Dive Attack from high altitude towards a target on the ground, causing 2 to 3 times the normal damage, while also consuming 30% of Stamina.

Little Fei finally leveled up! As expected, the further we go, the less significant the crows' experience seems! And this time, the upgrade gained more attributes than the previous ones, with Little Fei growing in size again.

Dive, the level 4 humans' Griffin's terrifying finisher skill! My Little Fei has finally learned it. With this skill, the Reconnaissance Eagle can snipe at weak enemies from a distance without the Hero Attributes bonus! Of course, a 30% Stamina cost doesn't justify using it on any random Agou or Amao.

In summary, Little Fei has learned everything an eagle should, so I guess that's graduation? The next step is to raise it to adulthood. There's nothing much to say, now it's at full Stamina, so kill! Keep on killing for me!

Time flies in the midst of slaughter, the crows are decimated wave after wave, but it's not enough to let Little Fei level up again, and finally, Little Fei is exhausted and disappears back into the Blood Eagle Flute. Although they didn't wipe them all out, the number of crows is already beyond the Hobbits' capacity to clear. They haven't even finished clearing the crows from the previous few forests, so it's time to stop.

Da Fei returned to the Space Gate and saw the busy commanding elder.

The elder exclaimed, "Lord, you really have opened my eyes. Although I have seen some Sentinel Heroes in my youth, I have never seen anyone use a Flying Eagle with such, such splendor!"

Oh yeah! I love to hear that, my 200 health points of parenting costs were not wasted! Da Fei laughed heartily, "My Flying Eagle is the elite of the elite, ordinary people can't compare to me, wahahaha!"

The elder laughed, "Lord, our rafts are almost full, and I believe so many crows should be enough to feed that giant crocodile."

Da Fei nodded, "Then let's take action!"

Tai Da stepped forward, "My Lord, there's still some time left, I will continue to log. I will return before the mercury steam arises."

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Da Fei nodded, "Yeah, be sure to keep track of time to ensure safety."

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Now, Da Fei and the elder's group returned to the swamp, where dozens of rafts around the small island were piled high with crows, dark as mountains. With the elder's call, all the rafts began moving at once; the spectacle was indeed impressive!

Unfortunately, these rafts were too rudimentary, uncertain if they could even meet the ten single-standard of the smallest cargo ship. In short, the production capacity of these Hobbits urgently needed improvement.

Da Fei suddenly noticed the absence of the young boy and asked, "Where's Billbo?"

The elder laughed, "Of course, he went ahead to distract and lure away the giant crocodile. Otherwise, if such a large group of us encountered the crocodile head-on, there'd be no escape."

Da Fei couldn't help but nod in praise, "Great tactic, elder!" It seemed that the weaker-looking races were more cautious and better at utilizing tactics in battle; Da Fei's impression of the Harter people improved even further.

Finally, the fleet arrived at a Lake Island piled high with beast bones. The elder said in a deep voice, "This is where the giant crocodile rests. Everyone, land quickly!"

In no time, dozens of rafts docked, and a crowd of Hobbits hurriedly transported the bodies of crows onto the island, stacking them into a massive black Corpse Mountain.

While busy, a plume of black smoke rose from the distant swamp. The elder exclaimed, "Hurry! Move quickly!"

After a while, two plumes of black smoke appeared from the swamp. The elder exclaimed, "The giant crocodile is coming back, evacuate immediately! Throw away the crows that haven't been moved onto the island!"

In an instant, the Hobbits panicked, boarded the rafts, and frantically began rowing to escape. The scene left Da Fei repeatedly astonished! Though these Hobbits were underprivileged, they had perfected the ancient methods of wartime communication to the extreme!

The elder said to Da Fei, "Lord, let's observe from afar; this giant crocodile is very cunning. If it discovers people nearby, unexpected situations could arise."

Da Fei nodded, "Following the elder's arrangement!"

The elder lifted a long stick tied with a strange fishbone from the raft and inserted it deeply into the lake bottom, then followed the main raft fleet far away from Lake Island until Da Fei's God-level Reconnaissance Skill could no longer see Lake Island.

This made Da Fei feel uneasy; to distance themselves this far? To what exaggerated extent was this crocodile's vigilance range? Did it mean that uninformed people approaching would find themselves in a

dead-end before they even realized the danger? So how did Billbo manage to lure and distract it with such a slow raft? Was it the Minstrel's skill?

While Da Fei remained stunned, the elder took out an old, crumbly glass ball that displayed the scene on Lake Island. The viewpoint was exactly where the stick had been inserted moments ago. These Hobbits had some high-tech too?

Now, the elder and Da Fei concentrated on watching the glass ball. Soon, the ball showed a large wave speeding towards them; it was the giant crocodile! Its size was truly beyond Da Fei's imagination, like a yacht! Compared to it, the ones encountered on Pirate Island were mere infants!

Da Fei stood there stunned! With such a large build, never mind his Crossbow Cannon, even transporting the Flying here with a dozen Crossbow Cannons wouldn't guarantee bringing it down! No wonder the old man said feeding it with the village's food supply was impossible; its appetite was beyond imagination!

However, setting everything else aside, I prepared a new dish: corpse-transformed mercury crows. If it doesn't stuff you to death, it'll poison you. I refuse to believe you can be immune to mercury's poison. The toxic mechanism of mercury, a pure metal, differs from conventional toxins and doesn't even qualify as a toxin, falling outside the resistance range of "Poison Resistance" attributes.

Now, the giant crocodile approached the shore with the impact of a landing ship. The crowd of corpse crows on the island caught its attention; it sniffed the crow mountain in front of it, and the elder's thin, dry hand holding the glass ball couldn't help but tremble slightly.

Yet, after a while, the giant crocodile suddenly whipped its tail, scattering the crow mountain in all directions!

It wasn't eating!

In that instant, Da Fei and the elder were dumbfounded!

Good grief! Could it be the game doesn't set it up for crocodiles to eat corpse crows? But what did scattering the crow mountain mean? It indicated it wasn't entirely ignoring it, either?

The elder's voice trembled slightly, "Lord..."

Da Fei sighed, "Sorry, elder, I'm powerless. However, I still hope we can maintain our relationship through this cooperative operation. We have time and can still accumulate strength..."

The elder laughed heartily, "Actually, this giant crocodile isn't an ordinary beast either. Its power will soon reach the demigod level, and its intelligence is beyond imagination. We never had confidence in defeating it. We've already prepared to abandon the fishing grounds and relocate deeper into the swamp. Your arrival gave me a glimmer of hope. If you can defeat this demigod-level crocodile, then defeating the Hydra is entirely possible. Perhaps I overthought."

I know you're testing my abilities! Da Fei chuckled bitterly, "There are so many demigods here..."

The elder solemnly said, "Challenging a demigod is indeed unrealistic. While this operation failed, I'm truly impressed with your strategy. Your intentions have been understood. Let's continue to cooperate amicably. I believe you'll find a path and lead us Hobbits out of this predicament!"

—System Prompt: Your reputation among the Hobbits has become "Friendly"!

At that moment, all the red names had turned green!

Da Fei was slightly stunned, then laughed heartily, "Elder, I admire and am deeply moved by your judgment not based on success or failure. We're bonded in adversity. This kind of friendship is the most sincere and solid. I want to assign my advisor, Tai Da, to your village as a diplomatic ambassador, to carry out strategic cooperation thoroughly. What does the elder think?"

The elder laughed, "The honor is mine!"

Alright! Finally settled a big matter! With the Hobbits willing to cooperate, once I deploy the army, eliminating the giant crocodile or Eight-Headed Snake is just around the corner!

Just then, there was a new development on the elder's glass ball; a large wave of creatures was closing in on Lake Island!

The elder suddenly froze, "These are scavenger giant lizards!"

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched, old partners?

The elder exclaimed in surprise, "These giant lizards dare to intrude into the giant crocodile's territory!?"

Da Fei had a sudden realization, then laughed heartily, "I understand now, the giant crocodile might be smart and not eat, but it doesn't mean other creatures are equally wise and won't eat. This will be interesting to watch!"

Chapter 394: Battle of the Strong in the Swamp

In the marshland, no food could be wasted. Scraps ignored by the rulers at the top of the food chain naturally attracted the attention of foragers at the bottom. A mountain of abundant food was enough to incite a challenge to the rulers' authority from the lower ranks.

Now, dozens upon hundreds of giant lizards in the marsh were advancing towards the lake island where the giant crocodile resided. Their intrusive behavior enraged the giant crocodile, which transformed into a massive wave, roaring as it charged towards the intruders. The leading giant lizards hurriedly turned tail and fled, while the others seized the opportunity to accelerate towards the lake island!

In the water, the speed of the giant lizards was not much slower than that of the giant crocodile. Even though the crocodile's speed was astounding, it was not enough to easily hunt down a single giant lizard. The escaping lizards distracted the crocodile, allowing more lizards to invade its territory, where they ravenously devoured the raven corpses floating on the water's surface.

The giant crocodile grew even more furious, abandoning its chase of the fleeing lizards to drive out the invading lizards, creating a chaotic melee! Finally, one unfortunate lizard, unable to escape in time, met a gruesome fate in the crocodile's jaws, severed in two, and the spurting blood immediately dyed a large area of the lake red!

Seeing this, Da Fei excitedly clenched his fist, "It worked!"

The elder couldn't help but feel encouraged, saying, "I see now. Although the giant crocodile doesn't eat ravens, the ravens do attract giant lizards, which in turn are the real food for the crocodile! As long as it kills enough giant lizards, it can be completely satisfied!"

