

God level 461

Chapter 461: "Clever" Escape_2

"Is that a joke? She's a top student, a wealthy beauty, a goddess who doesn't even need to attend classes. She's not from our world at all."

"Exactly, every time I see her, I'm so overwhelmed by her noble aura that I don't dare to get close!"

Da Bing said grumpily, "You hopeless bunch are beyond salvation!"

Everyone laughed and said, "You're the team captain, you should be the one to do it!" "Yeah, if you can, then do it!"

Da Bing shivered involuntarily, then patted Da Wei on the shoulder: "Brother Wei, our dorm is full of losers leering with lust, only you, from the sports department, tall and handsome, exceptional and upright, are fit for the job!"

The crowd immediately burst out: "What do you mean messed up? You're no different!"

Da Bing snapped back angrily, "Damn! Is that how you talk to your captain?"

Da Wei panicked and shook his head incoherently, "No, no... kidding, I won't go!"

Da Bing pressed urgently, "It's not like I'm asking you to cheat, just to give her an invitation letter to join our team! Right, guys?"

Everyone chimed in, "Exactly! Our team is a legitimate club authorized by the school, it's not some shady organization. Inviting her is nothing scandalous!"

Da Bing said seriously, "Look into my eyes, I'm serious. We are all deadbeats who tremble at the sight of a pretty girl, but not you, you have a beautiful wife, you have resistance, you won't lose it! Right? Remember we agreed to find a beauty like Bu Feiyan as our mascot? And the most important thing is, you are the Political Commissar of the team, if not you, then who?"

Everyone: "Exactly!"

Da Wei shook his head reluctantly, "You guys, fine, fine! It's just delivering a letter, right?"

The crowd laughed heartily, "That's more like it. We'll hide behind and snap photos with our phones, then send them to your wife Little Li, hahaha!"

Da Wei choked with anger, "You wouldn't dare!"

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The Narwhal made its speedy way back to the city.

What Da Fei feared the most finally happened, the perimeter watch of Blood Eagles found something. In the distant sea, lightning flashed, and a huge fluorescent tube was cutting towards his direction at an alarming speed!

Damn! Can they really track the Divine Artifact? They could trace me even without me opening the box, what if I expose the Divine Artifact after opening it? I've finally found another reason not to open the box! Such speed, even Da Wei could escape, there's no reason why my sailing rowboat can't shake them off!

Da Fei immediately turned the helm to change course, widening the distance from the pursuer, and shouted, "Everyone row hard, get into rhythm, quick! Hurry up!"

At the same time, Selvia cast Storm Attack again, and the speed of the boat surged! This time the Sea Soul Staff sacrificed its Mana in building the boat, it had to deplete her own Mana, but presumably, the Divine Artifact Mana Source could sustain her for a while longer.

Seeing Brother Fei acting so seriously, the team members, led by Da Bing, didn't dare to slack off or ask further questions, and they started rowing frantically to the chant of "One two! One two!"

After Da Fei corrected the course, the giant Electric Eel in the Blood Eagle's view clearly paused for a moment, circling in place. Da Fei couldn't help but feel delighted. Good, keep turning, keep turning!

After a long while, the Electric Eel once again locked on its target and resumed its pursuit of Da Fei!

Damn it! I must change course again!

For a time, an intense game of chase ensued: turning, hovering, turning, hovering. After Selvia drained her Mana, she sat quietly on the boat, meditating in a lotus position, regaining Mana for the next cast. Although the students didn't know exactly what was happening, they all understood that the godlike Brother Fei must have sensed a crisis imperceptible to mortals, so they rowed without the slightest slack.

Da Fei couldn't help feeling relieved; if this trend continued, the distance between them would certainly keep growing, and the hope of escaping was great!

But humans sometimes reach their limits, and players after all aren't professional sailors. After several bouts of exertion, everyone's stamina was flashing red and running low!

"Brother Fei, we're out of stamina and can't row anymore!"

Damn it! Da Fei was shattered: "Take this time to eat, drink, and rest!"

"Understood!"

Now they could only hope for the wind to propel the sails. That's the advantage of a sail-and-oar boat: when the people are spent, there are sails; when the wind dies, there are people. However, with just the force of the sails, escaping would be difficult. Time ticked away second by second, and the recently gained advantage was quickly lost. Looking at the Sea Monster that had chased them for countless miles on the Sea Chart, Da Fei could no longer be sure if this was the Sea God's Curse or if it was designed by the Divine Artifact chest's guardian monster.

But there was at least one thing Da Fei could be certain of: he had inadvertently leaped forward! Normally, it would definitely have involved taming Fishmen to salvage, or initiating a large-scale naval battle to eliminate that Electric Eel, followed by forming or hiring a high-tech salvage team. Now that he had skipped the usual step, he would have to bear the price of being ahead.

Da Fei began to estimate the time until they were caught based on the distance between them on the Sea Chart. He wasn't too far from Elorin now; just a few more minutes and he would reach the waters near Elorin. He refused to believe the Sea Monster would dare to cause trouble near the city's waters!

Now, everyone had recovered half of their Stamina, and Selvia's Mana had also recovered a good portion thanks to the Divine Artifact and her own meditation. They couldn't wait any longer; while they still had an advantage, they must set off.

Da Fei once again corrected the course, this time heading straight for Elorin! As Da Fei gave the order to set sail, Selvia's Storm Attack came once again, and the team immediately resumed rowing.

As time went by, the distance between the two sides kept shrinking. Finally, a flash of electric light appeared, and the Electric Eel finally came into view, causing the whole team to gasp in shock and to row desperately with all the strength they could muster!

Da Fei could also see the twinkling white sails of diligent merchant players ahead—it was the near waters of Elorin right in front of them! But the pursuing Electric Eel was relentless and not showing any signs of turning back, and there were no coastal guards nearby! What should they do? Could it force Brother Fei to pull out a big move and open the chest to use its contents now? But what about the newly recruited Fishmen? And Brother Fei wasn't even sure if the key could open the chest, it might need a password, right? If it really came to the worst, then should they leave the chest here to salvage later? Damn it, abandoning a Divine Artifact? Everyone would think Brother Fei had gone mad!

Just then, One Sword Eastward realized the situation and spoke hurriedly: "Brother Fei, watch me, I'll find some people to cover our rear!"

Da Fei was stunned: "Cover our rear?"

—Regional Channel [One Sword Eastward]: Everyone, come and see! A random Hermit, the Prophet of the Ocean has appeared, hurry and talk to him to increase attributes, gain health, and level up skills! Don't miss this opportunity; once it's gone, there won't be another!

What the hell! Da Fei's jaw hit the floor; the whole team was in an uproar!

"Little Sword, aren't you being too shady? Will that even work?"

"Yeah, that's clearly not right. Who would believe you?"

One Sword Eastward replied in a deep voice: "It doesn't matter whether they believe it or not, as long as they stop to watch! How could it not be effective with so many ships in the way? What do you think, Brother Fei?"

Da Fei felt like crying without tears! What else could I say? Damn it, I'm an international celebrity, not just some newbie thug anymore—and now I'm doing this, doing this kind of thing—well then, to protect my Divine Artifact, to protect my Fishmen, it looks like I'll have to deceive someone, and I'll just have to make up for it with good deeds later.

Da Fei patted One Sword Eastward on the shoulder, with a deep and meaningful voice: "You, are too clever! Those who achieve great things do not quibble over trifles! You won't be the only one to take the blame; I'll join in!"

The team admired: "That's Brother Fei for you! So righteous!"

—Regional Channel [Da Fei]: Come one, come all and take a look! The rewards from the Prophet await you! First come, first served, and once the rewards are gone, they'll disappear!

And the trading and fishing players in the regional channel went from shock to uproar after the last message: "It's Da Fei!"

Chapter 462: The Treasure Chest Safely Delivered

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People are blind and follow the crowd. When one or two merchant ships' players approached the place where the lightning flashed with a skeptical attitude, other trading players didn't want to fall behind either, especially since the one who made this statement was Da Fei, a famous figure in the China Region. He surely wouldn't joke around with ordinary players, right?

So, one or two people led a group, and a group led everyone. For a moment, a hundred sails competed, and the mobilization effect was surprisingly good!

One Sword Eastward smiled proudly, "I just don't believe so many people can't stop it, even if it's an electric pig, it will tire its hands out!"

The team members sighed, "There will be a lot of cursing in a bit!"

Da Fei waved his hand and said seriously, "A true warrior dared to face the bleak life directly and scowled at the thousands pointing fingers. Start rowing!"

Everyone was invigorated, "Brother Fei is right! Let's go, everyone!"

The full moon hung in the west, and the night breeze was cool. Da Fei stood at the bow, steadfastly gazing at the bustling night scene of Elorin Port in the distance. Soon, behind him, a flash of thunder, with rolling thunder echoing across the sea and sky! Da Fei raised an eyebrow but wasn't moved, because the scene behind him was too beautiful for him to dare look!

The team members roared with excitement, "It's on! A lot of ships are on fire!"

One Sword Eastward laughed heartily, "We've succeeded! The Sea Monster is held up!"

Da Bing excitedly shouted, "Keep rowing, everyone!"

Then the regional channel erupted with curses, "Everyone, run, it's a Sea Monster! We got fooled by that trash Da Fei!"

"Da Fei, that dead trash led monsters to harm us! Liar! You #%&\$ \$#&***!"

"*+&*%\$#@*&*!"

At this moment, Brother Hao Ono Shinichiro was watching with interest as he started recording the majestic sea fireworks feast, a barely noticeable sinister smile on his lips.

Satisfied! He was really satisfied with Da Fei. Where else could you find such a powerful yet characteristically low-class national scum? One Sword Eastward wasn't bad either. Although he was way behind Da Fei in strength, he was more insidious. This was what they called a troublesome little ghost, worth focusing on training! This group of university students was also very blind, all money-worshipping without opinions, a virus of Chinese society. When viruses gather, it turns cancerous, got it! My plan is officially named 'Cancer Plan,' haha, wahahaha!

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Finally, they arrived at Elorin, and the team members cheered. Da Fei let out a long sigh of relief, saved the Fishman, and kept the treasure chest! My awesome self, no matter how forward-thinking, I didn't lose out! Haha, wahahaha!

Meanwhile, the entire city channel was still filled with abuse directed at Da Fei's trash. No need to say, it was the merchant players who had died at sea. For merchant players, dying once with the ship lost means significant loss, right? But, right now, I also don't have money to compensate! At the bottom line, I paid a massive reputation price anyway. However, between reputation and strength, which is more important? Of course, strength. As long as there's strength, bad reputation is still reputation, right? Besides, I'm used to it, staying calm!

The Octopus, which returned earlier, was already docked. Anlicia and Da Wei were waiting at the pier. Watching the returning Narwhal, Da Wei excitedly said, "Captain, they're back, and everyone is fine!"

Anlicia sighed with satisfaction, then shook her head, "I won't be Captain soon. Kid, you had fun with me this time, so as I said before, I'll recommend you to further study at the Farolan Magic Academy. Here—" She took out a letter.

