

God level 491

Chapter 491: The Goods of the Seven Cities Alliance

Just as the advisers were pulling out various maps to analyze the surrounding environment, a flash of light from the Teleportation Array accompanied someone shouting: "Is Mr. Da Fei, the City Lord of Radiant City, here?"

Da Fei turned his head and saw a Mage with purple skin, surrounded by purple aura, and eyes flashing like lightning. It was a Lamp God! The delivery from the Seven Cities Alliance had arrived! The savior has come!

Da Fei hurriedly shouted back: "Here, here, here! I'm coming! I'm coming!" While saying this, he and the advisers rushed towards the Teleportation Array.

The Lamp God is a kind of Elemental Life, not belonging to the common Six Elements of light, darkness, wind, fire, water, and earth, but rather, they are the Spiritual Element that is above the Six Elements. This kind of element is closest to the divine, hence this race often regards itself as divine beings. Of course, their power is indeed closest to that of gods; the body of a Lamp God's Spiritual Element grants an enhancement to any Magic Power that is incomparable to ordinary races. What is magical is that, as Elemental Life, Lamp Gods can actually reproduce with humans or Elves.

Lamp Gods do not get destroyed; they use expensive Crystal Lamps or bottles as their Soul Containers. Once they die, they return to these Crystal Lamps, which is the origin of the name Lamp God. In this respect, the Lamp Gods have given great inspiration to Necromancers, so Necromancers also place their own lifebound spirits into a container box to serve as their Lifebound Box.

The most famous Lamp God is Sola from "One Thousand and One Nights," who was sealed in a drifting bottle by King Solomon. His classic line is: "I can grant you three wishes!"

With such an impressive catchphrase, even ordinary gods wouldn't dare say it out loud, which shows how cool the Lamp Gods are. However, as cool as they are, they were still sealed by the mortal King Solomon, who was granted Divine Wisdom, and the specifications of their sealing were not comparable to the 72 Demon Gods of the same period. After all, there is a qualitative gap between Lamp Gods and true gods. But even so, when looked at from the secular world, they are still beings that stand high above others.

Now, Da Fei and his group approached the Lamp God in question. The Lamp God politely bowed: "I am Sain, I was ordered to deliver Lord City Lord's order! Please sign for it!"

After saying this, he waved his hand and a glinting Magic Contract was handed to Da Fei. Da Fei hastily received it and read:

—Sender: Seven Cities Alliance Sacred Crown City Alchemy Guild.

—Items Shipped: 100 Light Attribute Magic Porcelain filtering crucibles, Light Energy level LV9.64. 100 Dark Attribute Shadow Crystal mixing rods, Dark Energy level LV9.64. 10 sets of high-level Purple Shadow Crystal Magic Charging Crystals. 10 Magic Crystal Transmission Bands (gift).

—Handled By: The chief Mage of the Lionheart Empire, Duke Markar. (Signed personally)

—Recipient: The City Lord of Radiant City, Mr. Da Fei of the Farolan Kingdom. (Please sign)

.....

Is this the delivery note? But the problem is—

Da Fei hurriedly asked: "Sir, how much does this shipment cost?"

Sain shook his head: "I'm only responsible for delivery."

Damn it! I, the cool recipient, don't even know how much this shipment costs? How much under-the-table dealing and how many hidden agreements is this damn Markar involved in? Are my debts owed without any clue?

Alright, I've been prepared to get screwed over from the start!

After Da Fei signed for the delivery, the Magic Light flashed, and the shining contract disappeared suddenly, and a huge Teleportation Gate pulsating also appeared. Then 2 small boxes and 10 large boxes floated out from the Teleportation Gate!

For a moment, Da Fei and the advisers exclaimed in amazement! This damn thing is the high technology of Mage City!

These twelve boxes quietly fell to the ground. Sain waved his hand and lightly said: "Products from the Seven Cities Alliance, quality assured, including an idiot-proof one-button user manual, simplifying cutting-edge Magic Equipment into consumer products, simply elegant. Please Lord City Lord inspect the goods!"

Idiot-proof one-button use? I love it! Overjoyed, Da Fei opened one of the large boxes holding the Magic Recharge Device, inside was a man-high white crystal set on a metallic stand.

—High-level Purple Shadow Crystal Magic Recharge Device: Grade A building equipment, large item, not portable. Capable of activating a Charging Array to absorb and store Magic Power, with a 25% conversion rate. (That is, if a magic creature has 100 points of Mana, only 25 points will be effectively absorbed and stored by the device.) Maximum capacity of 10,000 Mana. Useable buildings: Mage Tower, Magic Tower, and related Array facilities.

Sain indifferently said: "This is a Magic Charging Crystal. There are only two buttons, activation for charging and powering. Once you start charging, a Magic Array will appear below, absorbing the Mana from any magic creature that enters the Array, including Mages. When the crystal turns completely purple, the charging is done, and one crystal can store 10,000 points of Mana. To use the Mana is simple too, see this interface on the stand? Just connect the Magic Crystal Transmission Band to this interface, then connect the transmission band to the facility you wish to use, and then activate the power option..."

Da Fei nodded repeatedly! The higher-end the technology, the simpler the complicated operations! So, I can let Selvia recharge and add Mana to this thing when I'm free? Wow, that's like having another Sea Soul Staff!

And the advisers were also marveling: "Worthy of the Seven Cities Alliance's product, to achieve a 25% storage conversion rate and a 10,000 Mana capacity! Our Mage Guild would be doing well to produce crystals with a 15% rate and 5,000 capacity."

Mr. Sain said indifferently, "This is just an A-grade product, which under special circumstances, can be exported. Our S-grade products can achieve a conversion rate of 35%, but they are not for sale and will not be sold."

A crowd of advisors couldn't help but marvel once again.

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched, and he quickly asked the advisors, "By the way, how much does a typical Mage Guild sell their crystal charging devices for?" Since this Sain is not revealing prices, let's guess from the price of common goods.

The economic advisor chuckled, "Well, that depends on your esteem, but generally, one would cost about 10 million Gold Coins."

—Ahem! Da Fei spat out a mouthful of old blood! That means these 10 chargers are at least 100 million! Plus, the cost of these alchemy tools is still unknown! My debt—damn, am I just digging Crystal Ores for Duke Makar for free?

The military advisor also said, "However, purchasing such an item requires approval. These types of charging devices are considered strategic weapons. Once you have them, the Magic Towers can keep firing without interruption. It's not something you can buy just by offering money!"

Oh? It requires approval? No wonder this thing is so badass! So, Duke Makar stepping in personally is actually helping me get through that approval phase? With this thought, Da Fei immediately saw the light!

As far as I'm concerned, money is no object; it's the damn esteem and approvals that can trip me up. So, after working under Makar for so many years and being his bargain student, now I'm truly stepping into his domain!

Great! Superb! This is Duke Makar opening up a door to high-tech military supplies for me! If the door won't open and I can't get good stuff, it's not my fault. But if the door is open and I fail to get good stuff, then it's on me!

Da Fei's spirit surged, Alright! I'll take this opportunity to make a satisfying purchase!

Da Fei hurriedly bowed and said, "Mr. Sain, I've long admired the Seven Cities Alliance and wonder if I could purchase these things from you?" After finishing, he handed over the shopping list given by Deirdre.