Da Fei chuckled, "Exactly! Back on Pirate Island, I used the same method to kill all the crocodiles. When it comes down to it, we are the ultimate hunters in the marshlands!"

The elder couldn't help but praise, "Lord, your plan is exceptionally thorough!"

Hahaha! Ultimately, the success on Pirate Island demonstrated that the game's biological chain followed this kind of logic. Even though an outlier like a choosy eater of a giant crocodile appeared, the overall pattern wasn't broken and could still succeed!

At this moment, the eviction was still ongoing. The death of comrades wouldn't deter the giant lizards; their corpses became even greater temptations! Consequently, another giant lizard met its demise in the crocodile's maw! For the lizards, this meant even more food!

And then, as the massive lizard pack that had been harassing like a wolf pack suddenly withdrew completely, a gray giant lizard appeared, encircled by a gray aura!

Da Fei couldn't help but be startled, "What is that?"

The elder, gripping his glass orb tightly, couldn't help but tremble, "My goodness! It's the Petrified Giant Lizard King, the gray aura surrounding it is the Petrification Aura. Any weak creature that gets too close to it will be instantly petrified! Its territory is marked in red on my map, I didn't expect it to come rushing over!"

Da Fei was taken aback! A Petrified Giant Lizard! The famous neutral anti-heaven creature in the marsh! It, along with the Death Barbaric Bull that makes anything it glares at drop dead, were known as the anti-heaven duo in the marsh! If during open beta, Elf Clan players were all hoarding and trading level 3 troops Jungle Hunters, then high-end players of the Dark Alliance loved to bathe in the swamp, amassing level 5 standard Petrified Giant Lizards and level 6 standard Death Barbaric Bulls! The special skills of these two troop types allowed players to create miracles, beating the odds with weaker forces!

And this Petrified Giant Lizard was even of boss level. Its surrounding petrification aura was unheard of, essentially turning a probability-based petrification attack effect into a continuous radiation effect. According to what the elder said, was it a 100% probability?

Da Fei exclaimed, "Are all red-area monsters of this caliber? Is it a demigod?"

The elder shook his head in horror, "Unclear of its level, but its petrification skill is extremely powerful. I find it hard to imagine such an entity would cross borders to challenge the soon-to-be demigod-level giant crocodile over something as trivial as food!"

Da Fei's brow twitched, "Could it be that these raven corpses ignored by the giant crocodile are precisely the delicacies needed by the Petrified Giant Lizard?"

The elder said solemnly, "It's possible! These raven corpses are filled with a mysterious spiritual energy, which might be exactly the nourishment the Petrified Giant Lizard desperately needs!"

Da Fei nodded and gritted his teeth, "Well, then. Let them fight each other to a standstill!"

The elder immediately agreed, "Hopefully, they'll both fight to their deaths!"

The sudden appearance of the Petrified Giant Lizard calmed the furious giant crocodile. The difference in size was like a medium ship faced with a small boat, but many times size couldn't dictate the outcome. What would happen when a pure brawler demigod faces the special-skilled Petrified Giant Lizard King?

After a few seconds of confrontation, the giant crocodile took the initiative to attack. As it advanced, the waves it caused were enough to engulf the Lizard King!

Closer, the giant crocodile opened its steel-trap-like bloody maw, and at that moment, a thick white smoke suddenly spewed from the Lizard King's mouth, instantly turning the giant crocodile's head completely white and slowing its movements!

Petrification! But not completely!

Taking advantage of the temporary slowness of the giant crocodile, the Lizard King suddenly accelerated, dodging the crocodile and heading straight towards "Raven Mountain" on the island. The giant crocodile quickly shook off its whitened state and began to turn and chase frantically, but it couldn't catch up! Although the giant crocodile wasn't petrified, the slowing effect tangibly worked upon it. Thus, the Lizard King focused only on opening its mouth wide, swallowing the ravens floating on the water and piled on the island, while the giant crocodile's chase was in vain. Moreover, the Lizard King would move in an S-pattern, leading the crocodile in dizzying circles!

Seeing this, the elder couldn't help but voice his disappointment, "Looks like hoping for them to destroy each other was unrealistic!"

Da Fei, whose plan had fallen apart, also sighed, "Why are there so many powerful beings here?"

The elder shook his head and sighed, "The Eclipse Battle a thousand years ago affected the World Tree's foundation, creating leaks in the World Tree's Space. At the same time, the divine power nutrients of the tree roots in this space began to seep out. Over these thousand years, we've witnessed these ordinary marsh creatures grow stronger generation after generation, finally evolving into the powerful beings we encounter today. Of course, considering the millennia-dormant Eight-Headed Snake, the nutrient seepage might have started even earlier, and the Eclipse Battle only exacerbated it."

Da Fei couldn't help but sigh inwardly. It seemed the World Tree's waters were really deep. The epic quests concerning the World Tree might sincerely not be something he could complete in one go at present. The game had only been open for a little over a month. If he rushed too much, he'd end up with nothing. Slow and steady wins the race. He didn't believe the demons would immediately destroy the World Tree; players had to have some time to play.

In any case, having secured friendly cooperation with the Hobbits was a major success. Once he brought over the Tree Spirits from the Black Forest, he'd scout out the next space on his own in stealth mode. If it didn't work, he'd die and return to have the kingdom's Chief of Staff locate this unknown space.

While pondering this, the sky suddenly reverberated with a dense buzzing sound.

"Dragonflies!" The elder's expression changed, urgently calling out, "Everyone, jump into the water!"

In no time, all the Hobbits hurriedly jumped into the water, cautiously watching with only half of their heads visible.

Da Fei's brow twitched. Dragonflies! Another marsh dominant species, a giant insect half as long as a human, resembling both flies and dragonflies, a level 3 neutral flying troop! Once targeted by them, one would be poisoned, weak, and powerless.

In other words, this battle over food wasn't just between the giant crocodile and the lizards. Now dragonflies had arrived—what else would come next? If the chaotic situation continued to escalate, what would happen?

At that moment, Da Fei seemed to see an opportunity! No, an even crazier idea suddenly emerged in Da Fei's mind—could he possibly take advantage of this chaotic battle to wipe out the marsh's powerful creatures in one fell swoop? Even if not completely wiped out, eliminating a few segments would be possible! So, what did he need to do?

Seize the opportunity, never miss it again! Da Fei was determined and spoke seriously to the elder, "Elder, I want to approach the battlefield alone, could you find me a shallow water area? Somewhere at least where I can stand in the water?"

The elder was shocked, "Lord, what are you planning to do?"

Da Fei laughed, "I still have a crossbow cannon with me. I want to quietly set it up in the water near the battlefield, then take the opportunity to shoot and kill one or two to create chaos. If possible, I'll target any wounded strong figures!"

Da Fei had engaged in such activity around the Demon Governor at the Demon Factory before. Now, with the Temporary Sentry skill of a Master of Stealth and the natural cover of the water, he felt even bolder! Not to mention that the Temporary Sentry added 39 attribute points, further enhancing the power of the crossbow cannon!

The elder was thoroughly shaken, "But doing so would put you, Lord, in enormous danger!"

Da Fei replied, "That's something I need to settle first. If I'm not around, Mr. Tai Da will be entrusted to your care. I've only brought a logging team this time, and their mission is to prevent demons from plundering the wealth of our World Tree Space. So we must cut down the Black Forest's timber, as that area will become our battleground against the demons in the future and must be cleared. However, considering it's also the Hobbits' homeland, I'll offer to purchase it—at the kingdom's timber price. What do you think, elder?"

"Buy?" Upon hearing about a transaction, the elder seemed to immediately disregard Da Fei's safety, eagerly asking, "You mean, the entire forest?"

Indeed, Tai Da had guessed correctly. This fellow was not easy to deal with, so taking the initiative to propose buying the land showed sincerity and generosity—no, grandeur!

Da Fei nodded, "The whole forest. But could it be cheaper? Maybe a 30% discount or something because the wood here is quite decayed!"

The elder immediately raised five fingers, his whiskers quivering as he spoke passionately, "50% off! Although it seems quite decayed, it's quite solid. Our rafts and villages are made from those woods, unexpectedly sturdy and waterproof, who use them know. A hundred years ago, timber prices were 200 gold coins per unit! So let's use the rates from a thousand years ago, 100 gold with a 50% discount. I believe a thousand years later, the forest will be denser, with more timber, more gold mines, and definitely worth more than this price. I'm giving you a friendship price, plus we can also help with the logging..."

Da Fei was stunned! What the heck, they actually used his precious Mercury Wood to make rafts and repair their ramshackle village? Tear it down! Take it all down!

Chapter 395: God-level Last Hitting

The greater the advantage, the more you should act like you've taken a loss and haggle with the other party. This way, the buyer is happy, and the seller is happily fooled. Of course, Da Fei understood this principle. However, haggling, especially with acquaintances, was not Da Fei's strong suit; the window of opportunity was fleeting. It was better to let the NPC Tai Da handle such matters. With things settled, it was time to get moving.

The elder's raft transported Da Fei to the edge of the fierce battlefield, near a submerged bush, and advised, "Lord, take care!"

"Take care, elder."

At this moment, Da Fei activated his Stealth and submerged himself in chest-deep water, observing the entire battlefield through the bushes. He had to admit, this position was truly excellent! With water and bushes, plus the support of his God-level Reconnaissance Technique and Stealth Master as a Sentry skill, he could maximize the effect of hiding and sniping!