—System Prompt: You received an enrollment recommendation letter from Lady Anlicia, which allows you to study at the Farolan High-level Magic Academy Research Institute.

Da Wei suddenly felt joy, "Thank you! Thank you, Lady!"

Anlicia shook her head, "It's nothing. You have the qualification. You deserve this."

Suddenly, Da Wei recalled something and hesitated, "Lady, you're the president's... Deputy Officer. Giving me such an essential opportunity isn't quite right, is it?"

Anlicia snapped, "As an Elf, you're too ignorant! First, the president is human, not Elf. The Elf High Magic Academy doesn't teach alien races knowledge. Second, if an Elf who learns alien skills can get special entry into the Academy Research Institute for research work. The Kobold Shaman skill you learned is an alien skill, making you eligible for further study. Also, having met me allows you to skip the mess of entry exams, and by recommending you, I can gain extra credit. No need to thank me!"

Da Wei suddenly realized, "I see! But I still must thank you, Lady. By the way, what will I research at the institute?"

Anlicia narrowed her eyes, "Be researched!"

Da Wei was left dumbfounded! However, getting into the research institute was indeed a big deal. Da Wei then cheered in the dormitory, "I discovered the strategy to enter the High-level Magic Academy! It's to learn alien skills! Then get Brother Fei Little Honey to write you a recommendation letter!"

The dormitory was astonished, "Is the High Magic Academy so awesome?"

Da Bing immediately snapped back, "Isn't that obvious? A school only Elves can enter, with hidden exclusive spells only they can learn!" Then he looked around the dormitory seriously, "This is confidential. Don't let unrelated people know. Understand?"

Everyone nodded, "Understood!"

Da Bing nodded, "Good you understand! Once we know the strategy, I can lead everyone through the chain quest of Elorin Outstanding Youth Assessment that Da Wei passed before. Da Wei's Kobold skill book was dropped during that quest. By then, everyone can go to the academy to learn hidden skills. Even if we don't play anymore, selling the account will be worth ten or hundreds of thousands!"

Everyone was horribly moved, "Understood! Understood, listen to Bing Ge!"

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As Da Wei and Anlicia waved greetings, Da Fei's ship docked. Just then, a group of NPC coast guards rushed over, pointing at the Fishman, "These alien creatures cannot enter the city freely and must wait for quarantine!"

Damn! Da Fei felt troubled, "This too?"

Anlicia came over and laughed, "Let me handle these procedures. Remember to order a batch of fine wine and food for these Fishman. I promised them."

Seemed like there was no other way. This is another difference between troops and NPCs. If Da Fei brought Fishman troops, they'd be treated uniformly and couldn't enter the city, confined to the garrison. But Fishman NPCs are residents, the cornerstone of urban population growth, and subjected to various local-related household registration customs and immigration regulations.

Da Fei nodded, "Alright, they are the greatest contributors, I'll order the best food and drink to entertain them!"

Gurgle gurgle happily said, "Gurgle gurgle, want to drink!"

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Don't worry, there's plenty of wine to drink, go on, be good!"

"Gurgle gurgle, obey the master!"

Now for the treasure chest, Da Fei waved his hand, "Let's go, move the treasure chest to the Chamber of Commerce office for thorough research! Hurry up!"

Everyone was invigorated, "Let's go!"

When Da Fei's team moved the treasure chest into the city, it immediately caught the attention of numerous players, "Look there, Da Fei is back! At the dock!"

Instantly, many players gathered around. The merchant players who suffered earlier surrounded them, blocking Da Fei's team tightly, angrily cursing, "Trash Da Fei, you caused me to lose my ship and cargo. If you don't compensate me 200,000 Gold Coins, you can't leave!"

"I lost 300,000 Gold Coins!"

"Yeah! If he doesn't compensate, we'll flood the forums every day!"

And some onlookers took the opportunity to fan the flames, "Are you all stupid? Didn't you see them carrying a treasure chest chased by a Sea Monster? It's clear they used you as a buffer!"

"Indeed, still hoping for compensation, so naive and innocent!"

"If Da Fei were afraid of you guys spamming him, he wouldn't be Da Fei, haha!"

Da Fei secretly sighed, helplessly shaking his head. What could be said now? Even if he wanted to compensate, he had no money! Anyway, block all you want, curse all you want; soon, the NPC city administration will come to clean up.

Seeing Da Fei's indifferent attitude, the victims were even more infuriated, and someone yelled, "Rob their treasure chest to compensate for our loss!"

The merchants, now blinded by anger, roared in response, "Charge!" For a moment, the crowd surged!

Da Fei was suddenly shocked! No way? Can you rob in the city?

Da Bing quickly reacted, shouting, "Everyone surround the chest!"

—Team Channel: Your team is maliciously attacked by player "Green Leaf Shaluo," you can lawfully retaliate!

—Team Channel: Your team is attacked by player...

No way! They dare to go red in the city, huh?

At that moment, the city's warning sirens blared, and the swiftly reacting guards quickly ended the riot and dispersed the crowd. At this point, the city channel's angry abuse reached an unprecedented peak! Even as calm as Da Fei, he couldn't help being moved! Damn it, there must be someone instigating behind the scenes taking this opportunity to mess with me, right? Mess with me, right? Whatever, keep moving the chest, keep going!

Finally, after all these ups and downs, the big treasure chest finally reached the Chamber of Commerce office! When the chest settled down, Da Fei's heart, which had been hanging, could finally relax, and the whole team cheered again!

It wasn't easy! Although it took a lot of opportunism and advantage in salvaging, the transportation was fraught with danger. If I didn't have high-tech Blood Eagle constantly monitoring the opponent's movements and timely avoiding them, I wouldn't have been able to return! Moreover, at the last moment, it was also at the cost of sacrificing my reputation. It's really not easy!

In short, the normal process of this treasure chest involves Old Laiyi, who gave out the task. I can't be opportunistic anymore, so I'm not in a hurry to open it now. Da Fei explained this reason to the members, and everyone agreed, "Brother Fei said right, this treasure chest was not easy, must not mess up!"

This is the God-level president's prestige, no one dares to fight with me. I can finally slowly devour it alone! Da Fei smiled contentedly, "Alright, everyone worked hard, rest if you need to rest, move around if you need to move around, team disbanded!"

"Okay, Brother Fei!"

Wahahaha!

Chapter 463: Unboxing the Divine Artifact

After sending the other members away, the office is left with only Da Fei and Vice President Coltner.

Coltner laughs heartily: "Congratulations to the President for your triumphant return, and for completing another major commission for the Chamber of Commerce!"

Da Fei also laughs heartily: "It's not just about completing the commission, there are also major gains involved! Where is the contractor, Old Laiyi? I have something important to discuss with him!" Saying that, he pats the big chest.

Coltner's eyebrow twitches and he quickly understands: "President, please wait a moment, I'll call him over right away!"

Hehe, finally time to open the chest! What exactly could be in this chest? Come on, all sorts of dazzling Divine Artifacts, bring it on! Wahahaha!

And at this moment, on the guild channel on junxiang's alt's side, there is another uproar: "Da Fei is causing trouble again!"

Da Fei raises his eyebrow, are the beauties talking behind my back again? I love eavesdropping on others talking about me, quick, let's switch over!

"I heard this time it's about luring monsters to harm others, seems like he snatched a big chest from the Sea Monster. Because of this chest, his name even turned red in the city!"

"Red name? Then what?"

"What then? Psh! Of course, good people don't live long, but the harm they cause lasts for a thousand years."

"That's just typical, a dog can't change its habit of eating poop, trash will always be trash!"

Da Fei sighs quietly, damn it, can't you guys come up with something new every time? Like, I have a devilishly charming charisma, I am handsome and awesome, bad boys are loved by the beauties?

At this moment, a user named Bloodrose Yueyue wonders: "Right, Da Fei is so awesome, does Star know about this?"

"What does Star have anything to do with it? They are not the justice warriors."

"My point is, with Da Fei causing such a scene on their territory, and even snatching the Sea Urchin King BOSS that was supposedly reserved by Star, and Star has been completely silent, I find that very strange. It doesn't fit with their usual aggressive PK style at all."

The mostly quiet Second Sister Bloodrose Holy Spear finally couldn't resist joining the conversation: "You guys really don't understand Star. They themselves are too busy leveling up and gaining World reputation. Elf Clan produces fewer soldiers, and for the same amount of respect in the Main City, while human players can recruit 100 soldiers in the human city, Elves can only recruit less than 40 in the Elf Main City. So the Elf players of Star are just busy running around in the Elf cities throughout the Elf Kingdom to boost their reputation and gather troops to compensate for their lack of manpower, all until National War starts, even if the sky falls down, Star Guild won't care!"

Bloodrose Yueyue wonders: "So, you mean as soon as Star completes their troop-building process, they will show their power?"

Bloodrose Holy Spear laughs coldly: "Absolutely, a master's soldiers are like a capitalist's money, they must constantly battle, constantly invest to create value. Don't look at how quiet they are now, when

they really start to move, Elorin being such an important commercial port will no longer tolerate Da Fei, an outsider human player jumping around, I swear on it!"

The group then comfortably responds: "Really hope Star gives this trash a piece of their mind!"

Bloodrose Holy Spear sneers: "Also, because Star's players are gaining reputation all around the country, their Kingdom's total reputation is very high. They can obtain elite and even special soldiers that regular players can't. You've all seen Da Fei's Secret Archer and that Storm Druid right? That's what I'm talking about! But Da Fei, being a human, even if he mixes in the Elf territories, his future is limited, he's destined to just be a clown jumping around in the early stages. Anyway, we also have to work hard, the big guilds are all secretly making their moves!"

The group laughs heartily: "Got it!"

Hearing the ladies' discussion, Da Fei's heart tightens!

Star eh? Would they really make a move? Well, as long as the benefits are sufficient, they certainly would. Large guilds, small groups, individual businesses all have the same nature. And brother is now so prominent, having just stirred up feelings of wrath and resentment, no need to further explain the reasons to sabotage me. Moreover, they made a valid point: I am human, I can't normally recruit soldiers in the Elf City. I haven't returned to develop on the human side, and have no stable source of troops, specifically, no source of high-level human troops.

In order to recruit level 4 or higher troops in the city, players need to undertake specific recruitment missions, which require a high level and reputation. With my current human reputation, of course, I can't recruit high-level soldiers in the human Main City; I might be able to recruit some low-level soldiers at a high price using my current World reputation. However, at this point in my development, there's no time to turn back and go develop in the human Main City. I can only rely on my status as City Lord to be self-sufficient and produce my own troops.

Right now, my advantage lies in having a Banshee Instructor and a Banshee Camp obtained early on, which are supplying level 4 soldiers to me daily. However, that's still just level 4, not enough, I urgently need to develop higher-level soldiers that can endure wear and tear. Death Bell Tower, Evil Branch Fortress, Lumang Fortress need to be developed urgently!

In any case, there's a long road ahead! The more you hope for my downfall, the more I insist on not falling!