Mr. Sain raised an eyebrow, "I'm just a deliveryman; I don't accept trade orders."

Da Fei was taken aback; isn't this a bit too rigid? Do I have to go back to Duke Makar?

Just then, the often-neglected foreign affairs advisor suddenly stepped up, "Mr. Sain, as I understand, since the Seven Cities Alliance holds a neutral position, it seldom engages in wars abroad. Therefore, it's hard to advance personnel through military service. As such, personnel are often promoted through the long and arduous process of scientific research. However, completing a trade can also enhance an individual's performance. Why would Mr. Sain not relish an opportunity to increase achievements?"

Da Fei snickered inwardly, surely the foreign affairs advisor is trying to show off his presence. Actually, I have Duke Makar as a connection, so it doesn't really matter if he refuses.

Indeed, Mr. Sain handed back Da Fei's order and said indifferently, "What you've said makes sense, sir, but the trade proposed by the Lord is too small for me to breach the deliveryman's discipline of the Guild over it. I truly apologize!"

Damn! You're this cool and yet you're a delivery guy, does your mom know?

Da Fei then asked with a smile, "So, Mr. Sain, what kind of deal would be big enough for you to bend the rules a bit?"

Sain shook his head, "Guild disciplines cannot be breached, especially for us lower-ranking employees. However—"

At this point, Sain started scanning the entire city with his piercing eyes, and then calmly said, "I feel that although the Lord has purchased 10 sets of Magic Charging Devices, he doesn't have the corresponding

facilities to use them. May I ask if the Lord is interested in building a Mage Tower? Or perhaps purchasing a Magic Tower? Our Holy Crown City Alchemy Guild has a batch of expired stock that is not great but can still be used somewhat. The Guild is also looking to liquidate these goods. Selling them wouldn't necessarily be breaking the rules. Does the Lord have any interest in acquiring them?"

What? Expired goods? Barely usable? You really have integrity!

Da Fei replied with a wry smile, "If I bought that batch of goods, would you then sell me the materials I need?"

Mr. Sain replied seriously, "I cannot do that. However, if I managed to sell this stock, I might get promoted, and then I could have the authority to sell what you need. Of course, with Duke Makar's high-end channel at your disposal, you are completely free to ignore my offer."

My goodness! To buy some materials, I have to take such a roundabout path and it's not even sure to work out, am I really that masochistic? You are right though; I have Makar's channel, why bother with your tedious offer to buy a bunch of expired junk!

Hold on a second! Suddenly Da Fei's eyebrows twitched! Duke Makar's channel? Damn it! If I rely entirely on his channel, won't I be at his beck and call for life! Although Mr. Sain is in a low position and can only sell me some expired stuff, but if I support him and he rises, this could also open my own channel!

Yes! One day I have to confront Duke Markar; I cannot be controlled by others! Although he has helped me develop the Dual Core Slime Monster, he stopped at finishing the second phase of the task, surely he has something up his sleeve! I also need to prepare my own backup plan and develop my own channels!

Chapter 492: Purchasing Military Equipment to Strengthen City Defenses

Da Fei was resolved, determined to develop his own channels!

Importantly, one of the main reasons why the Mage Academy of the Seven Cities Alliance is a neutral power difficult for players to join is because low-level players have a hard time receiving quests there. Aside from daily trading, it's hard to even find NPCs who will exchange a few words with you in the city. Those Mages are arrogantly self-absorbed, and even for running errands, they have Demon Servants to dispatch, so there's no need to issue quests to players.

Therefore, how to join the Mage Academy and adopt the Hero profession of Alchemist has always been a major issue that plagues professional teams from various countries. Of course, for professional experts, there are no unsolvable problems, but it requires the sacrifice of valuable early development time, and no team is willing to take this risk at the onset. Thus, looking around the world, aside from the Indian Zone's Eight Heavenly Dragons Team, which specifically allocated a division to focus on the Mage Academy, other countries have not engaged in a large-scale assault on this power.

Therefore, it was an opportunity not to be missed for Da Fei to meet such a Lamp God who could open up business with this power.

Da Fei then asked, "So, how much is that batch of inventory worth? If it significantly contributes to the defense of the city, I will consider it."

Sain's electric eyes twitched, and his indifferent tone finally became a bit excited, "It's worth about 30 million Gold Coins, which isn't much compared to the Lord's order. But considering the expired quality, you can make a deferred payment, or of course, trade with equivalent resources. Although they're expired goods, that's relative to the standards of the Seven Cities Alliance. For the City Lord's city which is currently devoid of magic defense facilities, they're still of great help."

million!!! Da Fei's sphincter tightened! Damn, 'paying a hefty price for a horse's bones,' I'm essentially tossing out 30 million to test the waters! Alright! As long as deferred payment is an option, there's no problem. Anyway, with debts of several hundred million already out there, what's another 30 million?

Moreover, there's a good side to being in debt, the creditors are afraid I'll kick the bucket! Now that I owe Makar a huge debt, he's tied to my chariot of war and will certainly not let me die easily. This Sain must be thinking along the same lines, right?

Da Fei nodded, "Good! I trust the quality assurance of the Seven Cities Alliance. I'll buy the batch!"

Sain's electric eyes flashed like thunder, excitedly saying, "Worthy of being a City Lord favored by the Great Duke, then please fill out this purchase application form. The procedures of the Seven Cities Alliance are always straightforward, just sign your name and select the payment method, and I will naturally bring the invoice to you!" After speaking, he immediately took out a scroll shimmering with magic light.

Da Fei took the scroll and saw that it was a purchase application form with the options he mentioned - man, this form is really simple! Just the way I like it!

—System Prompt: You have submitted a shopping application to the Holy Crown City Alchemy Guild of the Seven Cities Alliance, your reputation in Holy Crown City +500, your reputation in Holy Crown City becomes 'Unfamiliar.'

Da Fei was pleasantly surprised and laughed! So buying stuff from their guild also increases reputation? The reputation in the City of Mages seems a bit too easy to earn, doesn't it? Or perhaps it's easy to gain reputation, but not so easy to be eligible to buy anything? Well, buy and cherish, what others don't have, I do; I'm spending this money comfortably.

After signing, Sain took the scroll and excitedly said, "Lord, please wait for my message, goodbye!" And with that, he disappeared into a puff of purple smoke.

There was a stir among Da Fei and his advisors - impressive level! With such ability, and he's just an ordinary salesperson, it really makes you wonder how mighty the Grand Mages are.

In any case, it was time to immediately mass-produce the Dual Core Slime Monsters.

Da Fei opened the city panel, selected the sewer option, and used the recipe rewarded by Makar!

—System Prompt: Your city's Sewer construction has obtained the ability to produce "Giant Slime Monster" and "Dual Core Giant Slime Monster" troop types.

Oh yeah! Select to manufacture Dual Core Slime Monsters!

—System Prompt: Please configure the required formula materials to manufacture the "Dual Core Giant Slime Monster" troop type!

Set it up!

—System Prompt: You have configured 100 Light Attribute Magic Porcelain Filtering Crucibles and 100 Dark Attribute Shadow Crystal Stirring Rods. The current environment meets all the conditions for producing that troop type, and manufacturing has begun! (Note: As the production of this troop type is limited by special materials, the output of this troop type is not subject to production bonuses from fortresses and the Necromancer Calamity.)

