

God level 46

Chapter 46: Corpse Mountain Bait

Generally speaking, undertaking collection quests involving guarding treasures by a BOSS requires teamwork—an individual to lure the mob while another collects the treasure.

But now, no one is cooperating, and the pirates are not friendly towards Da Fei; it's impossible to command them. Additionally, crocodiles, being ambush predators, are difficult to lure. Creatures of ambush are usually patient, and won't waste their stamina easily unless they're certain. Once genuinely agitated, what one faces is their rapid and thunderous strike, a sure recipe for disaster.

Stealth is certainly not feasible since entering the water would give him away.

What to do? If I bring over the big boat, maybe I could try fishing for crocodiles like fishing for great white sharks, but with the current situation, I almost have no tools to rely on!

Fishing? Suddenly, a thought struck Da Fei!

Yes, I can still fish! Realizing this, Da Fei laughed heartily and immediately headed toward the island's forest. The pirates mentioned that there are ferocious beasts on the island, and of course, where there are ferocious beasts, there must be prey—and Da Fei is going to be the hunter.

Upon entering the forest, Da Fei started moving stealthily, then searched around using his binoculars. Soon, an animal resembling a mountain goat entered his sight—the Desolate Island mountain goat! That's the one, with plenty of meat, just right to lure the crocodile.

Closing in, closing in, sneaking quietly into the village, don't make a sound – Crack! A dry twig cracked underfoot and the goat, suddenly alert, sprinted away without a trace. Damn, its speed is truly beyond what mere humans can chase.

Keep going! Then Da Fei spotted a few more goats, but without exception, they all escaped before he could get close. Da Fei was in disarray.

Long Spear Soldiers being hunters is indeed a joke, even primitive people knew to use bows and flying spears, my capabilities are even less than those of primitives.

Then, let's find a ferocious beast! Surely the ferocious beasts wouldn't run away! Soon, Da Fei encountered a ferocious beast, the Desolate Island large leopard! Da Fei immediately checked the information.

——Desolate Island large leopard: Attack 17, Defense 8, Health 75, Damage 11-20, Attack Speed 23, Move Speed 20, Special Skills: Stealth, Climb Trees, Rapid Bite, Throat Lock.

Da Fei was momentarily speechless. A ferocious beast is considered such because of its immense advantages over mere humans. Seeing its frightening attack speed of 23 points, Da Fei felt a bit uneasy. This attack speed, with biting and clawing, is not something humans can match.

Me, with 20 Attack, 30 Defense, 71 Health points, and land damage of 8-10, with the effect of Paralysis Poison included, can I win?

This is a confusing situation requiring careful consideration. As he was pondering, the large leopard suddenly became alert, leaped onto a tree, and hid among the leaves.

Damn! You're a ferocious beast, what are you hiding for!

Since the opponent showed weakness, I couldn't bother about that much anymore, Da Fei hurriedly rushed to the tree, lifting his gun provocatively and shouted, "Come down!"

The leopard just showed its eyes from the foliage, unmoved. Da Fei kicked the tree trunk, "Come down!"

Leopard: "Meow!"

After much struggle, Da Fei could do nothing but heave a long sigh, "Why are you so tough?"

For humans, no business means no killing. But for animals, unless it's necessary hunting or defending territory, they don't engage in senseless slaughter easily. Animals know well what injury means for them—it means even the top predator can't catch the weakest rabbit and would starve to death.

Although Da Fei isn't injured now, he's inherently the worst hunter, and in this survival-of-the-fittest jungle on the island, Da Fei can't even catch a rabbit. Mere humans, indeed very insignificant.

However, humans have wisdom, and it seems not many among humans can match the level of my wisdom!

Thus, Da Fei chased madly and finally found a rabbit nest in the bushes, then harvested a plump rabbit.

Hahaha, finally got the bait!

Of course, a mere rabbit isn't enough to fill the gaps between the giant crocodile's teeth, and the giant crocodile might not even care for it. Da Fei's primary target isn't the giant crocodile, but to use the rabbit to lure bigger prey. That's right, from little fish to bigger fish, and from big fish to the beautiful pirate women!

Da Fei arrived near the shallow waters where crocodiles lingered, chose a spot that wouldn't alert the crocodiles, and began to assemble the Crossbow Cannon. Once the Crossbow Cannon was assembled, he fired a Crossbow Arrow towards the beach, then placed the rabbit where the arrow landed.

The reason Da Fei arranged it this way was to ensure that the Crossbow Cannon could hit the target without aiming. After all, what if a fast-moving small creature like a fox snatched the rabbit and ran off before you could aim? Besides, the Crossbow Cannon has a long range, which doesn't easily alert the prey and makes hunting more convenient.

Everything set, Da Fei sat at the Crossbow Cannon, quietly waiting.

Time ticked by. Da Fei yawned continuously until suddenly, a white flash before his eyes—damn! Da Fei didn't see clearly and reflexively kicked the trigger.

Boom! The Crossbow Arrow shot out explosively, Bang! Blood and feathers flew everywhere! Holy crap, it's an Osprey! It almost stole my hard-earned bait! Using a cannon to kill a fly, that was too risky. If it weren't for the Osprey being slow to speed up after grabbing the rabbit, the Crossbow Cannon would mostly likely have missed!