Just as Da Fei is deeply contemplating the future development plans, the door of the office opens, and Coltner leads in an elderly yet robust-looking Elf.

"President, Mr. Laiyi is here!"

Finally! Da Fei chuckles: "Welcome! Mr. Laiyi, hello!"

The old elf took off his hat and bowed slightly, saying, "Just call me Old Laiyi!"

And at that moment, he saw the box placed in the room and couldn't help but tremble: "This is—"

Hahaha! It really is an insurance box, it's not going anywhere! Da Fei smiled and said, "This is what I salvaged from the area where the Jade Dragon sank!"

Old Laiyi's eyes widened in disbelief as he stared at Da Fei, then immediately ran to the box and touched it everywhere, excitedly saying, "It's this! This is the Magic Energy Insurance Box from the Jade Dragon, which was transporting a Divine Artifact lightning rod that we purchased from Titan City Unos to celebrate the completion of the Storm Tower on the summit of the World Tree in Farolan. It's a legendary artifact that supposedly has a storm-shielding effect, yet ironically, our ship sank during the voyage to bring back the artifact..."

Da Fei's brow twitched; there really was a Divine Artifact! He then pulled out a key: "This is the key the Captain's soul, whom I encountered in the sunken ship, gave to me. He entrusted me with finding the insurance box!"

Old Laiyi nodded: "Yes, that's the key, and you, President, can now open it directly! The password is 1818168!"

Damn! There really was a password! This old Laiyi really is a key figure! Speaking of which, how do you know the password? Could it be that you were a VIP on the ship?

Anyway, setting that aside for now, Da Fei excitedly inserted the key into the lock, and then a faint demon light began to shine. Following the system prompt, Da Fei entered the password one by one, then clank, a sound echoed, and golden light flashed—the insurance box opened!

—System Prompt: You have opened the insurance box, discovering the damaged Divine Artifact "Storm Tower", S-grade strategic equipment Thunder God's Helmet, and an expired ownership certificate of the "Jade Dragon".

—Storm Tower: Lightning rod, damaged Divine Artifact, architectural equipment. Equipped on the roofs of buildings or ships' masts can resist storms in a wide range and absorb the power of lightning to grant the recruitment ability of elemental soldiers "Thunder Elements."

—Thunder God's Helmet: S-grade strategic equipment, Magic Power +20, Knowledge +20, increases the power of Thunder Magic spells by +20%. A component of the Combined Divine Artifact Thunder God Set.

—"Jade Dragon" Ship Ownership Certificate: Ownership certificate for a giant, four-deck, five-mast Galen armed passenger and cargo ship, which has expired.

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"That's right! These are the artifacts our Chamber of Commerce was transporting," Old Laiyi said excitedly, "this Thunder God's Helmet was a bonus gift from the seller when purchasing the artifact! If the President returns the artifact and Thunder God's Helmet to the Storm Tower Guild in Farolan, it will greatly restore the reputation of the guild. Of course, after so many years, the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce has collapsed, and the original contract has expired, so it's up to the President to decide how to handle it. As for this ship's certificate—" at this point, Old Laiyi sighed, "the ship has sunk, and expired things are no longer worth mentioning."

Da Fei's eyebrows shot up! Divine Artifacts! Reputation can be slowly earned, but Divine Artifacts are once in a lifetime! Even the components of this combined artifact are rarely encountered. Give it back? Don't even think about it!

Da Fei snapped back to reality and immediately asked, "By the way, why is the Storm Tower damaged? Was it like this when it was purchased?"

Old Laiyi was taken aback, "No, that's not right! This is indeed a problem! Could it be damaged when it sank into the water? Impossible! Even a paper certificate is perfectly preserved—right, did the President encounter any situations while salvaging it?"

Da Fei's brow twitched, "There was a giant Electric Eel guarding it!"

Old Laiyi made a sound of realization, "It must be that the Electric Eel absorbed the power of the artifact!"

No wonder that Electric Eel was so formidable! And no wonder the sea monster guarding the artifact was an Electric Eel! Da Fei hurriedly asked, "Then how can we repair this artifact?"

Old Laiyi bitterly laughed, "I'm just a sailor, how would I know such things? Well, President, you have accomplished such an incredible feat, and I am now without regrets. I am full of confidence in the future of the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce, keep up the good work! Farewell!"

—System Prompt: You have completed the quest "Magic Energy Insurance Box of the Jade Dragon", Experience +1.5 million, Chamber of Commerce Reputation +100,000.

Uh, this is the quest reward? For Da Fei, who has become accustomed to a flood of system messages following the completion of big tasks, this is hard to adapt to, although these equipments are also a kind of reward.

Watching Old Laiyi walk out the door, Da Fei's eyebrows twitched, Not enough rewards!

Da Fei quickly shouted, "Old sir, please wait!"

Old Laiyi turned back in surprise, "President, do you have any further advice?"

Da Fei sincerely said, "I would like to formally invite you to return to the Chamber of Commerce as the President of the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce. Would you still be willing to serve the Chamber?"

Coltner also snapped back to reality, "Yes, yes, as the Vice President, I also earnestly invite you to return!"

Chapter 464: Recruiting Retired Members

Facing the invitation from the two presidents, Old Laiyi was stunned on the spot, then laughed heartily, "I'm already old, what can I still do? Besides, I'm the one responsible for the shipwreck. I have no face to board the ship anymore."

Da Fei hurriedly shook his head, "It's not your fault, it's the Sea God's curse! Our Chamber of Commerce is currently rebuilding from scratch, and we need seasoned sailors like you!"

Coltner also quickly added, "Yes, yes, it's your experience that we need!"

Old Laiyi smiled wryly, "Vice President, Baron Corneat, when it comes to experience, your grandfather is a renowned navigator in the Kingdom, much stronger than people like us. If you need experience, you can always go to him!"

Coltner gave a dry cough, "My old man is too old..."

Old Laiyi laughed, "And I'm not?"

Coltner sighed, "His heart has aged..."

Old Laiyi burst into laughter, "Ever since the Baron became the Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce, I've noticed that old man's spirit has been getting better day by day. He's almost reaching the level of the Great Druid reversing aging!"

Hey, hey, hey! I'm the president here, don't leave me out! Da Fei then coughed and said, "So if Old Coltner agrees to join the Chamber, you will join too?"

Old Laiyi laughed heartily, "You're speaking frank, President! Anyway, I'm idle too. If Old Colt joins, I'll join! And not only will I join, but I'll also contact all the old folks who were laid off when the Chamber disbanded to come over and enjoy their retirement. Even if the old ones can't make it, they can call in their young ones! Vice President, what do you say?"

Da Fei's eyebrow twitched with surprise, so Old Laiyi's role was this significant! This was the real mission reward!

Overjoyed, Da Fei patted Corneat on the shoulder, "Vice President, this matter depends on you! That's your own grandfather! If he doesn't support your career, who will? And don't forget, your father still has some land in the New World, that's your family estate. I haven't forgotten! The old man also mentioned that if anything needs his help, we can ask him. I remember that too!"

Old Laiyi chuckled, "Exactly, while I do think I have some experience, facing the Sea God's curse, I'm still insecure. We need another experienced sailor as the backbone!"

Corneat also smiled wryly, "Alright, old man stays with old man, I'll go back and find him now. If he doesn't join, I won't come to work!"

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Right, right, let's see if he'll come!"

Coltner straightened his bow tie, "Very well, President, take your time. Wait for my good news!"

Old Laiyi laughed heartily, "Anyway, I'm free. I'll go too!"

Coltner laughed, "Alright, let's go together!"

Watching the two leave laughingly, Da Fei suddenly felt an unexpected sense of assurance. I have already done the groundwork for this; this is definitely going to work! I am already a god in the eyes of player members, and after completing the "impossible task" said by the Ghost Captain, I should be a god in the eyes of NPCs as well. There's no reason why I can't recruit people!

As for now, there's nothing much to say. The Divine Artifact is mine, after all this hard work and rushing around, what was all this for? Let me laugh for three minutes first, Wahaha...

And then it's time to think about the use of the Divine Artifact. Although this lightning rod is incomplete, its attribute is not lacking, which means the difference from a perfect version of the Divine Artifact is just the extent of power? So, where to equip it? Radiant City? That's underground, where does lightning come from?

So, it can only be installed on the ship?

Installed on the ship? Da Fei's heart suddenly jumped! Isn't this exactly the weapon to resist the Sea God's curse? With it, plus my Professional Specialties in Storm Navigation, I would completely not fear storms! Damn, this mission is delivering me the task completion tool, isn't it? It must be!

That's right, my current Storm Navigation is not like the wild specialty from back then. It's a sub-skill under Navigator, and its effect grows with the Navigator Level! I'm a Master-level Navigator, one step away from Grandmaster. Once I reach Grandmaster, I'll directly use up Odyssey's God-level Scroll, then I'd become a God-level Navigator, with God-level Storm Navigation, directly nullifying the Sea God's storm curse!

A Divine Artifact plus God-level Talent and a group of experienced old sailors, why would I worry about not reviving? Wahaha! Da Fei, who had always been worried about the future of the Chamber of Commerce, suddenly saw a bright future!

Ultimately, a big reason I managed to receive this task to revive the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce from the Mayor is because of my Storm Navigation talent! This is the most likely talent to counter the Sea God's curse! Mayor, you have great vision, you are wise!

Thinking about the Mayor, Da Fei's heart jumped again! What are mayors for? Of course, for taking shortcuts and accomplishing the impossible tasks for commoners!

Da Fei hurriedly picked up the Jade Dragon ship certificate, which is the proof of ownership for a ship, similar to a property certificate. Players exchange ships by exchanging ship certificates. The Flying's ship certificate is a special task item and cannot be traded.

Looking at this expired ship certificate, Da Fei immediately sensed something unusual. Under normal conditions, if a player's ship sinks, the ship certificate becomes useless. So theoretically, this expired Jade Dragon's ship certificate is useless too—but is that possible? The treasure chest salvaged with great effort, and being placed along with the Divine Artifact, would it be a worthless piece of paper?

Absolutely impossible!

The Jade Dragon, a gigantic four-deck, five-mast, Galleon-class armed passenger cargo ship, what a magnificent existence! The Flying and the Radiant Wings are just three-deck, four-mast large ships. Of course, as high-speed exploration ships, large is the limit, any bigger would impact speed and use.

So far, Da Fei only encountered one gigantic ship, the "Flame Lord," on Fire Dragon Island. As introduced in earlier Chapters about Fire Dragon Island, gigantic ships are not in the same concept as large ships in terms of ship materials. Normal ship materials can only support a hull to a large size; any bigger would fall apart in winds and waves. So gigantic ships' materials are usually copper-wrapped wood or iron-wrapped wood, structurally sufficient and as defensively solid as copper walls, typically used to craft main battleships.

And to think the Jade Dragon was a gigantic armed passenger cargo ship, using a battleship as a cargo ship! It shows how impressive the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce was back then! And my mission is to revive the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce, how could it lack such an impressive giant ship?