No time to lose, quickly assemble the crossbow cannon. This was Da Fei's first time assembling a crossbow cannon underwater, and the sensation was indeed quite novel.

At this time, the chase between the giant crocodile and the King Giant Lizard continued. Suddenly, a swarm of dragonflies appeared, descending on the scattered crows on the lake's surface like vultures and the corpses of the giant lizards killed by the giant crocodile. The outlying giant lizards were unwilling to let their food be snatched, pounced on the dragonfly swarm, and for a moment, chaos erupted on the lake surface.

But it wasn't chaotic enough! Although there were four factions vying for supremacy, it was all a game of cat and mouse, with little actual bloodshed. There hadn't been a real fight yet, so Da Fei eagerly awaited the entry of a stronger contestant.

The swamp teeming with strong creatures, as the elder had mentioned, didn't keep Da Fei waiting long. When his crossbow cannon was halfway assembled, a new force appeared! A water monster, cloaked in green mist and resembling a Plesiosaur, joined the fray. Its appearance caused the giant lizards to part and make way, proving it was also a Boss-level entity. However, it clearly did not possess the King Giant Lizard's overwhelming power and dared not openly provoke the giant crocodile, only silently skirting the battlefield, seemingly targeting a giant lizard carcass floating on the water!

Damn! So cowardly and without presence! Can't there be something more explosive? Watching as the black mass of crows was gradually devoured by various factions, Da Fei couldn't stay calm! If, by the time his crossbow cannon was assembled, everyone had eaten their fill and dispersed, what was he even doing?

While agitated, Da Fei's screen suddenly flashed red; his radar was also blinking red. A group of unidentified creatures appeared nearby and was moving toward his position!

—System Prompt: Reconnaissance Skill Warning! A large number of strong creatures have appeared around you. Please be prepared for alert!

Da Fei nearly pissed himself! Damn it, they were practically under his nose, and now he's supposed to be on alert? His God-level Reconnaissance Technique became aware only when it was already late. What kind of mysterious entities were these? Was he, the hunter, going to become the prey? What to do now? In the water, running was certainly not an option. He could only hope his God-level Stealth Master would get him through this crisis!

Da Fei clutched a branch tightly, silently praying in his heart, "You don't see me! You don't see me!! You don't see me!!!"

Closer! They were a group of multi-headed snakes about the size of ordinary crocodiles, specifically, Three-headed Snakes, the lowest-tier form of the Eight-headed Snake Hydra species! Yet, even in their lowest form, they were at the top of the food chain for carnivorous creatures! No wonder their underwater stealth made it hard for Da Fei to detect them in time! If they entered the fray, the battlefield situation would inevitably change, but only if Da Fei survived!

Perhaps Da Fei's Stealth Master was indeed extraordinary, or maybe the battlefield's bloody aura masked his presence. Either way, these multi-headed snakes quietly drifted like driftwood from the bushes beside Da Fei, moving towards the battlefield!

Da Fei finally let out a long breath! Just then, the system's bell chimed!

—System Prompt: You successfully evaded the search of the swamp predators. You obtained the "Stealth Master" skill information!

—System Prompt: You obtained the "Basic Reconnaissance Sentinel" profession information!

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat! He acquired skill information! Acquired profession information!

How similar was this to when he comprehended the Master-level God-level Reconnaissance Technique back in the day?

In that instant, Da Fei was enlightened! Brother understood! This was not only a method to first comprehend Master-level sub-skills and then reverse-comprehend Master-level skills but also a way to temporarily reach Master-level, thoughtfully understand its feeling, and eventually fully comprehend it!

This was a combination of two ways to comprehend Master-level skills! In other words, if Da Fei officially comprehended the Stealth Master during his time as a Temporary Sentry, his Sentinel profession would officially upgrade! And wasn't the method to comprehend Stealth Master laid before him? Of course, it was being under the nose of a strong entity, possibly one with advanced reconnaissance or other hunting techniques! As long as he wasn't discovered, he'd obtain information! Weak entities like crows wouldn't work!

Haha! Hahaha! So it was! Indeed! Ultimately, mastering skills wasn't more than understanding one aspect deeply and applying it everywhere! Good! If Brother could survive this chaotic skirmish, he'd certainly face the Hydra guarding the entrance. As long as Brother slipped by under its nose, he'd be promoted, right? That's a demigod!

Now, Da Fei was energized, assembling the crossbow cannon with newfound vigor.

And those Three-headed Snakes did not disappoint Da Fei. After a brief lurking, countless water spurts erupted from the surface. Dozens of giant lizards and dragonflies fighting on the water became prey to these Three-headed Snakes. Instantly, the lake surface frothed with blood waves, dyes of red and green blood staining a vast portion of the lake!

Yes! This was the bloodletting scene he wanted! The spectacle he needed! Da Fei couldn't help but shout in approval!

As expected, when large amounts of blood appeared, the swamp finally ceased its tranquility. More and more giant lizards and dragonflies began gathering. These carrion creatures, the most sensitive in smell and the quickest in speed, dominated the battlefield, completely disregarding the giant crocodile's majesty. Meanwhile, Da Fei had already assembled his crossbow cannon and initially planned to create a few more corpses to further stir chaos—however, facing such a vast battlefield, he dared not act rashly!

Not for anything else, but because every now and then, two or three dragonflies would fly over his head. If he attacked now, who knows what might happen? Da Fei felt an overwhelming sense of helplessness as the situation slipped from his control! What to do? Stay in spectator mode, hoping they'd fight to the

point of mutual destruction. However, that was likely just amongst the lackeys. The Bosses were still cautiously preserving their strength, with no direct clashes.

Time ticked by, and Da Fei grew more impatient. Just then, black smoke rose from the direction of Habbit Village!

Da Fei couldn't help but be taken aback. What did it mean? At this moment, the sky in the Swamp Space seemed gloomier. Could it be? When Da Fei checked the time, it turned out another day had passed! That smoke was a time signal? Did it mean the Black Forest was about to emit another silver steam? How was Tai Da's lumber progress today?

And just then, something changed on the battlefield. The remaining few crows floating on the lake and scattered around Lake Island suddenly turned into streams of black smoke and rose toward the spatial portal. Simultaneously, many swamp creatures on the battlefield erupted in painful screams, especially the King Giant Lizard's shriek, which was even more poignant!

Da Fei was suddenly overjoyed; those crows were truly inedible!

Indeed, the King Giant Lizard's originally gray body erupted with black light. Black smoke burst from its mouth and eyes, and its movements momentarily slowed as it cried out in pain—this was the moment the giant crocodile, toyed with for nearly half a day, had been waiting for!

The steel gate-like blood-stained jaws clamped down with a thunderous crash!

—Roar!!! The King Giant Lizard cried in agony as its tail and rear were torn off by the giant crocodile's incredible strength! At the brink of life and death, the King Giant Lizard seemed to unleash unprecedented power. The black light radiating from its body exploded—at that instant, the giant crocodile's titanic, ship-sized body turned into a massive black stone sculpture!

Petrification successful!!! This black power was clearly much stronger than when it was merely wandering around the giant crocodile. It was definitely the power gained from devouring a large number of crows!

Now, the King Giant Lizard, missing its tail and rear, with blood flowing like a river, struggled and screamed to escape. Its formidable Petrification Aura was gone. And its escape path just happened to be within the range of Da Fei's crossbow cannon!

At that moment, Da Fei's breathing paused! Wasn't this the legendary scenario where two God-level Bosses fought to exhaustion, and then the player swoops in for the kill at the climax? This was the "God-level final blow"! Brother had been hiding on this battlefield all day, dreaming of this moment! There was only one chance to strike. If not now, when?

In that instant, Da Fei resolutely activated the "Lucky Hand"! A rainbow light soared into the air! Fire!

—Boom! The first Rainbow Arrow burst from the water, whistling through the air! Bang! Blood spurted! Deflected damage "-567"!

Da Fei was startled! Such low damage! Deflected damage? Shooting his crossbow cannon from underwater resulted in deflected damage? Indeed, at this point, Da Fei realized how unfavorable it was to fire underwater!

—Boom! The second Rainbow Arrow pierced the water! Bang! Flesh flew! Deflected damage "-531"!

Da Fei's heart leaped to his throat! How much health did this Boss have left?

—Boom! The third Rainbow Arrow, carrying Da Fei's last hope, whizzed out—splash!!! Water splashed everywhere! Missed!!!

Missed!!!

At that moment, Da Fei felt as though the entire world started spinning! Missed! The most extravagant Demi-God-level finishing move, his most hopeful lucky shot, resulted in a miss!

—Ah, damn it! Watching as the heavily bleeding and staggering King Giant Lizard lumbered away, Da Fei spewed a mouthful of old blood in frustration!

This regret would haunt him forever! Could anyone understand the heartbreak of missing that finishing blow? Even if he had endless wealth in the future, this would be a lifelong regret! His mind was not at ease!!!

In that moment, Da Fei's eyes turned a shade of green from anger! Chase! Pursue!

Da Fei pulled out the Blood Eagle Flute once again, but Little Fei was still lacking stamina and in slumber!

—System Prompt: Would you like to use the "Blood Sacrifice" skill?

Chapter 396: The Troubled Pursuit

—System Prompt: You used the special skill "Blood Sacrifice" of the reconnaissance spirit eagle's flute. You contributed a certain amount of Life Limit to enhance the spiritual eagle's strength. The current optimal blood sacrifice amount is 200 Life Value, would you like to perform the optimal blood sacrifice?