Oh yeah! This is panel operation; it's so simple with a recipe! No need to run down to the sewer to smell the stink anymore! It's just a shame there's no bonus, but it doesn't matter. As long as the regular Slime Monsters receive the bonus, the more of them there are, the stronger the giant slime monsters will get when they begin to snowball.

In any case, the giant slime monsters are finally being mass-produced, and the day to purify the pollution is close at hand! Once the goods from the Seven Cities Alliance arrive, my city will be full of Magic Towers. Am I scared of your Spider Demons coming from the sky? Wahahaha!

Next up are these ten Charging Crystals. Charging Crystals are building equipment, and since they're equipment, of course, they must be placed in a building's equipment slot to work. Level 1 buildings typically have one equipment slot, and the number increases with the building's level. Thus, they can be equipped inside the watchtower on the city walls, and they can also be equipped in the Mage Towers I'll build later, but there's no rush for that. We'll wait until Sain's Magic Towers arrive before equipping them.

Right now, it's about equipping them on the Flying. Although ships are also a type of mobile building, they have many more equipment slots than standard buildings. For example, the ship's bow has two positions – one for a figurehead or a bow cannon, and the other for a battering ram. Then the side of the ship is where additional armor can go. Each mast is an equipment slot for the sails.

The observatory has another slot, which can be equipped with various attribute-boosting flags or even that Divine Artifact lightning rod that Da Fei acquired.

And on the deck of a large ship, there are 8 equipment slots, 4 in the front and 4 in the back. They can fit boarding gangplanks for melee combat at sea, landing boats, trawling nets for fishing, and so on. If it's a specialized whaling ship, of course, you equip it with Whale Hunting Cannons.

Currently, the Flying's deck is occupied by a Teleportation Array and 4 landing boats. With 3 empty spots, that means I can equip 3 Charging Crystals. And if I remove all 4 landing boats, I could fit 7 Charging Crystals – 7 crystals, 70,000 Mana, who knows how many times I could use the Teleportation Array or how long it could supply Mana to the Magic Sail?

Just thinking about it gets Da Fei all excited! Anyway, let's start by equipping one first.

As for charging, it's easy! We're not ready for war now. Radiant City has 3,000 Flower Demons, each with 5 points of Mana, which is 15,000 Mana in total. Even if the charging conversion rate is only 25%, it can still store three or four thousand Mana! Not to mention all those idle Banshees and Druids. Anyway, start charging.

Just as Da Fei and his various advisors were busy directing the workers to transport the Charging Crystals, the Teleportation Array flashed with white light again, and a familiar voice trembled: "Mr. Da Fei, are you there? The application is approved, and I'm back!"

Da Fei, startled, twisted his head to look. If it wasn't Sain, who else could it be? Goodness me! To return so quickly, not even several minutes to take a dump have passed - that's some exceptional efficiency from the Seven Cities Alliance!

Seeing the astonished expressions on Da Fei and his advisors' faces, Sain smiled knowingly: "Our Seven Cities Alliance never wastes time due to the immortal life of the Lamp God. Our pursuit is always the simplest, most efficient, and fastest – the Lord's application has passed. All the Lord needs to do is sign, and the goods will arrive immediately, with the Golem Construction Team ready to start work!" He then pulled out that same scroll that shimmered with Demon Light!

Goodness me, what else to say? Okay, I'm all for simplicity and speed! Besides, let these high and mighty Mages see just how bold I am!

Da Fei, too lazy to look, signed off with a flourish, and then the scroll vanished with a boom, and another fluctuating Space Gate appeared.

Then out of the Space Gate clanged dozens, hundreds of Steel Puppets carrying boxes!

In that moment, Da Fei gaped in shock; man, if he were the enemy, opening such a Space Gate right inside my city, I'd be wiped out instantly! This is the power of the Seven Cities Alliance!

Thinking of this, Da Fei was suddenly alarmed! Speaking of spatial capabilities, the Hell Race is unrivaled. They could absolutely pull the same trick, sending a hero to sneak into my city and then open a Hell Gate – I'd be finished too!

Damn! Da Fei broke out in a cold sweat, speechless, ready to build a Magic Tower and a Mage Tower, and transplant Anti-stealth Holy Vines – whoever comes in is falling into a trap!

Chapter 493: Magic Tower and Mage Tower

—Steel Puppet, small mechanical creature, Attack 6, Defense 11, Damage 5-7, HP 24, Attack Speed 7, Move Speed 7, Magic Resistance 75%, special skill: mechanical creature

This was the Steel Puppet, a level 3 unit available for players to use at the Mage Academy. Its high defense and high magic resistance were its highlights. It was also the only unit at the level 3 stage with magic resistance attribute, and it had 75% total magic resistance, making it undoubtedly the strongest low-level tank!

In the early stage, if players could get their hands on a certain number of Steel Puppets, they could easily defeat magic-attack type bosses that would otherwise be impossible to beat. Its only special skill, "mechanical creature," was also deceptively simple, making it immune to various curses, diseases, slowing effects, etc. In this regard, mechanical creatures had many similarities with undead creatures, the difference being that undead creatures were severely restrained by light magic. Additionally, by pairing Steel Puppets with the Academy's level 1 Repair Elf units, they could fight while repairing, making them an anomaly strategy to exhaust bosses to death.

Now, these tall Steel Puppets assembling in the square clearly weren't ordinary exports; at the very least, they had the "production and transport" special skill, which meant these puppets were highly intelligent. And such high-end units were being deployed by such a low-level clerk, one had to wonder what kind of units the upper-level mages used. The Mage Academy sure knew how to show off!

Now Da Fei started to carefully review this batch of orders:

—Shipper: Seven Cities Alliance Sacred Crown City Alchemy Guild.

—Shipped goods: 10 sets of Magic Red Crystal Watch Towers (processed goods), unit price 2 million Gold Coins. Blue Crystal Drive Core Mage Tower (processed goods), price 10 million Gold Coins.

—Total price: 30 million Gold Coins.

Magic Red Crystal Watch Tower: Additional defense building, building defense 200, Durability 5000. It could release a beam dealing 20-30 magic damage. The beam, upon hitting the target area, would cause a large area of explosive damage. The enemy army could not share the magic damage of the beam with the whole tactical position. Each shot consumed 30 points of Crystal Mana. Current crystal reserve mana was 300 points, Crystal Mana could restore itself.

Blue Crystal Drive Core Mage Tower: Level 1 defense building, level 1 function building. Defense 200, Durability 20000. Increases city security rating by 5 points, increases city culture rating by 5 points, can research Magic Specialization (limited to Advanced Skill Magic, magic above Expert Level cannot be researched). This building could not be upgraded. Blue crystal could release a beam dealing 50-60 magic damage... Current crystal reserve mana was 600 points...

—Handled by: Sacred Crown City Alchemy Guild level 4 mage, level 1 researcher, level 4 clerk Sain. (signed in handwriting)

—Payment method: Six-month term payment, resource exchange.

—Receiver: Lord of Radiant City, Farolan Kingdom, Da Fei. (signed)

...

Looking at the attributes of these two batches of goods on the order, Da Fei couldn't help but sigh.

This was the Mage Academy's featured Arrow Tower "Ray Cannon," the ray attack was a laser-like beam sweeping through, and wherever it went, everything turned to ashes!