No more words, I'm confident this paper exists to reimburse me for this gigantic ship! And who to look for reimbursement? The Mayor, of course! The least reliable reason for reimbursement would be compensation support, and the most reliable would be to ask for assistance in reconstruction! In any case, as long as the system allows me to build a giant ship, I'll do it without hesitation.

When others have small ships, I have big ships; when others have medium ships, I'll have giants. I pursue technology overpowering!

So, let's get to it, Da Fei immediately headed out straight to City Hall.

Chapter 465: Investing in the Shipyard

City Hall, Da Fei reported to the guard his intention to meet with the mayor.

Under normal circumstances, players must trigger related task events to meet big shots like the mayor, duke, or prince; otherwise, they are not allowed an audience. Even though Da Fei was now Duke Makar's nominal student, he only had the chance to meet him to hand over tasks.

But it was different in Elorin. Da Fei was the president of an old Chamber of Commerce, had status and reputation, and could basically see the mayor anytime. Of course, if he was just bored and wanted to invite the mayor for tea to raise friendliness a bit, well, sorry, it might be a waste of time and could even lower friendliness.

Under the guard's guidance, Da Fei once again met the mayor.

The mayor laughed heartily, saying, "Mr. President, long time no see. I heard you've tamed a group of alien Fishmen this time. Would you be interested in settling their household registration in our city? That way, we'll gain a large batch of excellent and affordable underwater labor, which will significantly contribute to the development and defense of our fisheries!"

Whoa! I haven't even opened my mouth, and you've already started talking!

Da Fei looked troubled and said, "Well, Mr. Mayor, I intend to settle the Fishmen in Radiant City first. The underwater defense there is terribly precarious and urgently needs such Sea Race warriors to guard it."

The mayor nodded, "Indeed, Radiant City is the kingdom's strategic focus. We must prioritize the bigger picture."

Whoa, I came to ask for a favor, and you rejected me right away. Is this how you ask someone for something? Da Fei quickly added, "But don't worry, my Lord. Once the Fishman Tribe expands, I will certainly send some people to work in our city!"

The mayor chuckled, "That'll do. By the way, Mr. President, what brings you here this time?"

Da Fei pulled out an expired ship certificate, "My Lord, this is the Jade Dragon's ship certificate I salvaged from the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce's wreck."

The mayor couldn't help being moved and then said with endless regret, "What a pity for the ship! Whether it was the loss of the sunken ship or the goods it was transporting, the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce couldn't bear it then and rapidly declined as a result. But Mr. President, what's your purpose in showing me this?"

Da Fei coughed, "Well, my Lord, I want to rebuild this ship and seek your help."

The mayor was astonished, then shook his head with a laugh, "Mr. President, this is a giant ship. Neither your personal reputation nor the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce's prestige is enough to build it. Moreover, giant ships are military facilities with stringent approval procedures; it's not something we can achieve right now."

Such a standard refusal, just as Da Fei expected. But Da Fei was convinced that this ship certificate held secrets—it wouldn't just be a useless piece of paper! Some conditions for shipbuilding are system-imposed, like reputation? But others might be negotiable! Like approval? Anyway, somehow, I must bypass this toughest approval hurdle!

With a nimble mind, Da Fei immediately presented his prepared argument, "But, my Lord, didn't our Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce once have a giant ship? This shows we have passed the approval and possessed the qualification for a giant ship. Now that I've taken over the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce, it's only natural to uphold tradition and continue to qualify for a giant ship!"

The mayor laughed wryly, "Mr. President, approval isn't like a hereditary noble privilege. Sure, the prosperous Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce could pass the approval back then, but now, it faces a long road ahead..."

Of course I know that little reasoning, but I also know that you, esteemed god-level mayor with the "get on board and pay later" Divine Skill, can't be so rigidly conventional, right? I'll cut to the chase—I don't even want to meet the reputation requirement!

Da Fei laid it out, "My Lord, it's precisely because the Chamber of Commerce lacks a giant ship that the revival remains challenging. If we had a giant ship, the great revival would be within reach. My dear mayor, why don't we build the giant ship first and slowly complete the necessary procedures?"

The mayor's face changed as he said sternly, "Mr. President, you must never speak of this again! Building a giant ship without approval is tantamount to treason. I'd immediately lose my mayoral position, and no shipyard would dare accept an order without approval—by the way, speaking of shipyards, I regret to inform you that not only does Elorin Shipyard lack the technical capability to build giant ships, but all the shipyards in the Bright Alliance equipped for this are very few. Furthermore, it's not just technology restricting giant ship building, but ship materials! Perhaps you don't know, the Jade Dragon's ship orders at Tarolan Military Port's First Shipyard have lined up for dozens, but due to the lack of materials, they haven't completed a ship in years. So, even if you meet approval now, it would take years to actually build one. I advise using these years to continue striving; this can't be rushed!"

Listening to the mayor's spurt of information, Da Fei was stunned on the spot!

Reputation, approval, technology, ship materials—these are the four mountains on the giant ship road! Maybe, within normal game progress, this indeed isn't the time to consider this. Sometimes being too ahead of the game is a pain too.

Da Fei shook his head wryly, "Thanks for the guidance, Mr. Mayor. It seems I was too anxious for quick success!"

The mayor sighed, "I wish the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce could revive quickly too, but truthfully, there's nothing I can do right now. Oh, if you do manage to get the qualifications to build a giant ship, I suggest developing ties in Tarolan City to earn their favor. Perhaps you can cut the queue to build a ship there since orders are excessive."

Da Fei was taken aback, "Cut the queue?"

The mayor sighed again, "Yes, having talent like you develop in Tarolan, who knows what achievements it might bring to Tarolan's mayor..."

What the hell! I can barely manage my base now and they want me to start fresh in a new city? Imagine the thousands of players' reputations towering over me—I'd be in big trouble!

Wait a minute! Da Fei's eyes sparkled. Why should I go suffer in another city? Can't I enjoy my status right here? Suddenly, a vague idea surged to Da Fei's mind! Perhaps I need to change strategies?

Da Fei asked, "Mr. Mayor, why can't our Elorin Shipyard build giant ships? Is it a lack of qualification or technology?"

The mayor sighed, "It's certainly due to a lack of technology. As for qualifications, the kingdom would love to have more factories to build giant ships."

Huh? They're eager for more such factories? Doesn't this encourage shipyards to develop technology? Da Fei's thoughts instantly became clear, and he continued to confirm, "So if a shipyard has the resources and strength, it can build a giant ship at leisure, keeping it at the dock, and the shipyard itself doesn't need kingdom approval?"

The mayor's brow twitched, and he said gravely, "The demand for giant ships far exceeds supply. Your scenario hasn't happened before. But—if someone wants to buy that finished giant ship, of course, they must present approval..."—at this point the mayor suddenly trembled and stood up!

Yes! There's potential! Da Fei immediately stood up in unison!

The mayor waved to cover Da Fei's mouth, signaling him to stay silent, entering a state of deep thought with his eyes piercing ahead!

Da Fei was elated! There's potential! Hahaha! I understand now. Players might be limited, but shipyards aren't. If that's the case, start from the shipyard!

After a while, the mayor clapped his hands and laughed heartily, "I have a solution! Would the president be willing to invest in our city's shipyard under the Chamber of Commerce's name to develop giant ship technology?"

Hahaha! Great minds think alike, you truly are the god-level mayor I admire!

Da Fei was invigorated, "Of course I would! As an Honorary Citizen of this city, I'm definitely obliged to contribute to its technological development!"

The mayor was delighted, "Good! As long as giant ships are built under the guise of technological development, the kingdom will not only not oppose but will also wholeheartedly support it! And since the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce once qualified for giant ship possession, participating in the shipyard's giant ship development has a high chance of passing the approval again upon successful giant ship creation, thereby gaining a giant ship! Plus, creating a giant ship will grant massive acclaim, meeting the prestige to use a giant ship. In short, should your Chamber of Commerce invest in shipyard development, you're likely to obtain a giant ship! Any little approval hassle, I'll fully assist you in resolving!"

So that's how it is; the certificate serves to claim old status! Da Fei was overjoyed, "I'm willing to invest in the shipyard!"

The mayor was delighted, "Great! By the way, do you recall that the Exchange still owes you 30 million gold coins?"

Whoa! I dream about it! I'm running short and just waiting for that sum to roll in now! But why do I sense a thick fathering trap in the air?

Da Fei coughed, "Of course I remember."

The mayor sighed, "The thing is, the Exchange has invested heavily in fisheries lately, making cash flow quite tight, and repaying could strain the next steps. So, I believe we should flexibly move funds and let's use your 30 million gold coins to invest in the shipyard—it'll help the Exchange, achieve shipyard growth, and bring you a return; a win-win situation, what do you think?"

Whoa! Da Fei's jaw hit the floor. No wonder nothing's moved with the 30 million gold coins after all these days; turns out you're just sitting on it, avoiding repayment! But after rejecting his Fishman request right after entering, and pinning my hopes on him for future approval smooth sailing, I can't reject him now, can I? Otherwise, how can we happily play together in the future?

Da Fei restrained his helplessness and laughed, "No problem! Money should indeed be used at the most appropriate time in the most needed place!"

The mayor gratefully patted Da Fei on the shoulder, "Very nice, very nice! I'll immediately invite the shipyard owner over to draft an investment and equity contract, and discuss the technical development plan!"

Da Fei nodded repeatedly, "Good, good, good!"

Good, my foot! Truly out of money! Does this mean I have to go out to sea and strike it big? Well, money's no biggie, I can easily sell a piece of equipment or a Holy Vine Seed anytime and not worry about money.

Chapter 466: Turns Out Brother Was Helped Out of Poverty

Just as Da Fei and the mayor were chatting away over tea, a guard's announcement came from outside the meeting room, "Mr. Comelon, the shipyard owner, has arrived."

The mayor laughed heartily, "Come in, come in!"

The door swung open, and a thin, middle-aged elf wearing a hard hat, work clothes, and a monocle stepped in, bowing respectfully, "Urgently summoned by the mayor, I didn't have time to change, pardon me, pardon me!"

The mayor smiled, "No worries, no worries, come over and have some tea with us. Let me introduce you to someone, this is Mr. Da Fei, the president of the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce!"

Comelon nodded slightly and said in a mild tone, "So you're the renowned and outstanding young president of this city. I've long heard of you!"

Da Fei chuckled, "You're too kind, sir!"

Indeed, looking at him, he seemed like a real tech guy, which made Da Fei even more confident about investing in Elorin Shipyard. Yet, seeing Comelon's lukewarm attitude, Da Fei couldn't help but feel a little displeased. But compared to when he first met Jilrien from the Ranger Guild or the Storm Druid Instructor, this wasn't so bad. After all, Da Fei was human, and gaining reputation in the always proud and exclusive Elf City was slow.

The mayor chuckled, "Mr. Comelon, how would you feel if this outstanding young president here wanted to invest 30 million Gold Coins to develop giant ships at our shipyard?"