But well, not only was the rabbit saved, but now there was also a large bird, exactly the effect I wanted.

Now, Da Fei piled the Osprey and rabbit together, and without any negligence, kept the binoculars at hand, vigilantly watching the skies and the jungle along the coast.

Before long, various animals like foxes began to poke their heads out of the bushes. Hehe, come on, let's see who's more cunning.

The outcome was brilliant, by nightfall, piles of foxes, ospreys, and seabirds had accumulated.

Yet, the crocodile in the water remained unmoved. Da Fei started getting anxious. Were crocodiles really scavengers? Did it not see or smell, or did it simply disdain the sight? Did he need to lure all the large beasts on the island to create a giant Corpse Mountain? Or was this approach just wrong from the start, and they simply didn't fall for it?

In his anxiety, the bushes on the shore rustled—here comes the big one! Da Fei perked up.

There it appeared, the Wilderness Island Cannibal Giant Lizard!

—Wilderness Island Cannibal Giant Lizard: Attack 13, Defense 15, Damage 11-18, Health 130, Attack Speed 8, Move Speed 7, Experience 570, Special Skills: Rotting Tracking, Strong Plague Demise, Cannibalism.

The cannibal giant lizard's tongue had a strong sense of smell, capable of detecting the scent of corpses several kilometers away. They usually swallowed rotting corpses and their teeth and saliva were filled with several deadly toxins with no known cure. Once a creature is bitten by the giant lizard, it could be a day or half a month before their inevitable death! This is why giant lizards with unremarkable combat and speed capabilities dominate Wilderness Island.

Da Fei frowned, no doubt, this creature's design strongly resembled the Komodo dragons of Indonesia. If so, his Corpse Mountain could now be built. With its Blood Defense, it couldn't withstand a single shot from him!

As expected, when the first giant lizard entered the ambush unconcerned, Da Fei took it down with one shot.

—System Prompt: You have killed a Wilderness Island Cannibal Giant Lizard, gaining Experience +570.

Just looking at its attributes, this experience was okay! But compared to its chilling special skills which could trade one life for many, this experience seemed a bit underwhelming.

With the first one down, a second followed soon. More lizards kept appearing from the bushes. In the darkness, the eyes of these lizards glowed like light bulbs, making the entire beach's bushes shine.

Holy crap! Did I just lure all the lizards on the island? Come on, all come and contribute to my Corpse Mountain! Haha, wahahaha!

Chapter 47: Discovering the Giant Crocodile's Weakness

In the darkness of the night, Da Fei didn't need to aim. He kept blasting one giant lizard after another, each shot taking down those slow-moving creatures with glowing eyes. These poor giant lizards had no idea where the attacks in the dark came from until they died.

Meanwhile, the sea shimmered with light too, which was the eyes of the crocodiles. As the giant lizards approached, they finally reacted, slowly drifting toward the shore to gather.

The strategy was effective, and the lure was promising! Da Fei was even more exhilarated. He lost count of how many giant lizards he had killed when a beam of golden light descended from the sky.

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have leveled up to level 20! You gained 1 free attribute point, 1 skill point, +2 to health, +1 Command Power, +1 tactical position, and a reward of +1 to personal Basic Damage.

——System Prompt: As a Junior Navigator, you have grown, gaining 1 free attribute point as a reward.

Oh yeah! Leveled up! Junior Navigators are rewarded 1 point every 5 levels, so at level 20, there should be 4 points. Back when I was at level 19, I had already been given 3 points, and now this 1 point makes up for it.

But thinking about the God-level Scroll of the navigator falling into her hands made Da Fei's heart ache like a knife! No way, she's just an NPC girl, right? Could she suppress me so much that I explode? I refuse to believe that I can't win her over! I'll complete this task, and I'll do it beautifully. What's 1 unit of pearls? I'll overachieve, I'll collect all the pearls from this beach.

The eastern horizon blossomed with a red glow as dawn approached.

After a night of shooting, the bodies of giant lizards piled up on the beach. After a night of shooting, Da Fei was already close to level 21 in experience.

I can proudly confirm that although millions of players worldwide might start with a Crossbow Cannon, very few can use it as skillfully as I can. I don't need Soldier Protection Cannon, terrain positioning, or even aiming or spare part maintenance—what else could be called skillful mastery?

The realm of experts is not about fancy tactics, but about facing the right enemy at the right time. I'm telling you, I'm an expert! An expert like me couldn't possibly stoop to be a pirate, right? It's a waste of talent and against reason. Becoming a businessman is the true path, wahahahaha!

Finally, the crocodiles watching all night moved. They crawled ashore in groups to enjoy this ready-made feast. Even crocodiles, known for being immune to all diseases, were wary of the giant lizard's Corrosive Poison, which is why they watched from afar last night.

And this was the opportunity Da Fei was waiting for. When the crocodiles came ashore in groups, Da Fei immediately rushed to the beach to pick up shells.

——System Prompt: You have picked up a pearl shell, obtaining a Blood Pearl!

Blood Pearl! Looking at the red glass ball in his hand, the size of a marble, Da Fei's eyebrow twitched! Is this a pearl? Aren't pearls usually white? Could this be an extremely rare variant? Doesn't that mean it's super valuable?