But the 20-30 magic damage hardly had the momentum to turn to ashes, especially compared to Da Fei's Master-level Crossbow Cannon's thousand-point terrifying damage, it was not up to par. The good thing was that its magic damage would not be shared by the entire tactical position of the enemy army, nor would it be reduced by the defense attribute, making it truly effective damage. Regular level 1-3 units had about 10 to 30 HP, and with these cannons forming a crossfire, the cannon fodder really fell in batches, making them the undisputed cannon fodder killers, really more efficient than ordinary single-shot Arrow Towers!

Huh? Wait, Da Fei then noticed that the crystal only had 300 points of reserve mana!

Damn! One shot consumed 30 points, after 10 shots it's depleted? What's the point then! The Demon Race's cannon fodder was like a sea, wasn't it!

Da Fei hurriedly asked, "Mr. Sain, why do these Crystal Towers only have 300 points of mana? It completely doesn't meet my combat needs!"

Sain shook his head and sighed, "Lord, I told you, this is expired equipment. Within the shelf life, crystals can store over a thousand mana points, and the speed of mana recovery is also much faster. However, Watchtower Guilds would not easily sell ones within the shelf life, and if sold, not at this price!"

Da Fei's jaw dropped! Damn it, although I knew this batch was a trap, it still felt uncomfortable when I found out exactly where it was a trap!

Sain continued, "But you don't have to worry, sir, even though they are expired, they can still perform normally when paired with the charging crystals you purchased. This is why I recommended this batch to you. In fact, if you hadn't bought charging crystals first, I wouldn't have pushed to sell this batch to you, as it would affect the reputation of our Sacred Crown City —— moreover, these towers are additional defenses, meaning you don't have to replace the Arrow Towers on the city walls. You can directly upgrade the existing ones, and Magic Watchtowers can be added on top of the Arrow Towers!"

Da Fei's eyebrows raised, additional buildings meant this? He promptly confirmed, "You mean, my Arrow Tower turns into two layers, the lower level is an ordinary Arrow Tower, and the upper level is a Magic Cannon?"

Sain laughed, "Exactly! This is an effective combination of physical and magical defensive structures. Does the Lord think it's worth the price?"

At last, Da Fei saw the light! Who said the Seven Cities Alliance was hard to deal with? Look at this clerk, with sharp business acumen! He couldn't help but laugh, "Great! It's worth it, I like it! Oh, wait—" Da Fei then asked, "This 'researchable Magic Specialization' in the Mage Tower, what does it mean?"

Sain chuckled, "Lord, if two mages have the same magic power, same skills, same equipment, would they deal the same damage using the same Lightning Skill?"

Da Fei nodded, "Of course, data speaks."

Sain proudly smiled, "But, with a Mage Tower research it would be different. For example, if you research Lightning Skill specialization in the Magic Tower, for every level increase in specialization, Lightning Skill damage would increase by an additional 5%! Research it to level 10, and the difference would grow to 50%. The research process is long, which is why so many mages stay in the Mage Tower and don't come out!"

So, the mages' research was about studying these things!

Da Fei realized, "Oh, that's what it is! But our tower can only research spells with Advanced Skills? Not those above Expert Level?"

Sain sighed, "I am sorry, this tower's core crystal has issues, it cannot be upgraded, only able to research spells with Advanced Skills and below. That is why our guild is disposing of it at a discount. But in regular warfare, commonly used spells like Lightning Skill, Ice Arrow Skill, Fireball Technique, and Ice Ring Skill all are Advanced Destruction Magic spells that can be used, so only studying these spells can meet warfare needs, right?"

Da Fei was stunned! "Right?" my ass! I want to research Anlicia's God-level arcane, don't I? Mages only saw Destruction Magic?

However, anyway, this tower increased his city's score by 10 points, and reaching the level where God-level Skills could be researched was clearly not something he could currently achieve. As a transitional item, it was worthwhile!

Da Fei's thoughts were entirely clarified: "Great! Thank you for taking care of me, Mr. Sain! Be sure to prioritize me next time you have good goods!"

Sain shook his head and sighed, "Lord, see the six-month payment deadline on the bill? The guild's max credit term is half a year, and it's based on my personal property for collateral guarantee. The Lord must pay off this debt to have a new transaction, and I need this to advance, to help look for more items for you, so the faster, the better!"

Da Fei was instantly shocked, "Did you mortgage for me?" Damn! We're not even familiar, and you're from the arrogant Lamp God race, why would you mortgage for a player with even basic goodwill?

Sain replied seriously, "It's a gamble! The Great Duke of the Human Kingdom trusts you so much, so I'm just following his gamble! Even if I don't know you well, the Great Duke's judgment shouldn't be wrong!"

Da Fei was enlightened! It was a bet with the house! Meaning, this was indirectly triggered due to Makar's influence, huh?

I always said, a random sweep of the Mage City characters set their sights highly, not even acknowledging players, how could a fairly decent level 4 mage, level 4 clerk so easily establish a trading relationship with me? Turns out it wasn't simply about money! This Makar was worthy of his big-shot status, anything he does creates wide-reaching impact!

Da Fei replied seriously, "Don't worry, Mr. Sain, I have the Great Duke behind me, I won't fall down!"

Sain nodded, "That's my thought too!"

One had to say, you had a sharp mind and insight!

Sain continued, "Alright, my Steel Puppets are ready. Please instruct me where to build the Watch Towers and Mage Towers."

Such things really couldn't be easily decided, so might as well go with the flow. Da Fei said, "Six Watch Towers on the outer wall, four on the inner wall's fortress, symmetry is aesthetic. The Mage Tower should be placed at the center of the city!"

Sain smiled, "That's what I thought too! I'll start construction then!"

Da Fei laughed, "Sorry for the trouble, sir!"

Now, the busy construction site became even busier due to the arrival of the Steel Puppets. The second Dual Core Giant Slime Monster had successfully launched, the Flying attempted to install the first charging crystal, and magic species like Flower Demon Beldam began queuing to charge the charging crystals. The defense and purification of Radiant City had begun comprehensively and orderly.

Da Fei's tense mind gradually relaxed, starting to think about longer-term strategies.

Sain's appearance opened a door to trade for Da Fei. Although he claimed his batch was a trap, clearly, it was. At the very least, they didn't sell the blueprints to me!

Without blueprints, once these towers are destroyed, they are permanently lost, with 2 million gone down the drain, having to be bought anew, and not even guaranteed to be available next time. However, if there were blueprints, like sewers or the Death Bell Tower, even if the city were destroyed, with blueprints, one could always rebuild.

In summary, everything now was makeshift; trading with the Mage City wasn't much different from trading with Demons, the key was moderation and avoiding dependence. What crucial issues should I solve using him next?

In an instant, Da Fei thought of the Mercury Mine in the Black Forest! Yes, Steel Puppets were the best workers for collecting mercury, but I still needed mercury collection equipment! More importantly, the good days of the Black Forest Mercury Mine might not last long; I had to collect quickly! Before that, I had to find a way to quickly clear this debt of 30 million, where to find it?

Buy from a workshop? Damn it! I'm a professional player, not a tycoon! I could easily sell one of my Artifacts for Gold Coins!

Damn! Let's not be hasty, the Eight-Headed Snake is still around! If the mining equipment couldn't be carried, everything would be futile, after all. In short, stay calm, keep steady, and then move forward!