"Develop giant ships?" Comelon was startled, staring blankly at Da Fei for a few seconds, then shook his head slightly with a sigh, "It's not a money issue. If money could solve it, it would have been solved long ago. We're lacking test materials, the kind that meet the standards for constructing giant ships. These materials are so precious that even large factories with mature technology can't afford to waste them, let alone us experimenting. And then there's the talent, our shipyard doesn't have the talent to build giant ships. If we explore and cultivate it on our own, we'll surely waste a lot of materials. Ultimately, it's all about materials!"

The mayor frowned, "That is indeed a problem!"

Da Fei furrowed his brow, thinking that while reputation and approvals seemed within reach, materials and technology were still major hurdles. Speaking of materials, Da Fei immediately thought of the batch of goods left at Habbit Village.

Da Fei quickly said, "During the battle at the Pool of Radiance, I collected a lot of wood from the dead Wisdom Ancient Tree. Can those woods be used as ship materials?"

Comelon's eyebrow twitched, "What kind of woods are they?"

Was there hope? Da Fei hurriedly said, "Seems like Ancient Iron Wood, Ancient Cold Crystal Wood, Ancient Radiant Wood, and stuff like that. Oh right, there's also the endless Mercury Wood from the Black Forest! I refuse to believe with all these rare woods, none can be used for shipbuilding!"

Comelon hurriedly asked, "Could you bring some samples over?"

Samples? Da Fei sighed, "That's pretty troublesome, given that the World Tree Space has collapsed, and materials are blocked off!"

"I see!" Disappointment was clearly written all over Comelon's face.

The mayor laughed heartily, "Don't worry, I have great confidence in President Da Fei. He found possible materials, so it's just a matter of time to bring them out. Even if he hasn't found them yet, he will in the future. And our shipyard should definitely start the development work, even if there's no material yet; at least we should prepare in terms of ship design and talent cultivation."

Comelon said mildly, "The mayor's guidance is absolutely right."

Da Fei nodded repeatedly, "Right, right, it's just a matter of time, rest assured, Mr. Comelon."

The mayor chuckled, "Great, let's draft the investment contract now. This time, the 30 million investment enters under the name of the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce, taking up 7.236% of Elorin Shipyard's shares. This means each month, the Chamber will earn 7.236% of the shipyard's profit as chamber funds. How do you two feel about that?"

Da Fei's eyebrow twitched, pondering what the monthly profit of the shipyard was. If it were 1 million Gold Coins, his chamber could earn 70,000 in dividends? Impossible, that's too little! Is there a 10 million profit? Then it would be 720,000 a month, which is acceptable. But one month in the game is three real-world days, and to recover his 30 million investment would take... Whoa, the real-world time is so long, I can't bear to look at it!

While Da Fei was contemplating the investment's yield, Comelon gave a helpless smile, "I didn't expect Elorin's blue-chip enterprise to be invested in by the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce. This is due to the mayor's influence, all for the sake of scientific research and development, I have no complaints."

The mayor patted his shoulder, laughing heartily, "I understand, your shipyard is doing well, and the scale has reached a bottleneck. Investment doesn't mean much to you because you don't want profits diluted by outsiders. But it's precisely because you're at a bottleneck that you need investments from talents like the president here to help break through. Once broken through, you'll be thanking me and the president immensely."

Comelon smiled, "Understood, full-spectrum control requires a chest move. The mayor has his challenges. As a blue-chip enterprise, we should lend a hand regardless of the outcome of the research. Besides, I know the mayor wouldn't want a loss deal. Since the mayor has such confidence in him and he has indeed achieved remarkable things, I naturally support Mr. President!"

The mayor laughed heartily, "Thanks for understanding, thank you!"

Da Fei laughed silently, realizing his chamber had been receiving aid! He was complaining about the low yield when normally people wouldn't accept investment! Also, his chamber was under the Sea God's Curse, unable to conduct business, and funds could only be gained from member quests, which was too little. A shipyard's dividend meant an additional channel for chamber funds—

Wait! Da Fei suddenly realized that the 30 million was actually his personal funds! Personal funds couldn't directly turn into chamber funds or city funds. No matter how wealthy a tycoon guild leader or city lord was, buying billions of personal Gold Coins from gaming studios, they couldn't convert them into chamber funds or city funds. They could only conduct honest business or city trade through tasks. But Da Fei's 30 million personal Gold Coins, after being owed for a few days at the exchange and transferred by the mayor into the shipyard, could continuously be converted into chamber funds through dividends!

What is this? A different meaning of "money laundering!"

Whoa! Is this an exploit? Mr. Mayor, you are indeed a God-level mayor! In the entire game, the NPC I respect the most is you! At this moment, Da Fei was at a loss, regretting that he initially owed less Gold Coins to the exchange! What else could he say now except to agree!

—System Prompt: The Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce invested in Elorin Shipyard and received 7.236% of Elorin Shipbuilding's monthly profit dividends!

Da Fei excitedly exclaimed, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for your troubles, and thank you, Mr. Comelon, for your help!"

Comelon shook his head mildly, "We're just helping each other out. Mr. President can visit our shipyard anytime for guidance. Well, there's work to attend to, so if there's nothing else, I'll take my leave!"

The mayor said with a smile, "Thank you for your hard work."

Da Fei quickly said, "Take care, sir."

With the shipyard owner gone, the mayor took a deep breath, "You heard my conversation with Mr. Comelon, right? Being a mayor is tough. Some industries here thrive, others barely survive or are on the brink of closure. As mayor, I constantly try to have prosperous industries give a hand to the lagging ones. This results in dissatisfaction from the thriving industries, while the lagging ones don't even improve. Quite a few people are unhappy with me. But when you appeared from another country, I saw the spirit of explorers in you, making me think maybe someone like you could revitalize Elorin. I believe in you—so keep at it!"

Da Fei was finally enlightened, understanding why he felt Jilrien and the Storm Druid Instructor weren't giving the mayor much respect. It likely was because the mayor held them back? But it couldn't be that simple right? This mayor had been behind the scenes, modifying the Flying Banshee Barracks, setting up Black Brother with deep sea specialties at the exchange, probably with much more tricks, and conflicting deeply with other city officials.

But those weren't important now. What's crucial is that he has a high regard for Da Fei and has supported him consistently. He even revealed crucial information just now!

Da Fei asked, "Sir, does our city have many companies on the verge of closing?"

The mayor raised an eyebrow, shaking his head with a smile, "There are some. Does Mr. President intend to support them? But for now, you don't have the capability and reputation for that. Anyway, your Fishman quarantine should be over; focus on your tasks."

So that's how it is! There are still quite a few companies in Elorin waiting for Da Fei to save them, waiting for him to invest! Hahahaha—But never mind the rubbish companies. Better to focus on his own work first.

Da Fei then bid farewell to the mayor, ready to handle the Fishman situation.

Inspired by the subsidy, Da Fei realized he was both the City Lord of Radiant City and the president of the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce. He could totally help himself and invest in himself! That is, when Radiant City runs out of city funds, he can transfer from the Dragon Cavalry Chamber's funds. Basically, moving money from one pocket to another, reviving countless deadlocks as a result!

However, both Radiant City and the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce are poor now, unable to help each other. Da Fei realized he still needed to find bigger and more stable development spaces. Nether Sea Paradise? Sounds good! That's an area he's earmarked, but that's for later. And Fleeting Blossom's Canal Company being formed? Da Fei didn't trust players, especially calculating female players, so he was more cautious about that.

Overall, no point in overthinking. The key issue now is shipbuilding materials. All rare materials were blocked off by the Eight-Headed Snake at Habbit Village. If it could be taken down, it would not only aid in Radiant City's development but also potentially solve the shipyard's research issues—problem is, it's all early days! Thinking too far ahead is frustrating, indeed.

Chapter 467: The Attempt to Kill the Fishman

Da Fei left the city hall and headed straight for the customs at the dock. At this moment, the merchants on the city channel who had been wronged were still persistently teaming up to curse.

Ah, damn it, other than ignoring, I can only ignore them. Da Fei reached the customs at the dock and found Anlicia and a total of 36 fishmen, big and small.

Anlicia chuckled, "The fishmen's entry procedures are done. By the way, the president's gains this time must be huge, huh? How are you going to thank me?"

What the hell, what president? Call me master! You almost screwed me over by leaving your post without permission this time. Da Fei said irritably, "You tell me, how do you want me to thank you?"

Anlicia laughed, "Not asking for much, just give me a luxury ship in the future! I want to be the captain myself!"

— Ah, puh! Da Fei wanted to spit a mouthful of milk at her! But since it's a matter for the future, let's discuss it later. Da Fei chuckled, "Alright! No problem, once I'm rich, you could even be the fleet commander!"

Anlicia clapped and laughed, "You said it! No take-backs!"

Da Fei said irritably, "So for now, study hard and strive to become the fleet commander, stop being lazy!"

Anlicia beamed, "I'm not lazy!"

Just then, Selvia added, "I want to be the commander too!"

Damn it! You both want to be captains or commanders, if you all leave, will I still have any little honeys around? Can I still enjoy playing?

Da Fei was in extreme distress, "Everyone study hard, strive for progress every day, and prepare for future challenges! Let's go!"

No more chit-chatting with them, hurry up and lead the fishmen on the road.

Needless to say, when Da Fei led this group of fishmen NPCs toward the teleportation array, they once again attracted the astonished onlookers among the players, not for anything else, but because being able to "tame" fishmen monsters and bring them into the city was quite a spectacle.

For a while, the city channel was in an uproar: "Hey look, it's Da Fei again! Just now it was the treasure chest, this time it's fishmen, what will it be next?"

"Da Fei, this big piece of trash is here again!"

"Everyone come and see Da Fei's fishmen, it's going to be awesome this time!"

"Come on, check it out, don't miss it as you pass by, or you'll miss a good show!"

Da Fei raised an eyebrow, what's going on with today's area channel? Usually, when I walk down the street, nobody dares to even breathe loudly, is it because I killed the Royal Family first and then scammed the merchants, triggering strong public anger?

And just as Da Fei was approaching the teleportation array square, a bunch of players suddenly came running, blocking the street again, it was the Blood Sea Guild! Leading them was the so-called "Brother Tian" named Sea and Sky.

Da Fei frowned, what do they want this time? Looking for trouble? I already wiped out the Royal Family, isn't that enough to kill one to warn a hundred?

Sea and Sky laughed coldly, "Just caught you! First, it was the treasure chest, then these fishmen slaves. Da Fei, you've got quite the haul from this trip out to sea!"

Hah! I'm busy; I don't have time to chat with you. Da Fei hurriedly turned his head, only to find that the streets behind him were completely blocked by onlookers!

Da Fei's eyelids twitched in shock, what the heck is happening? Suddenly, an extremely unsettling thought came to Da Fei's mind: Would they rather risk turning red-named to forcefully kill my fishmen NPCs? It's not impossible! This Sea and Sky knows that what I fear most is the loss of NPCs!