Life Value! In that instant, Da Fei once again felt a wave of dizziness! That's a whole life for an average player, the system sure dares to ask! What about next time? 300? 400?! Even a Tycoon would be knocked out flat! The Life Book is priceless!

At this time, looking at the King Giant Lizard about to leave, Da Fei made the most impulsive and unreliable decision since he started playing the game!

—Confirm!

Bro, in reality, I already have a worry-free life and assets worth 20 million, and in the game, I have become an international celebrity. At my level, it's all about having a clear mind! Rather than regretting what was done, it's better to regret what was missed! Although I only have 200 Life left, which is less than an average player of the same level, but I'm currently in a naval battle state, with a 20% Life bonus from Ultimate Sea Monster Hunter and a 15% Life bonus from three Disease Antibodies, I can hold on! As for the future, once I obtain the Divine Artifact Titan's Grip and win a few glorious victories, everything will be fine!

The blood light burst again! The Blood Eagle Flute flashed a white light!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Under your blood sacrifice, your reconnaissance spirit eagle Little Fei has grown! Little Fei's Attack +5, Defense +2, Damage +2, Attack Speed +1, Life +20, Stamina +20, Mana +20, gained 1 growth Skill Point, Little Fei's form has changed to a small spiritual creature!

—Growing Reconnaissance Spirit Eagle (Little Fei): Small-sized spiritual elite creature, Attack 15, Defense 5, Damage 5-6, Life 49, Mana 35, Command Value: 0, Attack Speed: 16, Stamina: 83/83. Special Skills: Flying Creature, God-level Reconnaissance Technique, Plane Surveillance, Long Sky Eagle Strike, Gliding, Dive. Growth Skill Points: 3 points.

They really dared to give me only 1 Skill Point!

At this moment, Da Fei didn't want to think about anything else, just do one thing—Little Fei, lock the target, attack!

A blood-red giant eagle soared up. It spread its wings, reaching the size of an average adult human. Its basic attributes reached the level of a 4th-level troop. As a reconnaissance pet, it was quite glorious, but against the King Giant Lizard, which a Crossbow Cannon couldn't even move, this damage was just a drizzle. Da Fei had to catch up, allowing Little Fei to receive 100 Attack from him and an extra 3 Damage bonus from the Captain's Sword and the achievement "God Slayer"!

Da Fei immediately swam hard in the direction the giant lizard was fleeing! This was indeed a dangerous act, but Da Fei had to take a gamble. Bet that no other monsters could see through his God-level Stealth Master, bet that all the monsters focused their attention on the corpses floating on the lake.

The lake surface was in chaos. Those swamp creatures that had been acting strangely after devouring crows suffered the same fate as the King Giant Lizard. The flaws were found by new opponents and were successfully killed, and the predators couldn't let down their guard after a successful hunt. This situation was indeed beneficial for Da Fei.

Now, Little Fei had caught up with the escaping giant lizard and, without saying a word, clawed fiercely at its bleeding, rotten butt! And just then, the system prompt bell rang again!

—System Prompt: Your Intelligence Analysis Skill discovered the weak point of the Petrified Giant Lizard King. Your attacks will reduce the target's Defense by 25%—50%!

Ha! Wow hahaha! Such an obvious weak point, even a blind person could see it! Every time Intelligence Analysis comes up, it's the time for me to kill a BOSS, and this time will be no exception! I want to see how much Defense is left on that rotten butt after being reduced!

—Dive!

Little Fei transformed into a blood-colored lightning bolt that crashed down—bam!!! "226!!!"

The giant lizard erupted with a pitiful wail once again!

226!!! In that moment, looking at the suddenly popped Damage Value, which was no less than the Crossbow Cannon, Da Fei was stunned!

Little Fei had been boosted by me to 8 Damage and 115 Attack, where 1 Attack adds 5% damage, meaning a 575% boost, which is 54 Damage. Assuming the giant lizard has Defense Skill countering my Advanced Attack Skill and Dive did triple damage for 150 points, where did the over 200 Damage come from? There's only one possibility, its defense was reduced to a negative!

And Little Fei's continuous normal attacks that followed also confirmed Da Fei's calculation—"84!" "-81" "-82!"

Under the enhancements of +2 Attack Speed from the Captain's Sword, +10% Basic Attack Speed from the Speed Cloak, and an additional 5% total Attack Speed from the achievement Corpse Poison Plague Antibody, Little Fei's already terrifying 16 points of Attack Speed was boosted to 19.5, reaching the legendary Phoenix's Attack Speed, which could only be described as claws like lightning, and under the high-frequency Attack Speed, Da Fei's God-level Luck Skill and the Luck specialty bonus of 13 Luck Value finally exploded with terrifying power—a rainbow light rose up, 170!

In such a short moment, Little Fei dealt over 600 points of Damage to the giant lizard king! Could you imagine that a creature with only 5-6 Basic Damage could produce such numbers? This is the power of a creature led by a mighty hero!

And this giant lizard, once so formidable it could roam with the demigod-level giant crocodile, had no way to counter this flying eagle's attacks, with defeat being inevitable! And Little Fei, despite having

killed so many weak crows, couldn't grow any further. I couldn't even imagine how much it would grow after killing this giant lizard! Da Fei couldn't help but celebrate loudly!

In the midst of excitement, the King Giant Lizard suddenly dove underwater! The King Giant Lizard still had a way to counter the airborne chase!

Damn!

Da Fei was dumbfounded on the spot! At this moment, Da Fei only wanted to say three words to the giant lizard: "You busy?! (NMB)!"

Da Fei just wanted to say one thing to Little Fei: "Transform into an osprey!"

Now Da Fei finally knew what skill to arrange for Little Fei in the future, which is a diving skill! My Little Fei should conquer the sea, land, and sky, only this kind of creature could deserve my sailor identity! As for now, there was no other way but to track! Be the anti-submarine eagle, peck it to death if it dares show its head up! I don't believe it won't come up! I don't believe this rotten butt can last long!

Just as Da Fei gritted his teeth, red light suddenly exploded in front of him!

—System Prompt: Reconnaissance Skill Warning! You have entered the alert range of the Swamp Snake-necked Dragon, about to engage in battle!

Da Fei was suddenly shocked and saw that the Green Smoke Snake-necked Dragon, who had dared only to sneak around the outside picking up leaks, was swimming rapidly toward him! Damn! Bro swam too fast and still got discovered by the BOSS! Come on, among all the food, why come after me?

And at this moment, Da Fei realized that the surrounding lake surface was a patch of green clouds, and those weaklings that were fighting and grabbing just now were all chased to the outskirts when he wasn't paying attention (busy chasing the King Giant Lizard). That means it had become the only Overlord of this lake area! No wonder it wouldn't let me go!

This time Da Fei panicked again! What to do! What to do!? I mustn't die now! If I die, everything about the King Giant Lizard would be in vain!

Wait! Stay calm! Stay really calm! Running is definitely not an option. A mere human like me, any aquatic creature is faster than me, I can only rely on my Stealth Master. Even if I enter the battle, my Stealth Master might not reveal itself. I have to take a gamble! I must be stealthy! As long as I don't move, don't stir the water, it might not notice me! Right, now is the time to test my Stealth Mastery! If this cowardly dragon can't get past me, how could I sneak by a demigod Eight-Headed Snake?

Da Fei gritted his teeth, took a deep breath, and immediately sank into the water without moving an inch—you don't see me! You don't see me!! You don't see me!!!

And just as Da Fei was motionless with bated breath, the King Giant Lizard swam away from Da Fei's pursuit, which meant Little Fei could no longer benefit from Da Fei's hero attributes and was reduced to a mere 15 Attack, 5-6 Damage, 4th-level troop! Is there any chance of success in killing it like this?

At this point, Da Fei was already struggling to protect himself. Although the Snake-necked Dragon hadn't found Da Fei, its massive body like a medium ship churned up the water in Da Fei's area, making the whole lake a deep green color! Da Fei's body began constantly losing health at -3, -4! It was poison! If not for Nash's Tooth, Da Fei's health would be dropping even more disastrously! Da Fei had less than 200 health left and couldn't hold out for much longer—moving or not moving both meant death!

At this moment, Da Fei's heart was filled with a mix of emotions!

The ambition was big, the play was overdone! Strength or misfortune, a hair's breadth between success and failure, Da Fei had seen much in the last ten years, stay calm, I've done my best, with no regrets or complaints, it's good that I have made arrangements for future affairs, implement Plan B and get back to the Chief of Staff to find this space.

It's just a pity that if this goes down, I'll miss the chance to stow away with the Eight-Headed Snake, but it's okay, I'll find another strong one when I get back. There's still a bit of time, so let's see how Little Fei is tracking over there, if it doesn't die, my mind won't be at ease! After all, it's still a matter of not having enough power.

Just as Da Fei was ready for his departure, an earth-shattering roar suddenly came from the lake surface, simultaneously Da Fei felt a violent surge of water waves under the lake—a snake-necked dragon fleeing in panic, and the roar was from the giant crocodile!

That's right! The giant crocodile had recovered from its petrified state, filled with immense anger and unwillingness! While petrification meant instant death for ordinary creatures, for it, nearing demigod status, it only reflected certain degrees of damage!

And what it first saw upon recovery was this snake-necked dragon that's been making waves in its domain! If the giant lizard doesn't die, you will!

And for Da Fei, this was unexpected survival! The flame of hope once again burned brightly in Da Fei's heart. As long as I don't die, everything is possible!

At this moment, Da Fei was moved to tears, he just wanted to say two words to the giant crocodile: "Thank you!"