Haha! It's good that it's valuable. I intended to clear out this place of pearls anyway!

Da Fei started frantically collecting pearls while the giant crocodiles on the shore feasted crazily, with each taking what they needed. Time flew by quickly, and in no time, the scorching sun was overhead, and it was noon.

The shells in the sea were becoming fewer and harder to find, and the Corpse Mountain on the shore was mostly gone; it was time to finish up. By this time, Da Fei had collected 345 Blood Pearls, or 3 units and 45 parts, far surpassing the task requirements. Haha, just a gathering task, not a challenge for me.

Da Fei, satisfied, went ashore to disassemble the Crossbow Cannon and pack up. Looking back in the direction of the small boat, he felt a little smug, wondering what their expressions would be like when they saw this bounty of pearls. When I present this pile of pearls to the beauty, what will her reaction be? Offer herself as a bride? Hahaha! I know you're high-class, my requirement isn't high. Just return the scroll, and we can part ways amicably—why forcefully hold on?

Of course, Da Fei occasionally glanced at the sunbathing, well-fed giant crocodiles to prevent them from turning hostile.

Wait! Suddenly, Da Fei noticed something amiss! These crocodiles were way too stuffed! They were blown up like big tents! How ridiculously funny!

Da Fei immediately pulled out a telescope and saw a little bit of a giant lizard's tail still sticking out from a giant crocodile's mouth, and the crocodile was repeatedly raising its head, trying to swallow the tail whole.

Da Fei was so shocked that his jaw nearly dropped. Holy crap, had he not noticed earlier because he was too focused on collecting pearls? Were these crocodiles swallowing the giant lizards whole?

Crocodiles are not like other fierce beasts—their front limbs are too short to help slice prey for eating. Nor are they like sharks with rows of serrated steel teeth to bite off chunks of meat with a toss of their heads. Have you seen how crocodiles eat on nature shows? They throw! They lock onto zebras or antelopes, then there's a tug-of-war until they tear off a big piece of meat, and with a toss of the head, they swallow it down.

But now, facing these much smaller and far more numerous giant lizards, didn't these giant crocodiles need to contest over them? They just swallowed whole like snakes! Under normal circumstances, when snakes are full, isn't that completely defenseless?

Staring at the swollen bellies like overblown balloons, a crazy and irresistible idea rushed into Da Fei's mind, "Take a shot to see what happens?"

Exactly! Most people have this tendency when they see a balloon blown too big. Don't you subconsciously want to see it pop? When a waiter with a precariously balanced tray passes, don't you want to see it crash down? What's that called in psychology?

Anyway, Da Fei especially wanted to shoot it!

However, Da Fei's rational mind and desires were in a fierce struggle! After all, games are just games; how could they mimic reality perfectly? If the crocodile wasn't affected at all, wouldn't that be asking for trouble? Normally, how much damage would hitting a crocodile do?

Master-level Crossbow Cannon had 30 Attack, Basic Damage 6–7, and with Da Fei at level 20, he'd gained 19 attribute points from leveling up, plus 4 more from the navigator bonus, totaling 23 points. (Note: The Crossbow Cannon is unaffected by skill and equipment bonuses, so the Captain's Sword's attribute does not apply to the Crossbow Cannon.)

Total damage = Basic Killing × Hero Strategic Attribute points = 138–161. But the crocodile boss had an astounding 50 Defense, meaning the Crossbow Cannon was 20 points short in attack-defense differential, reducing damage to just 50%, which would be 69–80, against a crocodile's 900 health. Is it possible?

But anyway, since he already completed the task, the Crossbow Cannon had already killed countless bosses, making it worth its cost, so why not try? How else would I know?

Finally, Da Fei's adventurous nature won out over reason—"Shoot!" Better to regret something done than something left undone! It's like buying a lottery ticket, even with the slimmest chance, trying gives you a chance of winning; don't, and you never will!

Resolved, Da Fei excitedly began to reassemble the Crossbow Cannon, feeling a thrill akin to checking lottery numbers.

The Crossbow Cannon was reassembled!

Da Fei took a deep breath, loaded two Crossbow Arrows, then aimed at the distant balloon! Would this shot witness a miracle or folly?

—Boom! Crack! Two arrows shot out! Bang! Bang! Blood exploded like rain! "-243"! "-251!"

Success! Da Fei jumped up in excitement! The attack and defense had reversed; this damage assuredly meant the Crossbow Cannon's attack exceeded the crocodile's defense by at least 10 points! Indeed, a stuffed crocodile was defenseless! And at the same time, a line of system prompts flowed across the screen.

—System Prompt: You have further completed the information collection of the Desolate Island Cannibal Giant Crocodile!

—System Prompt: You obtained information on the sub-skill "Intelligence Analysis" of Master-level Reconnaissance Skill.

—Intelligence Analysis: After acquiring all detailed information on an unknown creature, the hero can discover the creature's fatal weakness, ignoring its defense by 25% to 100% in battle. Learning requirement: Master-level Reconnaissance Skill.

Da Fei's eyebrows shot up in surprise!

Wasn't the information on the Desolate Island Cannibal Giant Crocodile public on the official website? And it could be collected and completed further? Information on a Master-level sub-skill? Da Fei quickly opened the information bar while loading, then noticed something extra under the crocodile's special skills: ???.