This is trouble, although Selvia had the resurrection technique, it primarily targeted troops, serving as a game mechanism to compensate and encourage players after battle losses, but it didn't necessarily work well for NPCs. If troops died in battle, as long as the bodies didn't stay overnight and weren't used in a corpse explosion sacrifice, players could resurrect them.

But the time to save NPCs after death was extremely short, and saving NPCs consumed a lot of blue mana, and many NPCs would trigger events upon death leading to an unrecoverable state. For instance, escort NPCs or NPCs accompanying players in missions, once NPCs died, the mission failed, the NPC would leave a long-winded blood-spitting speech, and then they'd simply be gone, the resurrection technique couldn't revive them! In other words, the NPC world in the game was the most real world, a mortal world! And heroes, and the units designed to fight for them, indeed were the undead existences!

It's precisely for this reason that players who killed NPCs from the same faction faced the heaviest system punishment! They were, after all, an ambitious and goal-driven guild, would they really risk such a heavy penalty to forcefully kill my NPCs?

And Da Fei's turn instantly drew a street-side taunt from Sea and Sky: "Da Fei, are you brave enough not to turn your head back?"

For a moment, the members of the Blood Sea Guild echoed the taunt: "Because he's scared!"

Sea and Sky roared with laughter, "Does everyone know that the legendary Brother Fei fears neither heaven nor earth, nor sun nor grass, but one thing: he's scared of others killing his NPC! Do you know why?"

The members of the Blood Sea Guild immediately chimed in with laughter, "Because NPCs are hard to resurrect!"

Da Fei's face changed! They intended to forcibly kill right on the street!

Da Fei's change in expression was immediately caught by Sea and Sky, who pointed at Da Fei right away, "Look! His face changed! He's really scared!"

For a moment, the crowd was in an uproar, and the Blood Sea Guild burst into laughter! And at this moment, the guild channel was buzzing: "Brother Fei, hold on, we'll come to rescue you soon!"

Ah, what good is your rescue?

At this time, Da Fei saw through the human wall that the white light of the teleportation array was flashing madly, indicating a large number of players were teleporting over from other places!

Obviously, the Blood Sea Guild's roadblocking was to buy time, waiting for sufficient player numbers to accumulate before the security team came to disperse them, to concentrate firepower and instantly kill my NPCs! Judging by their blocking actions just now, this operation seemed like a spur-of-the-moment decision by the Blood Sea Guild, but the fact that they could react and quickly mobilize so many players in such a short time showed they were quite powerful.

However, my fishmen have withstood the storms and waves with me, wouldn't it be a joke to screw up in the city? I won't sit idly by!

Da Fei immediately patted Anlicia's shoulder, "Summons the mist, hurry—"

Anlicia retracted Da Fei's hand with a frown, "What are you touching for? We're in the city; casting spells in the city would be considered an offense, disturbing public order!"

Damn, what's there to be so high-maintenance about? Isn't blocking roads a disturbance to public order too? Da Fei said urgently, "As long as we don't turn red-named, who cares about such trifles! Quickly!"

Anlicia waved her hand, and amidst the magic light, the entire street became shrouded in mist instantly, and at this moment, both Da Fei as the mastermind and Anlicia as the executor turned into "violating" yellow names, which, as mentioned before, although they were at fault, they were still under legal protection.

At this instant, police whistles echoed through the alleyways—"Who is it! No disrupting the order in the city!"

"This is a stern warning! Do not block traffic, or you will also be charged with disturbing public order!"

City enforcement moved in advance!

The sudden change stunned Brother Tian, leaving him open-mouthed, while he was still deciding whether to preemptively kill, the road-blocking crowd was swiftly displaced by the security team who used "space eviction spells" only available to city managers, randomly relocated to another spot within the city.

Saved! Da Fei breathed a sigh of relief and immediately said to Selvia, "Quick, take the fishmen to Radiant City."

Selvia shrugged, "Got it!"

"Is it you!"

Facing the aggressively approaching security team's questioning, Da Fei obediently bowed his head and admitted his mistake, "It's me, sorry!"

"If sorry was enough, then why would we be here! You two come with us!"

"Yes! I'll fully cooperate!"

At this moment, Da Fei felt a secret hatred inside, damn you, Blood Sea Guild, if it hadn't been for Anlicia's Mist Technique, this non-offensive disorderly spell saving the day, I would have been caught by you! To think you are willing to forcefully turn red-named to kill NPCs to deal with me, is there no justice, no law, what's the grudge?

Fine! Since we have such deep-seated hatred now, I can't help but respond, borrowing your phrase, "let's see in the future!"

...

At this moment, Sea and Sky, whose plan was foiled by the security team, apologized to Royal Dominator: "Sorry, we made everyone busy for nothing. This trash is too cunning."

Royal Dominator chuckled, "Well, makes it interesting; if he could be toppled that easily, he wouldn't be worth us teaming up to tackle. Anyhow, we've only just joined forces and immediately pulled off such a neat action, we're truly impressed, we believe we'll have a lot of fun cooperating in the future."

Sea and Sky chuckled, "Do you know I've heard rumors, saying your Royal Family wants to settle in Elorin, squeezing out our guild?"

Royal Dominator was taken aback, "No such thing, our main forces are Human Race, why would we come here?"

Sea and Sky chuckled, "To have fun in the future, we shouldn't have barriers between us. Actually, Elorin, whether it's Star coming, or you all, we welcome you all, and honestly, we haven't placed much importance on Elorin, do you know what our confidence lies in?"

Royal Dominator raised an eyebrow, "Blood Sea Wave?"

Sea and Sky laughed heartily, "Right, I as the president am just a steward, Atao is the world-class god-level sea battle hero, he works tirelessly on high-level maps, our guild's strategic focus isn't on battles over one city or another in the China Region. We all are seen as tycoons by others, let's all be magnanimous and not let those poor folks laugh."

Royal Dominator laughed heartily, "It's true, speaking candidly makes everyone feel eased. Alright, then we'll also come to Elorin to accompany your guild?"

Sea and Sky laughed out loud, "Welcome, welcome, for mutual prosperity!"

Royal Dominator smiled, "And facing outwards together, eliminating trash!"

Sea and Sky laughed, "Exactly, exactly, next time if he dares to flaunt with NPCs—oh, today we didn't manage to do anything to those fishmen, let's go to the fishery later; there are a few NPCs there!"

Royal Dominator exclaimed in surprise, "I heard their guild's vice president is an NPC? Why not deal with him?"

Sea and Sky shook his head, "Hard, that NPC is a Baron who only travels by carriage, his status is too high, the city management's protection around him is the tightest, it's inconvenient to act, not to mention, it carries the severest punishment, and it's hard to say if having the silly Baron with a 75% guild contribution as a vice president in Da Fei's guild is good or bad."

Royal Dominator murmured, "I see, but to have a Baron as a deputy is still quite prestigious..."

Chapter 468: Just Live in the Sewer

For Da Fei, having a yellow name was not a big deal - a little reputation deduction and he was as good as new. After all, "violating rules" and "committing a crime" are not the same concept.

When Da Fei came out, he ran into Da Bing, Da Wei, and a group of guild newcomers who just switched their class to Rangers or Druids. Everyone eagerly asked, "Brother Fei, did you suffer any losses?"

Da Fei proudly smiled and said, "Not at all, they thought they could mess with me? They're too naive!"

Everyone indignantly exclaimed, "Exactly, they dared to stir trouble in front of Brother Fei, they don't know the meaning of the word 'god'!"

Da Fei waved his hand and laughed, "Alright, everyone get back to your own business and work hard on leveling up."

"Got it, Brother Fei!"

After everyone scattered, Da Fei felt a weight in his heart. Although his brothers saw his power and thought he was godlike, others did not think the same. The reason they dared to provoke him over and over was because he wasn't godlike enough! The fact that they almost got one over him also was due to his luck rather than strength. In short, although he had gained quite a bit, he still wasn't strong enough!

At the very least, he didn't have the kind of strength that people with Phoenix Feathers did. In any game, having the ability to single-handedly defeat several opponents makes others respect and fear you. Unfortunately, he was lacking that kind of impact. If he were a Mage Hero who could wipe out a group with a single spell, who would dare to block his way and gawk at him? Even if his Vice Hero had area-of-effect capabilities, he wouldn't have been in this embarrassing situation today.

Speaking of Mage Heroes, Da Fei suddenly remembered that tomorrow was the day he had an appointment with the Dwarf Prince, which involved a Dark Elf imprisoned in a dungeon. There was no doubt, it was a hero recruitment quest. The Dark Elves were a well-known, powerfully magical hidden race, and this one was even female, perfectly matching his taste and needs! In any case, he had to give it his all tomorrow! Da Fei couldn't believe there was anything he couldn't handle.

Now, he decided to go to Radiant City to check on the Fishmen's settlement. After a teleportation, he arrived at Radiant City.

At that moment, a melodious and lazy harp sound permeated through the construction site. Da Fei looked towards the sound and saw some extravagantly dressed but old buskers playing music by the site, one even had a monkey with him.

Da Fei couldn't help but laugh in astonishment, were these the musicians hired by the Cultural Consultant? Could they even teach?

Just then, Cultural Consultant Arong appeared in a rush, "Lord City Lord, it's terrible, our cultural score has been lowered!"

Da Fei was stunned, "How could this happen! Our cultural score is already zero, how can it go lower?"

Arong anxiously explained, "It has gone into the negatives! It's because of the Fishmen you relocated here! They are uncivilized Alien Race creatures, their presence in our city lowers our cultural level, which will deter high-end talents from coming, as no Elf or Flower Demon would want to live in the same town as such vulgar beings!"

What? Fishmen have such a setting? Da Fei, feeling incredibly annoyed, opened the current status panel of the city:

— City Sanitation Score: 81 points. (Environment excellent, minor pollution issues.)

— City Safety Score: 33 points. (Warning: Enemies lurking around the outskirts of the territory, safety score is related to military strength comparison.)

— City Cultural Score: -36 points. (Warning: The settlement of Fishmen severely affects the cultural level of the city, deterring high-level talents from residing here.)

...

Ah pfft! Da Fei spat out mouthfuls of water! Holy moly, 36 Fishmen just directly dropped my cultural score by 36 points! Even 36 cultural workers might not be able to raise the city's cultural score by 36 points! Is this the legendary case of one bad apple spoiling the whole barrel? So, if the Fishman Tribe grows and reproduces more, every little Fishman child would cost us 1 point? Then even if I build more schools and theaters and cultivate more artistic talents, it won't be enough!

Damn! This is really not giving me peace of mind! What's wrong with Fishmen? Are they meant to be uncultured creatures? So, you Elves are high-class races and can't stand Fishmen, huh? Well, to be fair, if I were transported into the game's Otherworld, I definitely wouldn't live with Fishmen either!

Da Fei sighed helplessly, "These Fishmen hold great military significance for our city, what should I do about their settlement?"

The Cultural Consultant hastily said, "It's simple, the city's level and cultural score are calculated based on the city area enclosed by the walls. Just place them outside the walls, find some tree roots for them to use as nests."

Oh? It's that simple? Stop fussing then!