Chapter 397: Slaying the King Giant Lizard

Da Fei fled hurriedly from the poisonous area of the snake-necked dragon with less than 30 life points remaining. At this moment, a giant crocodile had already engaged with the snake-necked dragon, turning the lake's waters turbulent from their colossal BOSS battle.

Da Fei, feeling a lingering fear, let out a long sigh of relief. The sensation of narrowly escaping death was truly wonderful! In short, as long as I don't die, anything is possible!

Da Fei collected himself and began assessing the surrounding situation. The giant lizard and Little Fei were already too far for him to catch up, not to mention that with only 30 life points left, he dared not pursue them. However, it was highly likely that Little Fei's chase would fail, so it was best to prepare for the worst outcome.

Then Da Fei turned his gaze to the fight between the two giant beasts. It was evident that the crocodile was in terrible condition after just recovering from a petrified state. The fight was evenly matched, which was, ideally, the scenario of two BOSSes fighting to the death, awaiting the player's final blow to finish them off.

Okay! Let's do this again! If the previous failure was due to my luck, then I would be regretful for a lifetime. If I fail again, it would definitely indicate a lack of strength, and there would be nothing more to regret, naturally freeing my mind. If it succeeds, even better!

With a plan formed, Da Fei quietly swam back to the bushes where the crossbow cannon was and quietly watched the fight. Of course, Da Fei hadn't completely given up hope on Little Fei's side. Under the shared vision in the small window, Da Fei multitasked, overseeing everything.

At this time, the giant lizard on Little Fei's side was still swimming underwater, and the trail of blood it left behind gradually faded. Evidently, its self-healing ability began stabilizing its injuries, making Little Fei's hope of killing it even slimmer. Da Fei sighed inwardly, deciding to make a final attempt when the giant lizard came ashore, regardless of whether it succeeded or not.

Just then, a golden flash suddenly appeared on Little Fei's radar screen!

Da Fei was startled, a golden flash? Treasure! Get closer and take a look!

There was another golden flash! He saw it, on an island littered with bones and overgrown with shrubs, a branch glowed with a green radiance, bearing a fruit that shimmered with green light!

Da Fei's eyebrows raised. A fruit emanating golden light? Is it a god-level herb?

At that moment, the swimming giant lizard was also heading towards that island! Da Fei instantly understood, isn't it obvious? The layout of bone-covered ground on this island was the nest of the King Giant Lizard, correct? And surely, this fruit was the god-level herb guarded by the BOSS?

Just then, the giant lizard swimming in the water suddenly accelerated, breaking through the water's surface onto the island with incredible speed!

Damn, it's finally out of the water! I'm going to kill you!

Wait! Isn't it heading straight for that fruit? That is to say, it wants to eat the fruit to heal! Damn it! How can I let you heal?

Attack! Attack that branch! Attack that fruit! Just then, a "Pick Up" icon flashed on Little Fei's control panel!

—System Prompt: Your reconnaissance eagle, Little Fei, discovered the precious herb "Grade 3 World Tree Fruit." Would you like to pick it up?

—World Tree Fruit: A rare herb that formed from the essence of the World Tree's divine power over long ages. After consumption, it can enhance the potential of players and biological troops.

Da Fei was in shock! World Tree Fruit! The legendary Immortal Fruit that instantly restores full health and mana while resurrecting at the current location, nurturing elite troops! Even the highest-end players during the open beta encountered no more than the lowest quality, grade 5, by market commodity quality standards. What does grade 3 mean, exactly?

Moreover, a reconnaissance eagle can also pick herbs and items? Damn, if an eagle catching chickens is possible, why not herb-picking? So, reconnaissance eagles also have this operational command! I was already used to the setting that items automatically flew into my inventory after a battle!

In a moment of ecstasy, Da Fei confirmed immediately!

In an instant, Little Fei swooped down, grabbing the fruit with its claws and soaring upwards! Got it, with ease, such a stunning and exquisite arc! Wahaha!

—System Prompt: Your reconnaissance eagle, Little Fei, obtained the rare herb "Grade 3 World Tree Fruit." You can choose to consume it to enhance Little Fei's potential and restore the current state, or bring the herb back to your side. The reconnaissance eagle cannot fight while holding the item!

Unable to fight while holding items? Damn! I finally understand what the second skill I should teach Little Fei is: Space Bag—if such a skill exists! Wait, it seems like the Lord System skill "Armed Forces" can add an equipment slot to troops; can it affect Little Fei?

Of course, now wasn't the time for thinking about this. At this moment, the empty-handed King Giant Lizard seemed drained of all strength, tremored all over, and emitted weak despairing howls towards the sky!

Da Fei finally realized that its trail of blood earlier hadn't faded because of some powerful self-healing ability, but because its blood was nearly drained, and it was truly going to die! Crocodiles and sharks have infamous signature skills where bleeding cannot be stopped, like Tear Strike! Once bitten by them, they can ignore you and seek new targets, waiting for you to bleed to death! And the effect of the demi-god-level crocodile's Tear Strike is beyond imagination!

That sudden burst of speed was its dying attempt! I can kill it! I really can!

Ha ha! Wahahaha! In a surge of fervor, flames of excitement ignited in Da Fei's chest! Of course, eat the Immortal Fruit to increase potential, then free up the claws to kill it! Killing two birds with one stone!!!

—System Prompt: Your reconnaissance eagle, Little Fei, consumed the Grade 3 World Tree Fruit, restoring to full status, gaining potential growth, and acquired a temporary effect of restoring 3% life and stamina per second, lasting for one game day.

Ha ha! Wahahaha! If not now, then when should I act—Dive!

Little Fei transformed into a streak of blood light descending from the sky—Bam! Blood and flesh flew everywhere! "-40!"

Continue! Grab! Grab hard!

"-13" "-12" "-14"...

The King Giant Lizard at this time had no strength to resist, nor any strength to howl. This time, it had no chance of recovery. Amidst his ecstatic joy, Da Fei couldn't help but sympathetically shake his head and sigh, "Giant lizard buddy, your mistake was challenging the giant crocodile buddy, you cannot blame me!"

At this moment, each of Little Fei's attacks tugged at Da Fei's heartstrings with every beat! How far would Little Fei grow in this kill?

Excitement, agitation, anxiety—all were finally resolved when the King Giant Lizard met its silent demise!

Golden light descended from the sky! The heavenly sound of the system prompt arrived as expected!

—System Prompt: Your reconnaissance eagle, Little Fei, independently defeated the powerful creature "Petrified Giant Lizard King," activated its inner potential, achieved a leap-level growth, and became a leader-level creature! Attack +15, Defense +5, Damage +5, Attack Speed +2, Health +50, Stamina +50, gained All Magic Resistance +30%, acquired a leader-level exclusive space slot, can store 1 unit of resource or 1 piece of equipment. Gained new special skill: Fierce Bird Pressure. Acquired spoils of war: Petrified Heart.

—Growing Reconnaissance Spiritual Eagle (Little Fei): Small-sized spirit leader creature, Attack 30, Defense 10, Damage 10-11, Health 99, Mana 35, Attack Speed: 18, Magic Resistance 30%, Command Value: 0, Stamina: 133/133. Special Skills: Flying Creature, God-level Reconnaissance Skill, Plane Surveillance, Long Sky Eagle Strike, Glide, Dive, Fierce Bird Pressure. Growth Skill Points: 3 points. 1 Space Item Bar.

—Fierce Bird Pressure: Increases damage to non-elite avian creatures by 50% and reduces their attack speed by 10%. This skill effect strengthens with the power of the leader creature.

—Petrified Heart: The essence of the King Giant Lizard's power. Upon use by player heroes, provides Mana +100 and gains the rare spell "Petrification Aura." Upgrading the Giant Lizard Barracks with this item gives a chance to train mutant troops capable of casting the Petrification Aura, possessing the potential to become elite.

—Petrification Aura: Activating this spell forms a field with a 10-meter radius, reducing the move speed and attack speed of enemies within by 10% and with a chance to petrify them. Each second the spell is active consumes 2 points of Mana. This skill effect enhances with the caster's level improvement.

...

Da Fei widened his eyes, meticulously reading through the system information twice with an impatient heart full of fervor and excitement!

A leader-level creature! Little Fei evolved directly into a BOSS! The system specially mentioned being in an independent assault; it means that Little Fei grows easier that way! It undoubtedly owed much to the World Tree Fruit, in short, the flowers of the greenhouse don't grow into towering oaks! I understand; the giant lizard was wise to run, wise indeed! Wahahaha!

After becoming a BOSS, obtaining a space bag was inevitable. I was just fretting over where Little Fei would put items if found, and now with this upgrade, what was missing arrived just in time! Wahahaha, just right for taking this spoil back home!

And let's see this spoil, the legendary rare magic! It can be self-used or utilized as material, without any prerequisite for learning magic! Awesome! Really awesome beyond explanation, befitting of divine skill dropped by a major BOSS!

Yes, divine skill? Exactly! I'm currently lacking divine skill—no, it's Little Fei who lacks it! No matter how awesome this skill is, as the leader of an entire army, I still have the issue of lacking health. It's not likely that I'll head to the frontline to petrify the enemy, right? Can Little Fei learn it? More importantly, would it be useful if learned?

Useful! Fierce Bird Pressure plus Petrification Aura, it would be incredibly useful for taking down small birds! As a Flying Eagle, its value was inherently about securing air dominance, wasn't it? Before learning this, it was for one to hold off thousands, afterward, one against countless!