He discovered an unknown new special skill of the crocodile! This skill, no doubt, is a negative skill or maybe a weakness of the crocodile? Damn, being stuffed like that, it's clearly a weakness that doesn't need to be discovered!

The key question is, what's up with this suddenly appearing Intelligence Analysis sub-skill for Master level? Isn't this skill in the Skill Book already? As long as you reach Grandmaster level, you can directly learn it without having to gather skill information?

But there was no time to ponder further as the attacked crocodile roared and stumbled forward!

Watching its zombie-like speed, Da Fei laughed heartily: "You ate my stuff; now spit it all back out!"

Chapter 48: Deduction of Grandmaster Reconnaissance Skill

Da Fei faced the bulky crocodile moving like a bulldozer shoving sand forward and fired his second shot! "-247!" "-159!!!"

—Boom! Sure enough, like a balloon bursting, a giant lizard covered in slime burst forth from the crocodile's belly!

—System Prompt: You killed a Cannibal Giant Crocodile on the Desolate Island, gaining 15,000 experience!

—System Prompt: You killed a Leader-level creature higher in level than you solo, achieving progress 12/100 on the achievement "Lonely Warrior Hundred Wins."

—System Prompt: You have obtained the information of the Master-level Reconnaissance Skill sub-skill "Intelligence Analysis."

Haha! Wahahaha! Da Fei's crazy laughter echoed across the beach! Just two shots and four arrows to obliterate a BOSS that would be impossible to beat under normal circumstances! What is this? This is me being awesome!

What should I do now? So many crocodile BOSSes, such a pain-in-the-neck mission scene, can't call it a pain anymore! You all just make my hundred-win dream a reality! Under normal circumstances, only players who reach a certain level of boredom can achieve this, but now, it's within my grasp, just like this big feast is within reach! I am the true man standing at the top of the food chain!

Another two crocodile bellies exploded with a bang, and a golden light descended from the sky! Level 21! Leveled up! One crocodile is 15,000 experience, a hundred crocodiles make 1.5 million, how many levels can that raise me? 24? 25? 26? Wahahaha! I've only played for three days! What's the highest level player in the world right now? Eh, what do I care, not my business, I have no interest in comparing realms with others, wahahaha!

Keep going!

Another crocodile was blasted into submission without resistance. The beach of the Desolate Island witnessed the most hideous, most sinful human slaughter. It wasn't for survival hunting, self-defense, or even trading, but purely for the experience! That's the game, games are truly sinful! As players, what dark and twisted desires are we really trying to fulfill in this game?

Da Fei's mind settled from the initial frenzy, beginning to deeply ponder a profound question—why does each crocodile kill prompt information on the Master-level Reconnaissance Skill's sub-skill "Intelligence Analysis," yet I can't find any information? Where is this information?

The key issue was what I thought first, "Intelligence Analysis" is clearly a skill recorded in public Skill Books, you can learn it at Master-level if you have Skill Points, it's not like "Mysterious Stealth Navigation," which isn't recorded in Skill Books and requires players to gather information, so why continually prompt for information?

To become a true expert, a true professional player, one must learn to think, learn to observe!

Observational skills might be limited by the player's level, causing them to miss many important things, like that God-level Scroll, but your mind is your own, no one can take it away! That's how I became a navigator, so I won't lightly miss this powerful combat skill sub-skill in this Reconnaissance Skill.

Learning "Intelligence Analysis" isn't hard; the difficulty lies in raising the Reconnaissance Skill to Master-level! Without reaching Master-level, collecting more skill information is pointless.

So the next question is how to reach Master-level? The official website's only hint is for players to understand and discover on their own, the method is not unique! This is the dividing line between experts and regular players.

Juan's diary recorded that he leveled up with a golden light after seeing through Pirate King Red Beard's Divine Skill Mysterious Stealth Navigation, which is an important revelation. But this insight comes with a premise, at least his Reconnaissance Skill must have reached Master-level, right?

And what's my Reconnaissance Skill Level? Advanced! So what's there to comprehend?

There's nothing more to say, at this crucial enlightened moment, I'm not about to hoard Skill Points, my leveling is like riding a rocket, why worry about any points? Besides, my initial goal was to max out Reconnaissance Skill.

Da Fei was no longer confused, while reloading his weapon, he pulled out the Reconnaissance Skill Book—this time keeping a clear eye, it's Reconnaissance Skill, no mistake!

—System Prompt: You spent 1 Skill Point, and learned Expert-level Reconnaissance Skill!

—System Prompt: You spent 1 Skill Point, and learned Master-level Reconnaissance Skill!

Reconnaissance Skill, university graduation!

—Master-level Reconnaissance Skill: The hero's field of vision increases by 100%, the hero gains night vision ability. The hero can train special Reconnaissance troops in their castle, scouts...

With the skill level soaring two levels, Da Fei felt the world broaden! This feeling, so refreshing! The benefit of a clear vision is that it even seems to clear one's thinking.

Come on, now I'm at Master-level, now eligible to discuss Grandmaster-level.