And just at this moment, the military advisor hurried over anxiously: "Lord City Lord, this won't do! Fishmen can't be settled outside the city!"

Da Fei raised his eyebrows, what now?

The cultural consultant sighed, "Since Lord City Lord is here, let's not argue anymore and just follow your lead."

The military advisor quickly spoke, "My Lord, do you remember the Leviathan's Egg you placed outside in the pond? That egg is truly wild and untamed. It has absorbed a significant amount of dark energy from the contaminated pond water and its size has been increasing. Maybe soon it will hatch, and once hatched, given the vicious nature of the Leviathan, it will surely devastate the Fishman community!"

Da Fei was suddenly shocked, "Oh right, what about that egg?"

The cultural consultant shook his head, "My Lord, we are unable to tame that egg. Perhaps no one in the Elf Kingdom can. I suggest that it would be best to retrieve and freeze the egg before it hatches, keeping it in storage. The Fishmen should not stay in the city."

The military advisor immediately shook his head, "Even if you decide not to hatch that egg, the situation around the Pool of Radiance has been particularly ominous these past few days. Should a war break out, the Fishmen outside would still end up as casualties, and that would be such a pity!"

Ah, last time it was an argument between the military advisor and the economic advisor, this time it's with the cultural consultant. Are military preparedness and development really incompatible? Such a headache!

Da Fei let out a long sigh, "Alright, it's difficult to ensure both safety and culture, but shouldn't there at least be a compromise?"

The military advisor awkwardly coughed and said, "Well, out of sight, out of mind. As long as no one sees the Fishmen, wouldn't that solve the problem? Maybe... they could live in the sewers?"

Da Fei raised his eyebrows and quickly asked the cultural consultant, "Can they live in the sewers?"

The cultural consultant sighed, "I'm not a Fishman, how would I know? I definitely wouldn't live in the sewers!"

So that's how it is. Looks like I have to talk to Gulu Gulu myself!

Led by the two consultants, Da Fei found a group of Fishmen taking a bath at the dock by the city wall and Selvia, who was overseeing them.

Upon seeing Da Fei, Gulu Gulu muttered, "Master, there are no fish in this water, and we feel uncomfortable in it!"

Da Fei frowned, "Uncomfortable?"

The military advisor sighed, "The water in the Pool of Radiance is filled with too much light energy, which is deadly for the Demon Race and also difficult for ordinary Ocean Creatures to adapt to. However, Fishmen are widespread and are recognized for their strong adaptability, able to thrive in sea

water, fresh water, and marshes alike. I believe they can also adapt to this environment here, probably even the sewers..."

What a load of crap! If the NPC says it works, then it works!

Da Fei immediately laughed loudly, "Why bother fishing when you are with the master? Don't worry, there's a daily supply of fresh fish and fine wine waiting for you. Come, your master will take you to your new home! More splendid than the palace of the Naga Lord. Maybe you'll find it hard to adjust at first, but that's normal. No Fishman has ever had such an honor. You'll have to get used to your new life!"

As Da Fei led Gulu Gulu and the group of Fishmen into the sewers, Gulu Gulu's eyes sparkled, "Is this the place more splendid than the palace of the Naga Lord?"

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Not just yet. This palace is still being constructed and extended. On the lowest level, a main water hall will be built, and that will be the real palace! How about that? From now on, you are the residents and protectors of this palace; no Fishman has ever been so privileged. Are you happy?"

Gulu Gulu excitedly said, "Master, you are kind!"

At that moment, all the Fishmen loudly gurgled!

—System Prompt: Your reputation among the Fog Scale Fishman Tribe has become "Trusted"!

Oh yeah! That's it? Haha! Well, that's great!

Chapter 469: Attempted Murder Leads to Being Killed Instead

Now, the Fishmen have been settled down, and Da Fei hurriedly checks the cultural score, which is still - 36 points.

Da Fei was astonished and said, "Can't even living in the sewers work?"

The military consultant coughed and said, "Well, it's still a bit better than wandering around on the streets and impacting people's senses."

The cultural consultant shook his head and sighed, "Citizens' perception of the Barbarian Tribe won't change easily. I believe, going forward, my lord will only need to increase investments in cultural development."

The military consultant continued, "Lord City Lord, if it really doesn't work out, we can go all out with militarization. Many Beastman Cities are fortresses with little cultural merit, yet they are prosperous. I reckon if these Fishman Tribes adapt to life in the sewers, their next generation might be classified as sewer creatures. Once we develop a new type of Fishman troops, they might benefit from bonuses of the sewer forts, and by then, waging wars to support wars could also be a path of city development!"

That's right! The next generation, the production of sewer creatures are indeed subject to fort bonuses!

Da Fei kept nodding, "Makes sense! However, I've already decided to build schools to train musical troops, I am still not willing to give up on culture."

The cultural consultant quirked his brows, "Perhaps, we could consider a circus model?"

Da Fei asked curiously, "What is that?"

The cultural consultant smiled, "The same fierce beasts, if they appear in the wild, need to be eradicated as dangerous elements. But if they appear in a circus, they become an entertainment element that brings joy to the citizens. If we train these Fishmen as Circus Performers, perhaps their social status could drastically change!"

The military consultant upon hearing this, nodded repeatedly, "Makes sense! Even bears can ride bicycles and monkeys can jump through fire hoops, these Fishmen are much smarter, there's no reason they can't do it! By then, these Fishmen wouldn't drag down the cultural score, they might even add to it!"

The cultural consultant laughed heartily, "It's rare that your opinions finally align with mine!"

Da Fei excitedly exclaimed, "Then how do we implement this circus model?"

The cultural consultant laughed, "Did you see those idle vagrant artists? One of them has a little monkey, and the other plays with cobras, both drawn by promises of meals from me. It might be difficult for them to train Flower Demons, but Fishmen are much smarter than monkeys. Just add a bit to their salary, and they might be willing to train!"

My god, Brother found the right people this time! Da Fei excitedly exclaimed, "Great! Great! Even if these two don't know how, it's alright, continue scouting in the Kingdom's taverns and streets. There must be a few who'd come for meals!"

The cultural consultant laughed, "Lord City Lord is wise, if that's the case, I suggest teaching according to their aptitude, open a circus training class in the school!"

What? Adding more tasks to the school? Well, it has come to this. What can I say, one school is really not enough.

Da Fei then said, "Alright, let's do that!"

The cultural consultant smiled, "Then I'll go talk to those artists now, they have no reason to refuse."

After the cultural consultant left, Da Fei immediately remembered Leviathan's Egg.

Da Fei frowned and asked, "Is it really impossible to tame that egg?"

The military consultant sighed, "Yes, Sea Monsters are beyond our comprehension, especially these High-level Sea Monsters, their intelligence might not be inferior to ours. But no worries, like my original suggestion, we built city walls. If Leviathan hatches, it poses no threat to us, only to the coastal Demon Race. It's our natural ally, so I still suggest strongly to hatch it."

Da Fei nodded, "It seems that's the only way."

Now, having settled the big issue with the Fishmen, Da Fei felt relieved and took a deep breath. What's next? Maybe take a rest for a bit, after all the big fuss for so long, even my heart is tired. Let's go offline and see what's happening in my smaller account now.

...

Elorin Fishery, an assembly of small boats near the boundary line.

Although the assassination attempt on Da Fei's Fishmen by the Blood Sea Guild and Royal Guild failed, everyone was already here, returning empty-handed wouldn't be fun. So, the target this time was the three NPC fishermen from Da Fei's Trading Company, originally fixed by Phoenix Feather, but since he couldn't leave Red Name Village, it was led by Ghost Without Soul, known as the "Assassin among the People," "Blood Hook."

This morning, Ghost Without Soul was unlucky during the pursuit of One Sword Eastward's Octopus, swallowed by a giant vortex, ship destroyed and people killed. Of course, these were minor issues. The major concern was his own reputation plummeting severely.

Especially when Royal Dominator commented half crying and half laughing: "Brother Hun, could you please not joke around, those were just a few underlings of Da Fei after all!"

Ghost Without Soul certainly didn't come to joke, even if the act itself was quite a joke. Anyway, these three NPCs must die. The target had already appeared on a small boat laying nets, they just needed to wait! Wait until their boat was the closest to the player's fleet.

Finally, close enough! Let the action begin!

Following Ghost Without Soul's command, one boat took the lead, dozens of other small boats carrying nearly a hundred players forcibly broke through the fishing net boundary of the fishery and charged into the fishery!

—System Prompt: Warning! You have forcefully intruded into a government-owned enterprise, constituting a severe violation and disruption, please stop immediately, or severe penalties will follow!

In that moment, all the intruding players turned yellow name!

Ghost Without Soul shouted, "Ignore it! Everyone, charge in!"

And just at this moment, the three NPCs with Da Fei Guild's emblem on their heads shouted from afar, "Everyone leave! Otherwise, we'll treat you as robbers!"

At this moment, a blast of red light appeared on every player's screen!

— System Prompt: Warning! You have been warned by unauthorized personnel from intruding into a corporate site! Please stop your intrusion immediately, or you will be subjected to legitimate defensive responses!

Gui Wuhun yelled out, "It's them we are supposed to kill, prepare to battle!"

Just as everyone was about to enter shooting range, these three NPCs suddenly plopped into the water and vanished in a blink of an eye, causing the whole team to burst into an uproar!

"What should we do?" Everyone looked at Gui Wuhun simultaneously!

"What else can we do? Of course, we retreat!" Why are there such bizarre NPCs? Gui Wuhun sighed internally, feeling that this operation had fallen through again, and the Royal Dominator was sure to sneer and jeer.

But it was too late; the system's final warning appeared,

— System Prompt: You have ignored the warning and trespassed into a state-owned enterprise, your act has constituted an intrusion! You will be penalized with red name status!

In that instant, all team members turned into red names!

And just at that moment, a small boat suddenly rocked violently, catching several players off-guard who fell into the water, followed by a flash of a blade from beneath the boat, and the white light of player deaths rose up!

The whole team was shocked again! Now, the coastal guard appeared, and the sirens blared across heaven and earth, leaving no escape route for anyone! The relentless pursuit by the three "Water Ghosts" from underwater did not stop for a moment, more boats capsized, and more streaks of white light rose from beneath the waters!

Gui Wuhun looked up to the sky and let out a long sigh, having accepted too many frustrating missions usually, now his reputation was also ruined. Soon the Royal Dominator would start his relentless complaints again. But who could he blame? Their action of trying to kill NPCs was foolish to begin with, making money in such a disgusting way. Damn it all, he didn't want to play with them anymore, he decided to go to the legendary Red Name Village.

.....

— Guild Information: Guild members Akenna, Akarna, and Arsenal bravely defended the property of Elorin Fishery and were awarded the title of "Excellent Employee of the Fishery," and the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce's reputation was increased by +9530!

— Guild Information: Akenna has submitted spoils of war "C-Level Strategic Treasure Binoculars," "C-Level Strategic Treasure Valor Badge," "Personal Equipment Sharp Blade," "Personal Equipment Agility Gloves"... Akenna earned 4310 points of contribution to the guild, promoted to intermediate member.