Moreover, the Petrified Heart was entirely earned from Little Fei's isolated assault. As its proud parent, what reason do I have to take away my child's rewards? With my current joyous mood, let's learn it!

—System Prompt: Are you sure you want to let your reconnaissance spiritual eagle, Little Fei, use the "Petrified Heart"? This will consume 1 of Little Fei's growth skill points.

It can truly be learned! Wahahaha! Confirm!

—System Prompt: You expended 1 City Lord Skill Point of the reconnaissance spirit eagle, Little Fei, using the Petrified Heart, Little Fei gained Mana +100 and learned a new special skill: Petrification Aura!

Ha ha! My Little Fei finally possesses a divine skill! Wahahaha!

Chapter 398: The Next Target, Giant Crocodile!

Little Fei's advancement brought Da Fei immense joy, and at this moment, the swamp's detestable, gloomy hue transformed into a dazzling, vibrant spectacle in Da Fei's eyes. This place was nothing short of a treasure trove!

And slaying the King Giant Lizard filled Da Fei with boundless confidence. If such impressive gains could be achieved from just one King Giant Lizard, what about the two before him? And the one rumored to have been asleep for a thousand years? Haha, wahahaha! The bro would never be satisfied! Strive, struggle, as long as life exists, the struggle never stops, this is life, this is positive energy!

An even crazier idea surged in Da Fei's mind—could Little Fei also kill the two before him?

Indeed, although Little Fei had become a BOSS, Da Fei was still unsatisfied with its attributes. Da Fei's goal was not merely to deal with a flock of birds or bugs; now he had higher expectations, which was for Little Fei to possess the ability to decapitate enemy heroes and independently defeat strong enemies, even when far from him, achieving the same effect as level 8 necromancer dragons in the competition!

Of course, this was difficult, since the Blood Eagle started as a small creature and was not on the same starting line as beings like the Banshee, which began as high-level soldiers. Achieving its current state was already no small feat, but the harder it was, the more meaningful it was to strive for it!

Only this way could he justify spending so much life, make it worthy of the World Tree Fruit, and justify the investment of something like the Petrified Heart worth hundreds of thousands! Speaking of which, he had already invested a total life value of 550 points! Without such a massive investment, he would have effectively become a tank capable of sweeping through many high-end instances, yielding unlimited profits!

In short, Little Fei had to earn back what Da Fei had invested! Of course, it's not that Little Fei must kill these two BOSSes now, but instead, Da Fei would strive in that direction.

Now, Little Fei was already on its way back, while Da Fei's attention was fully focused on the two battling giant beasts in the arena.

This fierce battle had already been ongoing for more than a minute. To be honest, the Snake-necked Dragon's spirit surprised Da Fei very much. When it first entered the arena, it felt cowardly to Da Fei, but it grew braver when forced into a fight! This indicated that the Snake-necked Dragon had correctly assessed the giant crocodile's strength!

If this was a true fight of equals, the most ideal situation would be both sides exhausting themselves, and then the player's God-level critical strike could take out two birds with one stone. But considering the retreat of both the King Giant Lizard and this Snake-necked Dragon, this wasn't likely to happen. The weaker side would inevitably escape while retaining a substantial amount of life and stamina!

If they fled, everything would be ruined. After all, the situation where the King Giant Lizard was torn apart was too much of a surprise caused by the raven's corpse and shouldn't happen again.

What should Da Fei do?

Without a surprise, it should be left to him to create a surprise! So, to whom should he create this surprise?

To the giant crocodile? Indeed! This was a rare opportunity to severely injure or even kill a Quasi DemiGod-level BOSS. Once this opportunity was missed, it would be hard to replicate the same scene next time. Moreover, the giant crocodile was a quest monster for the Hobbits, and once killed, the Hobbits might just kneel! Whether it's the reward from killing the BOSS itself or the strategic impact on the swamp's situation, it's clear! But the difficulty is also obvious, for it's hard to ensure that the Snake-necked Dragon doesn't capitalize on his misfortune with a special move, and the giant crocodile's blood defense is on a different scale from the King Giant Lizard's, so even if it retreats defeated, Little Fei could hardly pose a substantial threat to it.

Then, create trouble for the Snake-necked Dragon? Indeed, it is much more reliable to handle it than the giant crocodile! Its strength was inherently weaker than the giant crocodile's. If Da Fei attacked it, the giant crocodile would take the chance to strike, and it would likely meet the same fate as the King Giant Lizard, having a large chunk of flesh torn off, and being pursued and air-raid killed by Little Fei during

escape. Then Da Fei could earn gains no less than from the King Giant Lizard! Killing two BOSSs, 1+1=2, what a huge profit!

Would it be more secure to deal with the Snake-necked Dragon then?

At this moment, Little Fei's nimble figure appeared in Da Fei's vision, and a layer of mist arose in Da Fei's eyes; it was the deep and strategic light — oh, alright, it was the reflection of the swamp's water light as Da Fei looked up at the sky.

In any case, Da Fei's vision became broader now, as broad as Little Fei's view! Da Fei was overlooking the swamp!

The puny Snake-necked Dragon no longer caught Da Fei's eye, not because he became arrogant with greed, but because the battlefield had evolved at this point! Just like in chess, a pawn's value before and after the opening cannot be compared. Before the game, one would protect it at all costs, but after it started, it could be discarded at any time!

In other words, even if the Snake-necked Dragon's loot were the same as the King Giant Lizard's, it was no longer on the same level! In short, the Snake-necked Dragon was not worth Da Fei killing! But the giant crocodile was different; even if killing it failed, it would provide a buffer period for the Hobbits' development!

Da Fei's mind was made up, aiming at the target—the giant crocodile! With such a massive body, the attack was bound to hit!

Now, Da Fei patiently waited for what he deemed the perfect opportunity—

Finally, the moment appeared, the giant crocodile took a deep breath, seemingly preparing to unleash a powerful move! You want to take a deep breath, right? I'm going to deflate your big move! Fire!!

—Boom! Boom!! Boom!!! Three sneaky cold arrows broke through the water surface with a whistle!

—Bang! Bang!! Bang!!! Deflected damage "-113" "-118" "-114"!

Ah heck! Such high defense! It reduced the crossbow cannon's damage by 90%! Da Fei was shocked on the spot, roughly estimating the giant crocodile's defensive power! Between 100 and 300!

Whether it was 100 or 300, it didn't need complicated calculations, just remembered a few critical damage reduction numbers from the damage formula.

A Master-level Crossbow Cannon has an attack of 35 and does not receive hero attack and defense bonuses. The basic damage is 7-8. The Crossbow Cannon's final damage is the hero's total basic attribute points without equipment multiplied by the Crossbow Cannon's basic damage. Da Fei's basic attribute point was 170. So the total damage was 1190-1360!

And when the attack was less than the opponent's defense, the final damage equaled the basic killing divided by $(1 + \text{attack-defense difference} \times 5\%)$; Da Fei's actual damage was reduced by over 90%, meaning the attack-defense difference between both sides was 200 points!

But whether it was 100 or 300 didn't make much difference. According to the damage formula, an attack-defense difference of 100 reduced damage by 83%, a difference of 200 by 90%, 300 by 93%, and 500 by 96%. In any case, the role of Defense Value greatly diminished in later stages.

But it was not to say that high defense in later stages was useless, rather it was more useful! When in later stages, various armor-piercing skills can easily lower 50% of defenses, then one knows the effect! A city wall's defense of 500, reduced by 50%, still had 250, reducing over 90% damage! Hardly any effect of the armor-piercing could be seen.

Hence, that's why city walls had to be so thick; there was a reason. (PS: In light of some readers not knowing about Crossbow Cannons and attack-defense calculations, Yangang offers a refresher, considering this is a very meticulous, highly technical, and advanced data-stream, tech-stream novel, cough!)

...

Meanwhile, after Da Fei blasted the giant crocodile with three shots, it indeed got tilted, and its long-charged massive bite ended up with a grand "miss"!

The Snake-necked Dragon seized this rare opportunity, leveraging its height advantage while the giant crocodile missed, landing a massive hit!

—Boom!!! The lake water shot to the sky, an astonishing force!

Da Fei was suddenly overjoyed! This Snake-necked Dragon indeed had a hidden big move!

Just then, a huge roar shook the lake, a wave of blood shot to the sky, and the Snake-necked Dragon's freshly sat-upon flesh soared into the air like a submarine-launched missile trailing a long trace of blood!

Da Fei's eyes narrowed in shock! To knock such a huge Snake-necked Dragon into the air, what a sensational power this was!

At that moment, a giant wave pushed Da Fei, swaying him suddenly. The giant crocodile, glimmering with blinding blood light, lunged toward him!

Crap! The giant crocodile went berserk! Did I screw up!?

Chapter 399: Hobbits Go to War, Double Kill!

Da Fei stood motionless, staring at the approaching mass of flesh and blood. He had analyzed many possible outcomes of battling the giant crocodile, yet failed to foresee the consequence of his own demise following a blunder! Had he known earlier, he might have opted to slay the Snake-necked Dragon instead, to securely pocket a modest treasure!

This time, escape seemed truly impossible, Da Fei lamented to the sky! Sometimes a man just couldn't feel comfortable unless clowning around!

Right at that moment, a piercing, jarring flute sound suddenly echoed across the entire lake! On his radar, a mass of green dots appeared behind him—it was the Hobbits!

Da Fei quickly turned around to see that, indeed, an elder and Billbo, leading hundreds of tribesmen, had somehow managed to swim close without him noticing. They surfaced and simultaneously blew into their flutes.