Chapter 494: Painful Borrowing Money to Play

Dragon Slayer Team Command Center.

Ma Yinglong was watching videos of the Demon Army from various angles sent by Lei Huolong while listening to Lei Huolong's report on the next steps.

—"Currently, there are two follow-up plans from the NPC side. One is to gradually exterminate the elves through pollution if it proceeds smoothly, greatly reducing our losses but requiring time and also has many variables, providing the opponent a chance to breathe. The other plan is to pretend to engage in a prolonged consumption of resources, but actually preparing to strike quickly. This is also the contingency tactic for if the pollution does not go smoothly. Of course, even if the elves manage to make our pollution efforts difficult, they will surely pay a heavy price."

Ma Yinglong indifferently asked, "What will we use for a quick attack if the pollution doesn't go smoothly?"

Lei Huolong: "Spider Demons and Flying Demons! Since this game requires heroes to lead troops for an expedition, even the Flying Demons need the presence of a hero to attack a city, so the main attacking hero would definitely be that Spider Commander. He can use spider web pathways to move from the ground surface to above Lake Island and then perform a large-scale airborne assault! The spider web pathways are currently being constructed secretly under the supervision of tens of thousands of Shadow Demon Spiders."

Ma Yinglong responded, "Try to scout out the situation on Lake Island, don't just theorize behind closed doors."

"Understood."

After ending the call with Lei Huolong, Ma Yinglong leaned back in his chair, laying flat and staring at the ceiling blankly. The war had been going on from 3 AM last night until 10 AM today, several days have passed in the game, Elf NPC movements seemed normal, but technically, the elves were at an absolute disadvantage with not many cards to play. However, the very fact that the opponent is at such a disadvantage means they might desperately fight to the bitter end, not a scenario Ma Yinglong wanted to see!

What would Da Fei, at the heart of this war, do? What support has he gotten from the Human Duke? Would the humans send troops? But humans aren't like the Demon Race who can use large legion transmissions anytime, it seems unlikely for humans to send troops. Getting help from a Divine Artifact? But with the current mission's level, how could the system issue a Divine Artifact?

So what is Da Fei doing at the Elorin Shipyard? Planning to build a shipyard at the Pool of Radiance and then mass produce large ships for a counterattack? Isn't that a bit over the top?

While Ma Yinglong was deep in thought, a game friend's message notification sounded.

Ma Yinglong glanced sidelong, his eyelid twitched—it was Da Fei! The expected finally happened, is he finally coming to talk? Ha! Alright, let's talk, actually, there's not much to discuss, with his current influence, he's like a street rat that everyone wants to stomp on.

Da Fei: "Boss Ma, are you there? Busy?"

Ma Yinglong smirked coldly: "A bit busy, what's up Brother Fei?"

Da Fei cleared his throat and said, "Well, Boss Ma, I'm a bit strapped for cash, could you lend me 3000 flowers?"

Lend money?! Ma Yinglong raised his eyebrows, astonished: "3000?"

Da Fei chuckled, "That is, 30 million Gold Coins!"

—Ah puh! Ma Yinglong almost spit out his nasal excretion! Are you an idiot? Do you know what your situation is? Borrowing money from me, are you trying to skin the tiger? Are you thinking of turning hostile because you can't defend yourself anymore and deliberately trying to scam me? Are you dumb or am I?

Ma Yinglong chuckled lightly, "Brother Fei, sorry! The day before yesterday our guild gathered a lot of stone, all our Gold Coins are nearly spent, we're broke!"

Da Fei sighed and said, "Boss Ma, brother, I am really in a pinch! I'm nearly suffocating here! With our friendship, aren't you being a bit distant? Your huge enterprise and so many studios, would you miss 30 million Gold Coins?"

Ma Yinglong sighed, "Brother Fei, really no money left, we gathered too much stone, we're tightening our belts now."

Da Fei sighed, "Then how about 20 million? With my reputation as the world's number one amateur player, would I not return it?"

What effin' reputation! Ma Yinglong smiled slightly, "Otherwise, Brother Fei, why not sell a few Divine Artifacts? I'll help you gather money around? Or, Brother Fei, lend me your Divine Artifacts to play for a few days, rest assured, with my reputation as the president of China's largest guild, would I not return them?"

Da Fei urgently said, "No way, I rely on Divine Artifacts for survival, can't lend them! How about this, 10 million! 10 million should be okay, right? Mr. Ma, aren't you the president of China's largest guild! We have been brothers for many years, not lending 30 million, not 20 million, surely 10 million wouldn't be a problem, right?"

Many years my ass! This clown's gone mad!

Ma Yinglong, too incensed to ignore and was about to disregard him completely, but suddenly thought, what if he screenshots this conversation, and after losing the city, starts ranting on forums about "Refusing to lend money in a crisis, seizing my city opportunistically, Dragon Slayer is so ruthless" or some such nonsense that Star's side might exploit, annoying!

Fine! Let's pretend to swallow his city, give him a little compensation! When it's time to turn hostile and start abusing, I can even throw in an accusation of welching on the debt, making it easier to curse.

Ma Yinglong sighed with a laugh: "Brother Fei, that's alright, although our guild's finances are tight, scraping together 10 million shouldn't be a problem, where shall we trade?"

Da Fei laughed heartily: "Worthy of Boss Ma, sorry about this, once I get through this tough patch, I'll repay immediately! Same old place, under the World Tree Square."

Ma Yinglong chuckled, "What's there to be sorry about, everyone has tough times, don't they? Brother Fei, just wait a moment, a smurf will trade with you."

"Thank you!"

.....

I can't believe he actually lent it! Da Fei couldn't help but sigh in admiration!

Da Fei was originally troubled over the 30 million debt when suddenly a thought struck him, he can owe NPC debts, can't he owe player debts? Borrow from players, yes, borrowing money from players is the way to go! Not paying back NPC is not an option, but owing players gives room for negotiation!

When Da Fei thought about it, he immediately thought of Ma from across the lake who slays dragons! Speaking of big shots, Brother is closest to your Boss Ma. Who would have thought we'd be at each other's throats today? Life is really unpredictable. What would you do if Brother suddenly asked you to lend him money in a pinch? Well, just kidding! If you turn ruthless and not spare a dime, Brother will have no guilt when taking down your city walls in the future!

As a result, this joke actually raised 10 million, which really made Brother a bit embarrassed! Sigh! Well, let's talk about the future later. I can only thank you for now!

With 10 million almost in hand, how far can the remaining 20 million be? Alright! Since I'm free anyway, great achievers don't sweat the small stuff, so Da Fei set his sights on his good friend list - Goddess Bu Feiyan from Star! What are friends for? Aren't they there to borrow money from? Right?

Da Fei, thick-skinned, sent a message directly: "Goddess, I'm in trouble, can I borrow 20 million Gold Coins from your guild to tide me over? I'll definitely pay you back once I'm past this tough period!"

Sigh, even though Brother and Star don't really have much interaction, can Brother's face pull a loan of 20 million? By the way, did you know Brother is starting a war at the Pool of Radiance? Okay, since Star has been asked, might as well include Ninth Heaven who also has no connection with me in the legends!

Da Fei then sent a line to Shenlan from his friend list: "Brother, I'm really sorry, we don't usually interact much with your guild, but I'm tight on cash now, can you figure out a way to lend me 20 million to handle this emergency?"