— Guild Information: Akarna has submitted spoils of war...

— Guild Information: Arsenal has submitted spoils of war...

Huh? The whole Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce was astounded, even Da Fei, who was idly keeping an eye on his secondary accounts, was alarmed by the flood of system prompts and hurriedly switched over, instantly shaken! What was happening?

Da Bing then realized, "Damn, the Blood Sea and Royal's temps went to kill Brother Fei's NPCs at the fishery!"

One Sword Eastward laughed, "Looks like they tried to kill but got killed instead?"

Everyone burst out laughing, "They deserved to have their equipment blasted off! Brother Fei is so awesome, the NPCs who join Brother Fei's guild are naturally f*cking incredible!"

"Hahaha, so many pieces of equipment! Now, we don't have to worry about anything, not even our underwear!"

"That's right!"

Da Bing angrily said, "That's bullsh*t, even the new coming NPCs are intermediate members now, you bunch of weaklings better go all-out in contributing to the guild!"

At this moment, Da Fei's heart sank! Damn it, they really took action! Just now, they failed to kill Brother's Fishmen, and now they went after Brother's three fishermen, they really were determined to kill Brother's NPCs! Luckily these three NPCs weren't exactly lawful or gentle! But Coltnr, as well as some retired sailors who were about to join the guild, were in danger now! This was truly wicked and unstoppable!

Da Fei couldn't stay calm anymore, what to do now? Can he hire bodyguards for round-the-clock protection? He hurried to ask the mayor!

.....

Red Name Village, Gui Wuhun refused the judge's penance ruling and came to this legendary place. Once here, it means there's no turning back, and one would only sink deeper on the path of a red name.

Just as Gui Wuhun was aimlessly looking around in this ruins of Stone Village, he suddenly heard someone laughing loudly outside the village, "Another Chinese, will it be a dragon or a worm?"

Gui Wuhun quickly went to see and exclaimed in surprise, "Phoenix Feather?"

Phoenix Feather chuckled, "No nonsense, I want to create a world-class Red Name Gang, are you interested in joining?"

Gui Wuhun laughed heartily, "No nonsense, I've always had one..."

Chapter 470: Elorin's Star Strategy

Da Fei once again went to City Hall to meet the mayor.

This time, the guard at the door said, "Please wait a moment, Chairman, the mayor is seeing a guest."

Da Fei was taken aback, the mayor had a guest? NPC or player? If it was an NPC, it wouldn't matter, but if it was a player, Da Fei felt a faint sense of threat. After all, at this stage, not many players could meet the mayor in this city. And considering his reputation in the national service, the player was more likely an enemy than a friend, right?

Just as Da Fei was anxiously waiting, the door of City Hall opened, and a person wearing a full green camouflage cloak, obscuring their face, hastily walked out.

There was no name display above their head, and there was no hero aura below their feet. It was an NPC, not a player.

The guard said to Da Fei, "Mr. Da Fei, you may enter now!"

Good, it's an NPC! Da Fei felt relieved. And at the moment they brushed past each other, the green cloak flashed with light, and a golden flash appeared on Da Fei's small radar!

A treasure? Damn!

Da Fei quickly turned his head to look, suddenly seeing a faint Druid hero aura appear under the feet of the cloaked figure! It was a hero!

At this moment, the green-cloaked figure suddenly pulled out a scroll, flashed with golden light, and disappeared instantly!

Da Fei was stunned on the spot! What the hell was that! What did I just see? Was that scroll a legendary Town Recall Scroll? The teleportation array is not far away, what urgent matter would require using a precious Town Recall Scroll?

While in other games, a Town Recall Scroll was a common and not so special item, in the Heroic Creation Era, it was a high-end rare spell item, divided into personal and legion uses. Da Fei had seen the Gambling God Buffett use a personal Town Recall Scroll on Fire Dragon Island; as for a legion Town Recall Scroll, it was nothing short of a one-time-use divine artifact! In fact, in the game, any item with a teleportation function could be considered a divine artifact, such as Da Fei's Vortex Crystal, Alena's Tree Branch, and the map device just given by Makar.

Forget about the Town Recall Scroll, the issue was why did an NPC suddenly show a hero aura? What was that flash of golden light on my screen? Does this mean the cloak was actually a treasure that could hide one's identity? Was it that a vampire like Makar's butler was exposed as a hero by my God-level Reconnaissance Technique plus Treasure Appraiser skill?

And as everyone knows, an NPC hero encountered outside a tavern must be either epic or legendary, and they're definitely powerful! Why did the mayor want to meet such a hero? Is something major about to happen in this city?

But hold on! Based on the other person's flustered and unnatural reaction when I identified them, it didn't seem like an NPC hero, maybe it's a player instead? But if it was a player, why didn't their name show? Maybe due to the short contact, I only revealed the aura but didn't have time to reveal their name?

Yes, since the teleportation array is nearby, if they were really in a hurry, they could've used the Town Recall Scroll directly; why wait to be exposed by me? Clearly, it was to cover up their player identity!

This person was definitely a player!

A player with high-end treasures that could hide identity and use Town Recall Scrolls at will! In an instant, Da Fei felt an unknown threat! The waters in Elorin were getting murkier!

But no need to worry, as long as I have absolute strength, no matter what tricks you play, I'll bulldoze through it all with high-tech!

...

At this time, in a senior VIP member studio of the Star Guild, Tianlan Star sweated profusely against the back of his chair, staring in disbelief at the system information that just popped on his screen!

—System Prompt: Warning! Your divine artifact disguise cloak's disguise effect is about to be exposed by player Da Fei!

How could this Da Fei so easily see through the divine artifact's disguise; just how skillful is he? Thankfully, I reacted quickly and used the Town Recall Scroll to teleport instantly, otherwise, if my name got revealed, it would have been extremely embarrassing for Star.

For a large guild like Star, full of professional top players, obtaining a divine artifact wasn't strange; not getting one would be strange. The disguise cloak could not only hide a hero's aura outdoors but also hide a player's name and identity in the city, letting them pretend to be an NPC. This way, it prevented ordinary players from crowding and bothering Star's renowned team members, while also being immensely fun.

Of course, the main part was that it's super fun. Every time Tianlan Star disguised as an NPC and strolled under the eyes of ordinary players, he felt a huge secret superiority and got more addicted over time. Although Da Fei seldom appeared in the city, this was actually the first face-to-face encounter, and I didn't expect him to see through half of my disguise right off the bat and mess things up!

In fact, when Da Fei and Blood Sea Wave were thriving in Elorin, Star didn't stop engaging in activities in this commercial port. However, Elorin was just a commercial city, lacking military strength; its unit production and Special Forces couldn't match military strongholds, making it not Star's primary development location at first, only leaving a few high-end members to develop here, with Tianlan Star being in charge.

Coming back to his senses, Tianlan Star reported the situation to the guild leader, Eternal Star.

Eternal Star gave a mild chuckle, "It's nothing, just some minor tricks, don't mind it. By the way, how's the progress on your side's task?"

Tianlan Star sighed, "For some reason, the Ranger Guild leader suddenly quit, the military lost a supporter. Plus, the mayor's achievements have increased due to opening the fishery, making it even more difficult to bring him down."

Eternal Star replied, "Seems like this mayor is also making efforts to counteract us. Don't worry then, just continue collecting evidence against the mayor; when Elorin's development is richer, we'll overthrow the mayor in one go and have money in Elorin, and the military can easily take over afterward!"

"Got it."

Whether players had their own territories or not, recruiting troops from the old world NPC main city was always the main source for players to recruit troops. The Elf Clan's main city was publicly known for low troop production, so the Star Guild aimed at attacking the elves and had their members increase reputation and stockpile troops across all cities nationwide, compensating for troop source shortcomings. The Korea District, which focused on elves, did the same.

And the ideal places for troop stockpiling were, of course, border military strongholds, but they had a significant drawback, they lacked money!

Therefore, Star naturally set their sights on some commercial cities in the interior. The next step for Star's plan was to develop wealthy commercial cities into military ones, becoming actual major troop suppliers. Cities like Elorin, these large port cities, were prime future development targets.

While doing groundwork in Elorin, Tianlan Star quickly identified a problem, the base-level officers were very unhappy with the mayor at the top. On one hand, the mayor constantly cut military funds for economic development and political achievements, squeezing the military's operational space. On the other hand, there were some personal financial issues with the mayor himself.

Thus, the Epic Quest to overthrow the mayor appeared, and supporting the military's rise was Star's grand goal. So, seemingly minor skirmishes in Elorin hid Star's massive shadow.

...

Da Fei met with the mayor once again and raised concerns about the security of guild members, all while tying it to the event that triggered the excellent employee award for the Akenna brothers. Of course, Da Fei wouldn't directly say, "A player's out to kill my NPC, I request protection," as the mayor wouldn't care at all. Talking with NPCs required conditions triggered by past events, which is a basic task trick.

The mayor furrowed his brows, "For such security matters, you should go directly to the city's Security Bureau; I am not in a position to overstep, but I do have a suggestion. As far as I know, the Security Bureau is recruiting a Security Captain, if you can compete for the position, you can form your own security team and have them protect your guild members at any time, how about it?"

Da Fei's eyebrows shot up! Damn, Security Captain? Getting a post right away, that's too good to be true! But I'm so busy, where's the time to compete for a position? Besides, who could possibly compete with me? Makar gave me lieutenant roles and chaplain roles casually, and we're talking about a minor captain here, does it have to be this complicated?

Da Fei cleared his throat, "Um, Mr. Mayor, my abilities are known to all, does such a small captain's position need competition? Can't you just appoint me directly?"

The mayor answered seriously, "No! Though minor, the position has vast implications, and you being human, directly taking on a key security role in Elf City would be very controversial. Therefore, you must thoroughly impress the entire Security Bureau with your abilities. If you're willing to take on this role, I'll write a recommendation letter to allow you to take the assessment directly; as long as you have my recommendation letter, they have no reason to refuse on the basis that you're human."

Damn it, even game-playing engage in racial discrimination, I'm not putting up with it!

Da Fei sighed inwardly, "Okay, I'm willing!"

—System Prompt: You have received the Assessment Task for Elorin Security Captain Position, currently 1 competitor!

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched, What? There really is a competitor? This isn't a single-player mode? Who is it! Show yourself and I'll knock you down!

And right at this moment, a line of system prompt suddenly appeared on Tianlan Star's screen!

—System Prompt: A competitor appears in your Elorin Security Captain assessment, please prepare for the challenge!

—Ahpuh! Tianlan Star spat out a mouthful of water! Who's this? Daring to compete with me? Ridiculous!!!

Now, Da Fei had the mayor's recommendation letter.

The mayor advised, "Because you're recommended by me, the Security Bureau's assessment requirements for you may be higher, but I trust in your abilities, do your best!"

Da Fei was exasperated, Damn it! Coming to the mayor with a recommendation letter means I can't take a shortcut, instead increasing the difficulty of the assessment, how is that fair!