In the midst of their flute music, the giant crocodile abruptly changed its course! The massive wave it stirred up as it turned knocked Da Fei down!

Da Fei suddenly realized! How could the system let a player solo a near-Demigod-level monster like a giant crocodile? In the end, the NPCs had to help! Though it was unclear what power this flute sound held, the effect was evident: in Little Fei's high-altitude view, the giant crocodile was swaying and circling on the lake, disoriented! Had the flute sound made it stupid?

If not now, then when to kill it!

Da Fei immediately loaded the crossbow cannon and then—fire!

—Boom! Boom!! Boom!!! Three arrows whizzed out, taking away 300 points of life from the thick hide of the giant crocodile!

The attacked giant crocodile let out a thunderous roar again and immediately adjusted its direction, charging at Da Fei once more!

Da Fei was suddenly taken aback, exclaiming: Holy crap! Had the fool been hit awake?

Just then, the flute sound suddenly rose in pitch, and the giant crocodile twitched again, turning its direction once more! Billbo's shout came from behind, "Lord, hit it hard!"

Ah, I see! You guys handle the control, while I enjoy the fight!

At that moment, on the edge of Little Fei's viewport, Da Fei noticed a big red dot moving away—it was the heavily wounded Snake-necked Dragon, escaping!

Damn! Trying to run now! Initially, it wasn't worth killing, but that's relative. Now that I have hundreds of helpers free to assist, you are very much worth killing!

Little Fei, chase it!

With these hundreds of Hobbits joining in, the tide of the battle reversed in an instant!

The Hobbits' flute music rose to new heights, shaking the sky across the swamp. It was the most spectacular orchestra Da Fei had ever seen, and simultaneously the worst-sounding flute ensemble! Under the shrill and harsh flute sound, the giant crocodile seemed to be under a magical spell, futilely spinning and swaying on the lake. How bizarre was this Minstrel's skill! Was this the legendary magic sound that toyed with crocodiles like mice?

In any case, seizing the opportunity, Da Fei relentlessly attacked with cannons, each strike triggering a lucky effect, taking away 300 to 500 points of its life! The spinning speed of the giant crocodile gradually decreased, and after this intense battle, its stamina was faltering, likely without the chance to escape. Its defeat was set in stone!

I must say, these Hobbits are truly masters of the finishing blow! This battle today would fundamentally change the situation in the swamp! After such a surprise, can I celebrate prematurely?

Of course not! The fight had reached this point, a minor victory wasn't enough; I wanted a grand slam! Da Fei began to focus his main attention on Little Fei.

At this moment, the Snake-necked Dragon was bleeding as it fled, its abdomen torn open by the raging giant crocodile, its intestines seemingly dragging out. Such a gruesome scene would make Da Fei shudder despite being a game!

But a game is a game after all, and the swamp is ultimately a world where the strong prey on the weak. Both players and NPCs must be prepared for this!

Now, the towering body of the Snake-necked Dragon made it difficult to dive in the shallow waters of the lake, so it couldn't evade Little Fei's attacks from above. The only thing it could do was continue releasing the poisonous cloud around its body. Little Fei was a Spiritual Creature, with attributes that

resisted disease and poison. Even so, these clouds inflicted 3 to 4 points of damage per second to Little Fei!

But having eaten the World Tree Fruit, Little Fei had a 3% life and mana recovery effect for a day. With 99 points of life, a 3% recovery just offset most of the poison cloud damage, rendering it fearless of the poison cloud threat. Also, with a 3% mana recovery, Little Fei could maintain the Petrification Aura without mana loss throughout, with or without effect, better than not using it!

Where would it flee to? Its lair? Would its lair also have World Tree Fruit?

No! None of these, Da Fei saw the dark blue waters ahead; it was heading to the deeper waters! Once it dived into the deep waters, it would escape! Right now, its forward momentum couldn't be stopped by Little Fei. Compared to these behemoths, Little Fei was ultimately just a weak bird unable to break its defense, inflicting only single-digit damage!

Closer! Approaching the deep-water area, the massive body of the Snake-necked Dragon started to dive; it was escaping!

Da Fei gritted his teeth and sighed! Why was its wound on the abdomen and not the back? If it were on the back, Little Fei might have inflicted more damage along the way! Ultimately, Little Fei still needed a lot of nurturing, but missing such a perfect finishing blow opportunity meant its future growth would require a lot of effort, potentially leaving no time to cultivate it! Damn!

Now the Snake-necked Dragon had plunged into the water, its entire massive body submerged, truly gone!

No! It hadn't completely gotten away; the Snake-necked Dragon's diving ignored its tail, leaving a section of intestines floating on the surface yet to sink! Little Fei's command could still target this part!

At that moment, the section of floating intestines suddenly glimmered with golden light! Simultaneously, Little Fei's picking operation command also lit up!

—System Prompt: Your Reconnaissance Eagle Xiao Fei discovered an unknown item inside the Swamp Snake-necked Dragon, would you like to pick it up?

Da Fei's brow twitched! Treasure! This intestine was treasure! No need to say anything more, this was the last chance, Little Fei—pick it up!

Little Fei dived down, skimming the water like an osprey catching fish—splash!!! With a burst of blood, Little Fei grabbed a bulging section of intestines and soared into the sky!

With this grasp and flight, Little Fei dragged out a long stretch of intestines, dozens of meters long! At this moment, the submerged Snake-necked Dragon let out an unbelievably gut-wrenching howl from the depths, instantly dyeing the entire lake red with blood!

Such a horrifically brutal sight left Da Fei utterly stunned and motionless on the spot!

—System Prompt: Your Reconnaissance Eagle Xiao Fei, in independent action, has slain the powerful creature "Swamp Snake-necked Dragon," activating its potential and gained growth, Attack +10, Defense +2, Damage +5, Attack Speed +1, Life +50, Stamina +10, gaining All Magic Resistance +10%. Learned new special skill "High-altitude Flight," and acquired spoils of war "Snake-necked Dragon's Egg."

—High-altitude Flight: Your Scout Spiritual Eagle can fly at extreme altitudes unreachable by ordinary birds.

—Snake-necked Dragon Egg: Can hatch an 8th-level unit, Swamp Snake-necked Dragon. Note: Swamp Snake-necked Dragons need a swamp environment to hatch.

—System Prompt: You successfully discovered a hidden treasure, gaining the Advanced Treasure Appraiser profession information.

Ah! The finishing blow succeeded! Da Fei finally snapped back to reality!

But somehow, Da Fei felt a mix of emotions rather than the elation he felt when he killed the King Giant Lizard. Perhaps because this method of killing was excessively brutal? Sigh, why bother making a game so real?

Da Fei exhaled a long breath and regardless, a victory was a victory. He should be happy; Little Fei successfully killed two bosses in a row and grew, and its damage and life had already reached the level of a 6th-level unit.

As for the newly comprehended special skill, nothing more needed to be said. It was the difference between a raptor and a sparrow. The raptor could swoop down and strike a small bird at any time, while sparrows, even in thousands, could only look on helplessly—a veritable air combat strategic skill!

As for this Snake-necked Dragon Egg, the acquisition was truly a headache-inducing dilemma. Did I have to hatch it here? Well, I'll deal with it later. Overall, the Snake-necked Dragon boss rewards couldn't match those of the King Giant Lizard; more effort was required!

Effort, you say? Da Fei set his sights on the feebly stumbling giant crocodile. Little Fei had already killed two bosses; might as well complete the grand slam and let it kill a Quasi-Demi-God! That's right, the situation was completely under control; this giant crocodile's fate was mine to decide. Little Fei, hurry back for the finishing blow!

Ultimately, the giant crocodile couldn't hold out much longer. At this point, its blood flowed from its eyes and mouth, unable to move any further. With a lurch, it collapsed with a crash, sending water everywhere!

Though it wasn't dead, it was out of stamina! It was no different than a fish on a chopping board!

In that instant, the flute music stopped, and hundreds of Hobbits erupted into cheers!

Billbo splashed his way over, excitedly swimming and tentatively murmuring, "Lord, it's done! We won! We really could do it!"

Indeed! We truly could do it! This time, I truly depended on you!

Da Fei laughed heartily, saying, "Luckily, you all arrived in time, or I'd be done for! Can you tell me what this flute music is?"

Billbo laughed heartily, "Magic Sound! It confuses the brains of low-level creatures like mice, causing them hallucinations. After berserking, the giant crocodile loses intelligence, making our Magic Sound control possible. But first, we needed to make the crocodile berserk! We were waiting for that moment!"

Da Fei suddenly understood, admiringly saying, "Such a powerful skill! Such a strong class! Good, very good!"

Billbo patted Da Fei's crossbow cannon excitedly, saying, "No matter how strong our skill, we couldn't harm this giant crocodile. However, your thing, Lord, is powerful!"

Haha! I am in high spirits! Da Fei laughed, saying, "I have another one, I'll give it to you!"

Billbo shouted with joy, "Really! Thank you so much, Lord!"

Da Fei laughed, "We are now truly comrades in arms, don't be so formal with me!"

At that moment, an eagle screech pierced the sky; Little Fei had returned!

Finally back! Here it comes; for an enemy completely devoid of combat ability, with or without me—anyway, it's up to you, haha! Wahahaha!

Chapter 400: Divine Artifact: Brutal Tooth

Now, Little Fei began attacking the giant crocodile lying on the water's surface. Under Da Fei's 100-point attack bonus, its attack nearly matched the crocodile's defense, and the damage was quite reasonable. Anyway, it was only a matter of time before its attack speed would end the crocodile.