Since there isn't a single method to understand Grandmaster-level, Juan apparently achieved enlightenment through the Anti-disguise Skill, what skill will I gain enlightenment from? Undoubtedly, it must be the sub-skill Intelligence Collection! It's the only skill I'm using.

Only by learning to "Collect Intelligence" can one obtain the strange special skill information indicated by those three question marks, further analyze to find monsters' weaknesses, and deal damage that ignores defense, this is the skill principle of "Intelligence Analysis," right?

But now, the effect is the opposite; the monster is bursting out its weakness after gorging itself, it's impossible not to deal high damage, no analysis needed! In other words, the current situation is deriving skills from practical combat rather than skills influencing practical combat! So, the system keeps prompting skill information on Intelligence Analysis?

What does deduction mean? For instance, how did Newton's law $F = ma$ come about? First, discover the phenomenon, collect data, establish rules, and finally derive the formula, that's deduction! The current situation is mostly deduction.

Boom! Another two arrows fired! Although Da Fei's mind was occupied, his hands didn't stop.

—System Prompt: You killed a Cannibal Giant Crocodile on the Desolate Island, gaining 15,000 experience!

—System Prompt: You advanced your information collection on the Cannibal Giant Crocodile on the Desolate Island!

—System Prompt: You have obtained the information of the Master-level Reconnaissance Skill sub-skill "Intelligence Analysis."

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched, advancing the information again! He quickly opened the crocodile's information panel to see, and the three question marks finally turned into text!

—Gluttony Weakness: Reptilian creatures often cannot choose the size of their food, only gobbling it down whole, resulting in a significant decrease in defense and speed.

That's it! The reason they were question marks before was because my Reconnaissance Skill level was insufficient, making it difficult to collect more detailed intelligence! Now that I'm at Master-level, of course it's feasible. If it were Grandmaster-level, would the information collected be more detailed? After all, Master-level only states a significant reduction without specifying the numeric decrease, such vague wording clearly isn't a formal special skill introduction, so there's bound to be more detailed information.

The problem is, I'm not Grandmaster-level!

In that instant, Da Fei's train of thought sharpened! To verify his hypothesis, Da Fei immediately reloaded his weapon and aimed at the next crocodile!

Boom! With a loud crash, the crocodile died violently,

—System Prompt: You advanced your information collection on the Cannibal Giant Crocodile on the Desolate Island!

More information surfaced! Da Fei once again opened the information panel, no new question mark skills, just the same text introduction. What information am I collecting then?

Is that even a question? Of course, the system's backend is constantly sampling data! Different levels of crocodile bloating result in various reductions in defense and speed, and when all samples are collected, that's when "Gluttony Weakness" unfolds detailed data, achievable only with Master-level Reconnaissance Skill!

What does this entail? Still deriving skills from practical combat! What does this mean?

Skill perfection day, comprehension Grandmaster time! Haha, wahahaha! Suddenly enlightened, Da Fei burst into heavenly laughter! Thinking about it for so long, in the end, isn't it just investing in Skill Points to reach Master-level Reconnaissance Skill, then killing specific monsters? What's all the fuss? Keep killing!

Chapter 49: Brother is a Master

The crossbow cannon roared, the beach was stained with blood, the sea churned with blood flowers, and the bloated corpses of giant crocodiles piled up into little mounds of flesh.

A flash of golden light, level 22!

Another flash of golden light, level 23!!

Golden light continued to flash, level 24!!!

With two cannon blasts taking down a BOSS, Da Fei's level skyrocketed like a rocket! The once daunting BOSS became Da Fei's massive experience after its last breakfast—no, it was the ladder to truth! What an astonishing frenzy of monster grinding! Before, encountering a shark at sea and getting 2500 experience with one shot felt like an incredible reward, but compared to the 15000 experience giant crocodiles now, it was nothing at all.

Why am I so awesome?

Wa hahaha, Da Fei's laughter echoed high above the island, endless.

Little did Da Fei know, his rocket-like leveling up had already alarmed the professional observers in China! In just two short hours, Da Fei's ranking soared from outside the million mark straight into the top 10 thousand in the world! And his rank was still climbing rapidly!

After all, Da Fei, who snatched the divine hero mission reward and was simultaneously being hunted across the server by God-level Hero Blood Sea Wave, was somewhat of a sensational gossip celebrity, impossible not to be followed and watched closely.

Host, “Hello to all player friends! This episode of Hero News is here with you again. Now it has been six days since the game launch. Let’s take a look at the current world level rankings.”

“First place is still held by the French player Natasha with her Vampire Princess specialty hero, level 29!”

“Second and third place are still the China Star Team player Little Pig Run’s Griffin Breeder specialty hero and Russian War Angel Team player Bapulov’s Siege Master specialty hero, at level 28! These three have been leading the top three for 6 days now, and their advantage is hard to be shaken by other players. Besides entering the game at the first time when it launched, this is also due to their powerful and early-game applicable specialties, and their tireless leveling day and night. Of course, we do not encourage regular players to follow their example...”

“As for the universally concerned world number one God-level hero, Swedish player Vitne’s Death Lord is still in seclusion, currently at level 21, ranked beyond a million. However, according to information gathered from the European Union forum, Vitne seems to have discovered the presence of a Bone Dragon in the wild. If he truly manages to recruit this impossible-for-players-to-possess-at-the-current-stage level 7 troop, his leveling speed is bound to soar to the sky.”