Initially, it was you who brought a bunch of your bros to block Brother in the pub and proactively befriended me. Shouldn't you at least show some sincerity?

.....

At Elf Kingdom Staff Department, Eternal Star, Bu Feiyan, and Old Jiang were reporting the troop mobilization progress to the Chief of Staff.

Just then, Bu Feiyan suddenly became stunned and couldn't help laughing and crying: "Hey hey! Da Fei just sent me a message out of the blue, he's asking to borrow money urgently! 20 million Gold Coins!"

Old Jiang burst out laughing on the spot: "What a grand sum!"

Eternal Star snorted: "Ignore it, just reply that this account is a proxy and not responsible for any transactions!"

Bu Feiyan couldn't help but laugh: "President, is that okay?"

Eternal Star coldly said: "What does he think he is? Borrowing money and landing it on our heads? What if he defaults? Are you going to bite him?"

Bu Feiyan shook her head with a wry smile: "Understood!"

Old Jiang shook his head and laughed: "Looks like he is really in a tight spot, huh?"

Eternal Star casually said: "He is just so-so! It's better to let him fend for himself!"

That moment, Da Fei received Bu Feiyan's reply and was infuriated! Proxy my ass! Good for you, Star, disrespecting Brother, huh? Do you know who I am? The world's top amateur player!

Alright, this goofy title was given by someone from your Star, Brother doesn't care for it! Maybe Ma Yinglong was right, with so many extracurricular activities these beautiful female gamers have, how could it possibly be them playing? Are Goddess's accounts something any toe-picking uncle could play on? Goddess's image collapsed in an instant.

Meanwhile, Shenlan replied: "Brother Fei, 20 million is not a small amount, what do you need the money for?"

Da Fei replied with a sigh: "Waging war, big battle, it's not convenient to say, but I can definitely pay it back!"

Shenlan immediately said: "Alright! I'm happy to have Brother Fei as a friend, but this doesn't conform to the guild's policies, so I can't ask the guild. This 20 million is my personal money, where shall we trade?"

Da Fei was stunned! Fuck! Lending just like that? And it's personal money? Aren't you afraid I won't return it? Alright, Brother has seen tycoons like Brother Hao, what kind of person haven't I met?

Da Fei then said emotionally: "Brother, that's so generous of you, I'm waiting under the World Tree Square in Elf Kingdom, could you please trouble a small account to... transfer the money?"

Shenlan laughed and said: "No problem! But Brother Fei, actually, there's something I've been wanting to tell you."

Da Fei chuckled: "Feel free to speak."

Shenlan sighed with a laugh: "After all, Brother Fei is a human player. You can't recruit troops in Elf Kingdom. You might not feel it now, but you'll know the trouble later, so if Brother Fei has the time and chance, it's better to come back and mix in the Human Kingdom."

Da Fei sighed with a smile: "Thanks, thanks, I'll come back when I have the time!"

"Good, Brother Fei go on with your busy schedule, someone will deliver it in a few minutes!"

At this moment, Da Fei felt increasingly fond of Shenlan. Now, with a whopping 30 million back in Da Fei's possession, speaking of which, this sum could be worth around 20-30 million in the current studio market rates, right? Really easy to borrow, not afraid of Brother pulling a fast one? Ah, when people reach a certain level, they are indeed different!

Da Fei returned to Radiant City, and seeing Sain commanding the construction, he smiled and said: "Mr. Sain, I've managed to gather 30 million in payment, I'll pay you now!"

Sain was suddenly surprised: "That quick?" And then he joyfully said: "That's great! Worthy of being the City Lord favored by the Duke, as soon as this payment is settled, I can get promoted — right, where's that alchemy materials list from earlier? After I get promoted, I can bring it to you!"

Oh yeah! Success! This borrowed money wasn't in vain, achieved what was needed and even made a gamer friend, haha!

Chapter 495: Implementing Mercury Mining

Flying, a man-high Magic Charging Crystal stood erect on the deck, and the Charging Array it emanated covered almost half of the ship. Dozens of Flower Demons entered the array and then, with a flash of blue light, dozens of faint blue wisps of smoke were absorbed into the crystal. Then a new batch of Flower Demons continued to enter.

At this moment, the crystal had already stored up to 2000 points of Mana, and it had turned from its initial white to a light blue color.

It must be said, this crystal is too well-suited for use by the Elf Clan or the Hell Race. Because the level 0 and 1 soldiers of both races are magic troops, they can charge the crystal whenever they have nothing else to do. But with other races, magic troops are at least level 4, and their numbers are limited, how could they continuously charge like this?

Duke Makar couldn't help but feel that this purchase was worth it! Speaking of which, during the Pool of Radiance campaign, all kinds of Magic Energy Materials were prepared by the Mayor and others. He didn't even know how much Mana it would cost to teleport Flying each time, nor how many Charging Crystals would need to be installed to be sufficient. However, surely the Mana for a round trip to the Blood Sea should be enough. If not, just install a few more!

Ah, the more he thought about it, the more he felt this crystal was a bargain! It saved so much money on teleportation materials! Haha, wahahahaha!

And at this moment, a flash of light from the city's Teleportation Array was followed by Mr. Sain's excited voice: "Lord, I've been promoted! I've been promoted to a level 5 salesman, just one step away from apprentice manager! I've brought you the goods you wanted!"

That was fast! Duke Makar laughed heartily! After laughing for three seconds, he couldn't help but shake his head with a wry smile. Brother, it cost 30 million Gold Coins to promote you to just one level of salesman. To get to manager, even as an apprentice, how much money do I have to spend on what kind of junk? Anyway, just let nature take its course and talk about it later. Right now, everything is for the sake of city defense!

Duke Makar quickly stepped off the ship and approached with a smile, "Congratulations! Mr. Sain's actions are still so swift, even your promotion is rapid!"

Sain's eyes shined like light bulbs: "Speed and efficiency are the traditions of Mage City!" After saying that, he pulled out a small bill: "Here are the Alchemy Materials Mr. Lord requested, totaling 2 million Gold Coins, still underwritten and paid for by me. I now completely believe in Mr. Lord's abilities! Please sign for it!"

Duke Makar laughed heartily: "I'm really sorry that you had to advance a mere 2 million Gold Coins for me, but honestly, thank you, I really don't have 2 million Gold Coins right now!"

Oh my Deirdre darling! The shells you play with are worth 2 million Gold Coins, are you using missiles to kill mice? If it weren't for my good feelings about being in debt, I'd really feel the pinch!

Then Sain laughed again: "However, Lord, these Alchemy Materials are quite advanced. Without a specialized Alchemy Laboratory or experimental apparatus, it would lead to a tremendous waste of materials and greatly pollute the environment. We can offer to sell you a functional construct, the Alchemy Laboratory, for only 3 million Gold Coins. Would Mr. Lord be interested?"

—Alchemy Laboratory: Functional building. Can research and develop potions, materials, equipment, and Special Soldier Species. Increases city cultural score by 10 points, decreases city sanitation score by 10 points, can upgrade building. Special Skill: Stabilization Synthesis. (Special product of the Holy Crown City Alchemy Guild)

—Stabilization Synthesis: The failure rate of potion production by the Alchemy Laboratory, a special product of the Holy Crown City Alchemy Guild, is reduced by 5%. The effect of this special skill increases with the level of the Alchemy Laboratory.