Sigh, for some reason, although this quasi-demigod giant crocodile was about to become his prize, Da Fei had lost the initial excitement he felt when he first killed the giant lizard. Maybe it was because the victory seemed too predictable.

At this moment, the elder appeared pale-faced as he swam over with the support of two tribesmen. It was evident that the recent concert had been quite taxing on his old bones.

Da Fei saluted and said, "Thank you, Elder, for acting in time and for all your efforts."

The elder took a few breaths and laughed, "We should be the ones thanking you, Lord City Lord!" Then he continued with a serious expression, "However, there is one thing I must tell you, Lord City Lord. I finally realized what those crows were; they were none other than the Crow Demigod Anzu, guardian of the Earth Tree Alena, who was slain by the Hell Race a thousand years ago during the Eclipse Battle. Those crows' bodies were its avatars. I couldn't be mistaken; the energy released when these crows turned into black smoke exposed its identity!"

Da Fei was taken aback, "Why is it another demigod?"

The elder shook his head, "A dead demigod can't be called a demigod. It was slain by the avatar of a Demon God. Only gods have the power to destroy gods. It cannot resurrect now; it is merely a Divine Calamity, similar to a human turning into a ghostly specter after death. If I'm not mistaken, the purpose of these avatar crows was to help it better absorb the power from the mercury steam. In short, Anzu is now an Evil Undead God! Its Divine Calamity body should be sleeping in Mercury Lake, so you must be cautious!"

Da Fei was suddenly bewildered! What's the difference between a Divine Calamity and a demigod? How was he supposed to deal with this Mercury Lake? How was he supposed to be cautious?

The elder sighed, "On the day Alena City fell, we Hobbits used the Earth Tree Alena's last power to teleport here. Perhaps at that moment, a trace of Anzu's residual spirit was also transported here. However, a single remnant soul shouldn't have the strength to form such a climate today. Considering the formation of Mercury Lake, the most likely scenario is that Anzu was enslaved by demons. Demons are the masterminds behind all abnormalities."

Da Fei nodded, "I see! No wonder so many marshland strongmen were fighting over the crow corpses; they contained some divine power!"

Suddenly Da Fei remembered something, "By the way, earlier, the giant lizard ate a crow corpse, probably absorbing quite a bit of Anzu's avatar's power. Otherwise, the giant lizard wouldn't have had the strength to petrify this giant crocodile completely. Does this eating of corpses mean we have weakened Anzu's power?"

The elder raised an eyebrow, "That's very logical! As long as we continue to hunt crows and then transport their bodies to the marshlands to be eaten by marsh creatures, we can both weaken Anzu's power and create further chaos in the marsh, allowing us to profit from the confusion. It's a win-win!"

Talking to such a smart NPC was refreshing! Da Fei laughed heartily, pointing to Little Fei, who was pecking at the giant crocodile. "Great! Once we take down this giant crocodile, I'll head back to the Black Forest immediately. This time, I'm really going to catch them all in one go!"

Billbo leaped with excitement, "I'll go! Grandpa is too tired!"

Da Fei laughed, "Indeed, the elder needs to rest!"

The elder shook his head, "No, I'm too excited! Even if you have to carry me, take me with you!"

At that moment, the giant crocodile in the lake let out a long breath; as expected, it finally died peacefully!

Little Fei gleamed with golden light! What was supposed to happen finally happened!

—System Prompt: Your Reconnaissance Eagle Little Fei has killed the powerful creature "Brute Kager" and activated potential within, achieving growth, Attack +10, Defense +5, Damage +5, Attack Speed +1, Life +50, Stamina +20, gained All Magic Resistance +10%. Acquired 1 Space Item Bar, comprehended a new special skill "Rapid Bite"!

—Rapid Bite: The attack speed of the Reconnaissance Eagle is increased by 50%, while stamina consumption is increased by 50%.

—Growing Reconnaissance Spirit Eagle (Little Fei): Small-sized Spirit Leader Creature, Attack 50, Defense 17, Damage 20-21, Life 199, Mana 35, Attack Speed: 20, Magic Resistance 50%, Command Value: 0, Stamina: 163/163. Special Skills: Flying Creature, God-level Reconnaissance Skill, Plane Surveillance, Long Sky Eagle Strike, Glide, Dive, Fierce Bird Pressure, High-altitude Flight, Rapid Bite, Petrification Aura. Growth Skill Points: 2 points. 2 Space Item Bars.

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have killed "Brute Kager," achieved victory in battle, received Experience +1.15 million! Obtained spoils of war: Divine Artifact "Brutal Tooth," Skill Book +1.

—Brutal Tooth: Divine Artifact, necklace, increases upper limit of Attack Skill Level +1, 1% chance of Tear Strike, 1% chance of Shattering Strike, 1% chance of Crushing Strike, 1% chance of Dragon Slayer Strike.

(Note: Tear Strike causes continuous bleeding effects to the living organism. Shattering Strike causes sectional smashing effects to undead mechanical bodies, permanently rendering them combat ineffective. Crushing Strike causes additional damage to enemies smaller than your army. Dragon Slayer Strike produces extra damage to large-sized creatures. The probabilities of these four strike effects can stack with probabilities of other related skill effects from Attack Skills and Luck Skills.)

Just in an instant, all the Hobbits cheered wildly again, while tears flowed down the elder's old face!

And in that moment, Da Fei saw only two golden words—Divine Artifact! This moment truly excited Da Fei!

Another Divine Artifact dropped! Although demigods are supposed to drop Divine Artifacts, finding one from a creature close to a demigod was a pleasant surprise! He thought that at most it would be an S-rank item, but here it was, an unexpected gift! And he had been missing a necklace, and now, here it came, delivered directly as a Divine Artifact! Ha ha, wow ha ha ha!

What's divine about this necklace? Besides the signature special skill Dazing Strike of farmers and Shield Guards, and the overwhelming special skill Critical Strike of Death Knights, the other four powerful special skills only found on troop units were all here!

This means that with this necklace, all of the hero's troops possess four special combo strike techniques, which already surpasses the strategic category of items; it fully dominates the battlefield, and this is precisely the power of the Divine Artifact! Indeed, Divine Artifacts are used to disrupt game balance!

Although each special skill's chance of appearing is only 1%, and it hardly manifests in normal circumstances, having it or lacking it are entirely two different things! Especially since it can stack with the probability of other skill attributes, for someone with the God-level Luck Skill sub-skill "Luck Body,"

which increases the occurrence probability of troop abilities by 15%, this truly deserves to be called a Divine Artifact!

Regarding the +1 skill cap, isn't it obvious? Of course, it's used for advancing to Grandmaster and God-level attributes! If this isn't a Divine Artifact, what is?

Da Fei burst out in long, hearty laughter!

At this time, tears flowed from the elder's eyes as he said, "You truly are, Lord City Lord. This battle not only eliminated the giant crocodile, but also wiped out several powerful monsters near the fishing grounds. The activity space for our Hobbits has increased by half, and it's a very prosperous half, greatly benefiting our development! Without Lord City Lord's arrival, our tribe would have faced a completely different outcome. On behalf of all the Hobbits, I express our sincere respect to Lord City Lord!"

—System Prompt: Your reputation among the Hobbits has become "Revered"!

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Elder, with our relationship, do we need to say flattering words?"

Hey! Why only "Revered"? I killed a demigod and got rid of two big threats; I should be "Worshipped," they should kneel to me! Oh! I get it; after all, this giant crocodile was mainly dealt with using their power, so our reputation is diminished! That won't do, I need a prestigious send-off with the "Civilian Umbrella" from you all!

Da Fei obtained the Divine Artifact, cultivated Little Fei's three kills, felt infinitely satisfied, and immediately took out the snake-necked dragon egg that Little Fei had obtained and laughed, "Elder, I have made a substantial harvest this time, gaining a snake-necked dragon egg. I don't have the conditions to cultivate it, so I'll give it to you, Elder. This way, your village will have a powerful guardian!"

The elder raised an eyebrow with joy and said, "Wonderful! Thank you, Lord City Lord for the generous gift. We know where the snake-necked dragon's nest is. As long as we capture it, we can get an outdoor recruitment building to produce snake-necked dragons. Of course, the troops recruited from the recruitment building can't compare with this level 8 soldier's egg, but it's also a powerful reinforcement. Moreover, with so much territory now in our possession, we are confident in running the snake-necked dragon's nest! We welcome Lord City Lord to come and recruit troops!"

Da Fei raised an eyebrow, realizing the snake-necked dragon nest was an outdoor troop building? What's the normal level of snake-necked dragons? Must be no less than a level 6 soldier, right? This marsh truly has depth! And it deserves to be a place where many demigods gather!

He finally changed his address for me to Lord City Lord instead of just Mister! Ha ha ha! That's it! I'll accept your respect and generosity!

Da Fei continued, "I see! I also killed the Petrified Giant Lizard King and discovered the giant lizard's nest. There's a branch of the World Tree that bears fruit there! I'll leave it fully to you!"

The elder raised another eyebrow like having eaten the World Tree Fruit, pushing away the attendants who supported him and exclaimed excitedly, "Great! Great indeed! The World Tree is enormous beyond imagination, but the places where fruit can be produced are exceedingly scarce! Now we can ride the wave and occupy the giant lizard's nest to carefully cultivate the branch and, in time, produce specialty World Tree Fruits! Lord City Lord, you are truly magnificent!"