“And speaking of leveling speed, it’s worth mentioning that there is now a player in the China Region who has just skyrocketed his level at an incredible speed in the past two hours—equivalent to in-game time of one day. He is now at level 24. He is the red-named player Da Fei who is currently being criticized on the forums. This really is a very surprising thing. What’s more surprising is that he’s already level 24 and hasn’t changed professions yet. In short, we will further maintain focus on his progress!”

“From the analysis of the current top 100 on the level list, heroes leveling fast almost all have specialties in mid-to-low-level troop types. Comparatively, Alisa from the U.S. Supernova Team with her Unicorn Girl specialty appears very awkward, as players cannot obtain Unicorns, a level 5 troop, in the early stages. Therefore, her current situation is equivalent to having no specialty, and her rank is not much higher than average players.”

“So far, Magic Hero players are still at a disadvantage in the early stages. The consumption of mana, the recovery speed of magic calculated by in-game days, the expensive and limited supply of magic potions all severely restrict the early development of Magic Hero players. However, the late-game strength of Magic players is undeniably certain, so those majoring in Magic Heroes should remain confident—the future is bright, but the road is tortuous—”

Just then, in front of the camera, a staff member handed the host a note, and the host's endless broadcast came to an abrupt halt! After a brief silence, the host said in astonishment: "Hello, player friends, latest news, the player Da Fei from the China Region we have been following has just reached level 25! Just before this show began, the latest news I received stated he was level 24, and in less than ten minutes, he leveled up again!"

Needless to say, the China Region game forum began another round of excitement. If Da Fei's fame was initially due to his despicable acts connecting with God-level Hero Blood Sea Wave, now it's solid strength! Many restless players on the forum speculated just how this notorious player could level up so crazily without changing professions.

Knowing the news, Blood Sea Wave was so furious that his heart bled! No matter how this trash leveled up, his achievement was obtained by snatching the reward of my God-level Hero! And there's only one reason why he hasn't changed professions yet—that's because he hasn't reached the shore. This enmity cannot coexist! No matter how much it costs, if this trash dares to appear, I'll nail him to level 0 until he dies!

Deserted Sea Crocodile Island, as another giant crocodile collapsed violently, a golden light descended from the sky!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have leveled up to level 25! You gained 1 free attribute point, 1 skill point, health +2, command power +1, and received a personal basic damage reward +1.

—System Prompt: As a Junior Navigator, you have grown and are rewarded with 1 free attribute point.

Leveled up again! What excited Da Fei even more than leveling up was that the long-anticipated truth had finally arrived!

—System Prompt: You have collected complete information on the Cannibal Giant Crocodile on the Desolate Island!

—Gluttony Weakness: Reptilian creatures often cannot choose the size of their food and can only overeat and swallow whole, resulting in a decrease in defense speed by 45% to 75%.

Data was out, information was completed!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Through constant reconnaissance collecting intelligence on powerful creatures, your Reconnaissance Skill has made a qualitative leap, and you have comprehended the Master-level Reconnaissance Skill!

—System Prompt: By continuously gathering information on powerful creatures and studying their weaknesses, you have acquired the full information of the “Intelligence Analysis” skill, and you have comprehended the “Intelligence Analysis” skill.

—Master-level Reconnaissance Skill: Increases hero’s vision range by 120%, able to detect creatures hidden in the Otherworld.

Wa hahaha! I comprehended it, I indeed comprehended the master-level skill! Not only that, I also comprehended the sub-skill! Intelligence Analysis, ignoring 25% to 100% of the enemy’s defense, a divine skill, the only explosive combat skill in Reconnaissance, with the divine skill in hand, wouldn’t my crossbow cannon explode the monsters to death! My life needs no explanation from now on, ha ha, wa hahaha!

Although unintentional windfall often fills people with joy beyond expectation, obtaining the long-imagined harvest through one’s own thinking, and then in a natural course is even more fulfilling and exhilarating! What made Da Fei even more delighted was that the comprehended master-level skill and Intelligence Analysis skill were system-given, not consuming his own skill points.

So it is! Comprehending does not consume skill points, equivalent to direct system rewards, while learning must consume skill points, which is not at all the same concept. Especially under the strained skill point conditions when upgrading becomes difficult later, comprehension is truly too important.

Through this successful comprehension, Da Fei already faintly figured out some keys to comprehending a master’s skill. First, the enemy faced must be much stronger than himself. Then, this type of monster must be from the same kind; only by repeatedly dealing with the same kind can a large amount of comparable data be accumulated, thus leading to comprehension.

Going by this, if one wants to raise the Attack Skill to the master level, the most reliable method would be to persistently target the same type of strong monster? But saying that, isn’t my crossbow cannon

already at the Master level? It's already been hammering strongly against the powerful crocodile BOSS, yet there's no hint of information or sign of comprehension at all? Could it be all my brainpower was used up thinking about Master-level Reconnaissance Skill, and I had no capacity for the crossbow cannon?

Haha! No rush, no rush, having comprehended the first master's skill, could the second be far off? No no, Juan said in his diary that once one becomes a master, could the God-level be far behind? My character has become so godly, even if things go south, I can tough it out without having to bend over to others' prices.