Duke Makar burst into surprised laughter! Darn it! This guy must have some special sales technique! I'm buying rice, and he's thought of the pot for me, maybe even decided on the chef!

I'm building a Death Bell Tower, a Netherworld Treasury, and that's just tens of thousands of Gold Coins! You guys from the Mage Academy, everything costs 2, 3 million for just a turret or a building, which ordinary player can handle that? However, I built the Death Bell Tower using rich mines, and if you count the material costs and construction fees, it probably won't be less than tens or hundreds of millions. Not to mention, they are also providing materials and workmanship. Okay then!

Functional buildings add city attributes, the more the better! Besides, being in debt for development is the way to go, just look at the United States, the country with the most debt, yet it's the strongest and richest country in the world! If I weren't in debt, where would the prosperity of this bustling construction site come from?

But as everyone knows, laboratories are smokey and murky, just like the castle of Gargamel from the Blue Elves! Would it really be okay to build it in my picturesque Radiant City? Moreover, laboratories have the highest accident rate—if one Nobel-prize-relevant experiment goes boom, not only is the laboratory wasted, but if kids on the street get hurt, that's not good either!

Duke Makar sighed with a smile: "Don't you have the blueprint for the Alchemy Laboratory?" If there is a blueprint, even if it's destroyed, I can rebuild it.

Sain shook his head solemnly: "The intellectual property of the Seven Cities Alliance is not for sale, and furthermore, our Alchemy Laboratory possesses a unique special skill, Stabilization Synthesis. You might not feel its effect with ordinary potion development, but once you start synthesizing Divine Artifacts, it's critical!"

Duke Makar shook his head with a wry smile, this is just great! How many years before I can develop and synthesize Divine Artifacts? In how many years will I still value your laboratory? I only believe in one thing, if you're willing to sell it, there must be a catch!

It's not about the money; the problem is, I don't know where to build this thing once I buy it!

Wait a second, Da Fei's eyebrows twitched as he asked, "Mr. Sain, I've heard some rumors that some alchemists like to build their laboratories in the sewers to avoid affecting the surrounding residents. I'd like to build mine in the sewers too, is that possible?"

If I could build it in the sewers, I could take the chance to develop those Slime Monsters! No no no, to fully research and develop all so-called sewer creatures, and maximize the potential of the sewers! Plus, researching special soldiers isn't like researching potions or Divine Artifacts, so there's no need to worry about the lab exploding! It's safer too.

Sain's eyebrows twitched, "To build it in the sewer? Not impossible, but that would be an addon construction, like the Magic Watchtower, which can be directly built upon other structures. The price surely won't just be 2 million anymore, and once you choose the addon type lab, the difficulty of upgrading will be double, or even more, than that of an ordinary lab! Of course, none of these is a problem, the problem is—"

Speaking to this point, Sain let out a long sigh, "The issue is that at my current Level 5 salesperson rank, I don't have the authority to sell such high-level items, and it's also uncertain if the Guild would sell such a thing to Lord—you know, with Lord's connection to Duke Makar, the Guild has already sold Lord the higher clearance Magic Charging Crystals, so a laboratory shouldn't be a big issue. The key point is my lack of authority, and you might have to find the Great Duke again. Ah..."

Find the Great Duke for every little thing? Impossible! If the Guild's lackeys came to me for every little thing, I'd be annoyed too! Isn't it just an authority issue?

Alright! When already deep in debt, what's a little more? I'll lend you another hand! The Mercury Mine in my Black Forest hasn't been sorted out yet, and it's making me uncomfortable!

Da Fei then said, "How about this? I also want a factory and workers for extracting High Concentration Mercury Mines, can you handle this? Of course, if you can't sort out the workers, just the factory is fine!" Even if there are no Steel Puppets mining the mercury, I still have my Elite Tree Spirits, they're even stronger.

Sain was shocked, "Lord has a High Concentration Mercury Mine?"

Da Fei immediately clammed up! Damn it, though we're on good terms now, there are some things those major forces don't need to know, and I'm not going to let them.

Perhaps realizing he had misspoken, Sain shook his head and frowned, "High Concentration Mercury is different from ordinary mercury, it has mercury vapor, which can infiltrate the puppet workers causing their Magic Power Circuit to short and fail. So the worker's requirements are very high, I absolutely can't provide them, and the Guild definitely won't sell them. As for the factory equipment, no problem! But what you mean is, you must buy two sets of buildings at once?"

Da Fei laughed, "That's the idea, a bundled sale, you know it! But I don't need the factory for now, no rush on the delivery."

Sain shook his head with a smile, "What a bundled sale, but to persuade the Guild, the purchase has got to be high-value. The ordinary extraction workshop and shabby factories that any Kingdom can offer won't cut it. I suggest Lord buy our Guild's High Energy Magic Pump extraction factory, which can extract lava and High Concentration Mercury, and adapts to various extreme and harsh environments. The

complete set is priced at 50 million Gold Coins, how about it? As long as I can take this order, I could be promoted to apprentice manager, and then it might be possible to sort out the sewer laboratory!"

Holy sh*t! A mining factory for 50 million! Are you addicted to sales?

How long would it take to mine enough to recover that cost? How many trips would I have to make trading across the sea? And hold on, are you deliberately pushing all sorts of implausible goods onto me just to get promoted? Do I look like a sucker to you? Yes! Always on the brink of losing my territory, yet constantly buying up big, it's just like a sucker!

Now how much debt do I owe to NPCs, and players for that matter? Da Fei started to feel unsteady and said with a bitter smile, "You mean to say, a tiny sewer laboratory is even harder to deal with than such an expensive factory?"

Sain nodded solemnly, "Different tech content! Although the factory is expensive because of its many equipments, its tech content may not be high. The laboratory may be small, but this type of addon building is indeed the concentrated essence of the Seven Cities Alliance's technology!"

Alright! The key is to sort out matters one step at a time! High-tech stuff, that's what I love the most! Da Fei laughed heartily, "Good! I'll buy it!"

Sain was overjoyed, "As expected of Lord!" After finishing, he pulled out an application form, "Please Lord fill out this application to buy the factory!"

Then he took out a sparkling magical card, "This is my business card, in the future Lord can freely visit me at the Holy Crown City Alchemy Guild with this card!"

Da Fei took the card, sighing with emotion. I've spent so much money, and finally nurtured a connection at the Mage Academy!

Anyway, the Mercury Mine project has started being implemented. Now the only things not sorted out are the Demon Race outside the city, the Eight-Headed Snake, that Demigod Crow, and so on! I even think to myself how unreliable I am! Can't help it, I don't have a council of wise advisers.

But what does it matter! After all, I have a wealth of 20 million, no worries about food or drink for a lifetime, so what if I mess it all up? Later on, I won't be any Lord, just casually sail my ships, taking all the Female Heroes in bikinis to trade and pay off debts for fun, no concerns whatsoever! Just like before, wahahaha!

Chapter 496: The Peeping Magic Eye BOSS

The Mage Academy was indeed highly efficient. With the enormous power of the steel golems and their steady construction work, the six magic watchtowers on the outer walls of the lake in Radiant City and the four magic watchtowers on the inner walls of the island were all installed. Now, all the golems started concentrating their efforts on building the Mage Tower in the city.

But this time, Sain wasn't as efficient and hadn't returned for a long time. Da Fei felt a bit surprised. Could it be that I owe too much debt and the guild won't allow me to owe more?