Indeed, from now on, I am a Master!

Chapter 50: The Appreciation of Desolate Barbarian Pirates

At this time, it was already late at night in the game. The sky was dotted with stars and the moon was bright, with a night breeze carrying a foul stench. There were hardly any crocodiles left on the beach. Just as another crocodile fell,

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have completed the achievement “Lonely Hero Hundred Victories,” showcasing your grand personal feat and unmatched valor. As a result, your subordinates will be filled with morale and courage because of you. You received a reward: Life +20, Personal Basic Damage +1, Strategic Reward: All Troops' Life +2, Command Power +10, Morale +1.

At this moment, Da Fei, the master-level figure, nodded with grace, “Not bad, not bad! What was destined has finally come.”

Although the effect of All Troops' Life +2 was negligible, particularly for high-level soldiers, once combined with the “Unlimited Vitality” sub-skill for Defense Skill, which also boosts all troops' life by +2, it became terrifying. It effectively increased the life of gunners and archers by half, doubling the 5-health skeleton soldiers' life, giving a massive boost to low-level troops. It was simply a god-level leap for low-level soldiers! It was truly worth the player's effort in painstakingly soloing 100 bosses. In the face of such divine skill rewards, a morale boost of +1 was just like a freebie.

Ah, this was the explosive life of resilience, brother could create paradise even in dire straits!

Hmm, can brother laugh triumphantly for a moment? No, no! Image, image. Brother is now a master; one must stay calm even over trivial matters, haha, wahahaha!

Now, Da Fei's attributes were as follows:

Level: 25.

Talent Specialty: Storm Navigation.

Profession: Long Spear Soldier, Junior Navigator, Newbie Trainer

Reputation: -3120 (Notorious, your current reputation makes it difficult to receive tasks from NPCs, causes hostility in some NPCs, but may also draw favor from others.)

Attack: 19 (18 points for attributes at level 19, Captain's Sword adds +1 on shore. An additional 5 free attribute points awarded for dual profession and the 6 points from leveling up from 19 to 25 were all unallocated because they don't affect crossbow power.)

Defense: 31 (30 points from a full set of personal equipment at the Pirate Store, Captain's Sword adds +1 strategic defense on shore.)

Magic Power: 0

Knowledge: 0

Basic Killing: 11-13 (Started at 1-3, Anemone Enchantment adds +1, Lonely Hero Achievement adds +1, Lonely Hero 10 Victories adds +1, Lonely Hero Hundred Victories adds +1, and leveling up every 5 levels grants a killing reward, level 25 adds +5, Captain's Sword adds +1 shore damage boosting all troops.)

Life: 105 (Started at 10, +2 per level, Lonely Hero Achievement adds +10, Lonely Hero 10 Victories adds +15, Lonely Hero Hundred Victories adds +20, All Troops' Life adds +2.)

Attack Speed: Normal 11 (Captain's Sword adds +1 on shore)

Move Speed: 10

Morale: 3 (Hero's innate +1, Lonely Hero Hundred Victories +1, Basic Leadership Skill +1)

Luck: 1 (Basic Luck Skill +1)

Command Power: 48 (Level up +24, First Battle Achievement +10, Lonely Hero Hundred Victories +10, Total value 44, Basic Leadership Skill bonus 10%, total 48)

Stamina: 100

Learned Skills: Master War Machine Science (sub-skill Crossbow Master); Master-level Reconnaissance Skill (sub-skills Situation Collection, Stealth, Intelligence Analysis), Basic Luck Skill, Basic Leadership Skill, Basic Attack Skill, Basic Defense Skill, Basic Arrow Skill, Basic Logistics Skill.

Used a total of 19 skill points, with 5 skill points remaining unallocated.

Da Fei blissfully packed away the crossbow cannon and walked briskly toward the distant campfire on the beach. What kind of expression would they have if they knew that brother had killed all the crocodiles? Wahahaha, it was really something to look forward to.

On the beach where the pirate ship was docked, pirates were gathered around the campfire, drinking and playing games all night long. Gotta say, that's quite the carefree life.

Seeing Da Fei return, the pirates were taken aback: "Finished? So fast?"

Da Fei patted the resource bag on his shoulder and smiled lightly, "Well, I killed so many crocodiles, it would be a shame to let those skins go to waste, so I'll let you handle them."

The pirates were suddenly alarmed. The leading pirate stood up swiftly, "You stay, I'll go take a look!" Then, like a gust of wind, he vanished into the night. This agility absolutely exceeded what normal soldiers' move speed should be, right? But you couldn't underestimate the hidden talents among pirates. However, small-scale mindset is still small-scale mindset; brother would not join you. Whatever tough methods you have, bring them on. Brother was just worried one grandmaster level wouldn't be enough. I was ready to test the power of Intelligence Analysis, hahaha, wahahaha!

While the pirates muttered among themselves, the pirate who had gone before returned shouting in amazement, "All killed! It's true, all killed! The beach is full of crocodile corpses!"

The pirates were in an uproar, looking at Da Fei with eyes as though they had seen a monster.

Imagine that expression on brother's face! Da Fei smiled lightly, "After all, I am the man who soloed great white sharks, killing a few more crocodiles isn't a big deal."

The leader then pulled out a signal gun from his chest and fired it into the air. A bright tracer shot whizzed into the night sky and exploded with a bang.

Though unsure of its purpose, it surely wasn't against brother. Da Fei didn't inquire further, calmly sitting by the campfire, sipping drinks bought with hard-earned money. Of course, being a master meant being generous, so Da Fei shared the extra drinks with them, "Come on, everyone have a drink."

The pirates nodded repeatedly, "Drink! Let's continue drinking, haha!"

At that moment, Da Fei finally felt he had somewhat gained the pirates' respect. The feeling of being respected even by enemies was really satisfying, haha.

As dawn broke, five or six medium-sized pirate ships arrived on the sea. The pirates' agility and responsiveness were indeed quick.

The leading pirate muttered, "Looks like the boss personally came."

Da Fei exclaimed, "Captain Rock?"

The pirate snorted, “Boy, if Captain Rock personally favors you, you’d better recognize your chance.”

Da Fei shook his head and remained silent. What did the birds know of the swan’s ambition?

They approached; the pirate ships anchored near shore as a large group of pirates jumped from the ships, wading ashore. Among the crowd, Rock and Barak’s tall figures were clearly visible. Reconnaissance Skill’s night vision was indeed useful.

“Kid, not bad!” In the darkness, Da Fei locked eyes with him from afar. Needless to say, Rock’s Reconnaissance Skill was no less than his own.

“Not bad.” With just these couple of words, Rock and Barak rushed to the campfire. Other pirates headed for the Crocodile Beach.

Rock laughed heartily, “Boy, I’m more and more impressed with you. I didn’t expect a small gathering task from Catherine would cause such a ruckus, but now we can develop this Blood Pearl Island. We’ll have our special product income. How about it, join us? You will also have shares in Blood Pearl Island.”

—System Prompt: You helped Desolate Barbarian Pirates develop a precious specialty. Your reputation with Desolate Barbarian Pirates has become Appreciated!

—Beginner Tip: Improving your reputation with a faction will allow you to receive tasks from that faction, purchase its unique specialties, and enjoy various price discounts.

Da Fei’s brow twitched, Appreciated? Reputation could be gained from an enemy faction? Well, never mind, gaining reputation was never a bad thing.

Da Fei did not answer his request but instead asked, “What’s your relationship with Catherine?”

Rock laughed heartily, “My daughter, not bad, right? As long as you join us, there’s a possibility for anything between you two.”

—Ah, phew! Fortunately, she wasn't his woman; it made me a bit more comfortable inside. But pity...

Da Fei shook his head and sighed, "I won't join you. But I have a proposal. I found that your goods are inconvenient to sell, so I thought of selling them for you. Therefore, I should maintain my legal status on the Hero Continent. What do you think?"

Rock's face fell.

Barak was enraged, "Boy! You're too presumptuous! All you saw were things we discarded as trash, we have plenty of proper channels for our good stuff."

Yet Rock just laughed, "No problem, come find me when you make up your mind."

With that, he waved, and the pirate who rowed the boat immediately understood, pushing Da Fei onto a small boat, "Go, we're heading back."

Throughout this journey, the pirates silently rowed the boat, none of them said a word to Da Fei.

Da Fei knew he had severely offended the NPCs. His repeated refusal of their favor made his disdainful intent too obvious. If he were in their shoes, he'd surely have smashed them with a brick. Admittedly, as a pirate, his composure was indeed remarkable. Of course, it was ultimately a game and couldn't forcibly change a player's career, right?

Anyway, once ashore, Da Fei returned to the tavern.

Catherine still sat at the bar, sultry and literary. Ah, beauty, if you were a woman in reality, maybe brother would really consider becoming a pirate for you. Unfortunately, brother was just that realistic.

With a flip of her long hair, Catherine raised her glass with a gentle smile, "To the warrior's triumphant return, cheers."

Hehe, with the increase in reputation it was different, see how the beauty smiled like a flower. Da Fei then presented all the Blood Pearls from his resource bag, "I completed the task for you, Miss, and the extra is a gift for you."

Catherine took the bag with a soft smile, "Thank you!"

—System Prompt: You completed the task "Collecting Pearls," received a reward of 50,000 Experience, and 500 Gold Coins. Your favorability with Catherine has additionally increased.

Damn! 500 gold coins! Brother finally had money!

Catherine sighed deeply, "You always said that pirates have a small scale and wouldn't join them. But just how big is the world out there?"

Da Fei's brow twitched! There was a chance! Whether there was an opportunity or not, it was time for a confession, had to be thick-skinned!

Da Fei hurriedly said, "Very big, very big, especially in the New World opened up by the gods, it's my dreamland, and of course, I'd love to realize my dreams with the woman I love."

Catherine finished her drink in one gulp, sighing, "There's a storm in three days; everyone will be mobilized for disaster prevention, and the tavern will have nothing for you to do. You've worked hard on this trip, so rest for a few days." With that, she swayed her hips and walked out.

Suddenly Da Fei felt a shock! A storm! Rest for a few days? Was she hinting to me? Was she saying that she also knew the storm was my only chance to escape? Was she giving me a helping hand? Hey, hey, don't go; with the favorability boosted, shouldn't the scroll be returned too? You can't just keep it!