That can't be right. The cost of 10 sets of magic charging crystals and 200 devices was covered by the Makar Gang, and I haven't owed them any money. The previous transaction for the guard tower and Mage Tower was something Sain gambled on, and I immediately paid it off, so there's no debt there.

In any case, let's see what happens. If this deal really can't go through, it's no big deal. Do you really think I enjoy being in debt? Plus, I still haven't dealt with the Eight-Headed Snake and the Demigod Crow.

In short, since the new equipment was installed, let's test the firepower. Da Fei climbed the city wall, where a large number of flower demons who had just finished charging were stationed.

Though these flower demons showed signs of fatigue from lacking mana, they still chased and frolicked with each other from time to time, not looking like soldiers at all. Alas, they can't really be considered soldiers, can they? If war truly broke out, these level 0 soldiers would fall in droves, which would break my heart.

Da Fei approached the watchtower beside the sluice gate. The watchtower had become a two-story structure, with the lower level being a standard stone turret equipped with a crossbow cannon, and the upper level featuring a "glass" turret fitted with a red crystal, resembling the siren light on a police car.

This design was indeed extraordinary. Just the outer "glass cover" was made from unknown materials, and even if players had blueprints, they might not be able to replicate it.

Da Fei entered the glass cover and touched the crystal. A ring of red border appeared outside his field of vision, marking the range of the magic cannon's fire, which seemed slightly farther than a regular crossbow cannon. More importantly, it could target the air! Indeed, this glass cover design was for all-around shooting without any blind spots! This was indeed unparalleled by crossbow cannons!

Although the range still couldn't reach high above the ground, these 10 cannons formed an air defense net that definitely scared the pants off any daring paratroopers!

Worth it! Totally worth the price! Wahahaha! By the way, my battleship becomes an idiot whenever it encounters the Air Force. Should I try installing one too? Problem is, does such a ship cannon exist in the game? There's no mention of it in the game info, is there? However, even if it could be installed on a battleship, it likely wouldn't be many. Without solving the power issue, what's the point?

Anyway, no more talking, let's fire a shot for fun. Where to shoot?

Looking beyond to the water surface, where large and small slime monsters floated and swam, Da Fei couldn't help but lift his gaze toward the sky. After all, who knew if these reckless shots might accidentally hit his own side?

As Da Fei absentmindedly wobbled the aiming reticle in the air with the crystal, a big red dot flashed briefly on his radar!

What the heck! There's an enemy! An invisible one!

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat as he became instantly alert, watching closely in the direction shown by the radar! Did I see it wrong earlier? Was it a big red dot or a small red dot? If it's a big red dot, it must be a BOSS, right? It has to be a BOSS. Only BOSS-level units have the ability to launch independent expeditions! Or is it a demon NPC?

What exactly is it? With my God-level Reconnaissance Skill combined with the Advanced Treasure Appraiser's Professional Skill Sharp Insight, plus the sentinel's vision bonus, even a ghost with the ability to be invisible on this plane couldn't escape tracking!

Finally, under Da Fei's focused watch, a faint shadow gradually appeared in the mid-air in the distance, looking like a black balloon!

It's a Magic Eye! Da Fei was shocked! The Magic Eye was a famous flying reconnaissance unit of the Demon Race, just the kind that spotted Blood Eagles! Extremely sneaky and cunning, and quite powerful in combat too!

Damn it! When did it come? How long has it been here? Did it see everything with the slime monsters' cleanup by our tower defenses? If it saw everything, what the hell am I even playing for!

I can't let it go back alive! At that moment, Da Fei's mind raced, and he immediately turned his head away and stopped looking at it!

Why not look at it? If I kept looking, it would be completely exposed, and then it would be alerted and run away, right? This is the same logic as when the reconnaissance skill kept sounding alerts during Da Fei's stealth smuggling! And with Da Fei's God-level Reconnaissance Skill coupled with related professional bonuses, it far surpassed the opponent, so the opponent's tail was showing without realizing it!

I mustn't alert the enemy!

The problem is, how to chase and kill it? Being a reconnaissance unit of the Demon Race, the Magic Eye naturally has a far vision. Its current position is far from the battlefield, beyond the range of all magic cannons and crossbow cannons. Any unfavorable actions towards it would alert the cunning Magic Eye, and it would flee!

Send the Blood Eagle? The problem is the Blood Eagle might not even be able to take it down! Its large size clearly identifies it as a BOSS-level Magic Eye, and its giant eye's ray could sweep and incapacitate large combat units, let alone a small BOSS like the Blood Eagle, which evolved from a non-military species with a small physique!

Then how about the Charming Emperor Didi and Lili, and a bunch of Artillery Emperors that have been idle for so long? No, not possible! Although they are flying creatures, they are not air combat creatures! They, like angels and griffins, don't actually have the dogfighting ability of an eagle beetle! Moreover, they can't shoot or cast spells in the air! Essentially, they are still infantry with wings that can bypass obstacles, which is a balanced setting in the game.

However, the Magic Eye can indeed shoot in the air! The Magic Eye can attack infantry on the ground while in the air without letting them strike back! That's what makes the Magic Eye terrifying! Fortunately, Magic Eye is a special unit that players can't easily obtain, and ground remote units can still shoot it down.

Wait! The flower demons have it! The flower demons can fight in the air! They can pluck fruit in the sky and plant flowers on the ground, making them aerial combat creatures able to battle the beetle! Damn, flower demons, you're defying the heavens!

But it's still not working. The main issue is the Magic Eye is outside the battlefield range! Otherwise, I'd order all the flower demons in the city to swarm it immediately! But no, it can still escape in time!

So, the current problem needing a solution is to approach it quietly!

Should I use Phantom March to quietly ferry the flower demons across the water? Damn! It is the Magic Eye! Its reconnaissance skill level is not low, and it has a racial special skill bonus. How could it not see such a vast hidden flower demon army? Even if I were making noise in the water, couldn't it at least see the waves?

Wait, waves? Doesn't my Divine Skill Mysterious Stealth Navigation allow the use of advanced Sailing Skill to hide waves? I'll use Flying with Mysterious Stealth Navigation!

Damn, but there's no wind here, how can Flying move? Use the Magic Sail? If I use the Magic Sail, can I combine skills? If I fail, I'll be a laughingstock!

Wait! Magic Sail? Can't I use the Teleportation Array on Flying if I can't use Magic Sail?

That's right! The Teleportation Array! I just need to teleport Flying under the Magic Eye, and the flower demons can swarm it immediately, taking it down! Finally, all the energy I charged will have a chance to be used.

Da Fei couldn't help but laugh uproariously, I'm so clever!

And just then, the city's Teleportation Array flashed with light. Was Sain back? Da Fei turned to look, but it wasn't him this time!

A group of advisors greeted from a distance: "The Observer has arrived! Lord City Lord, come welcome him!"

What the hell! Welcome your sister! I was about to do something big! Ugh, no choice, with such a person, one word could determine my future, I can't afford to offend him!

Da Fei quickly stepped forward with a chuckle, "Sir, hello!"

The observer looked around, saying coldly, "The day has passed, I'm here to check the preparations of Lord City Lord!"

Oh! Checking my performance, huh? Wahahaha! Perfect timing! It's just too wonderful! I'll show you firsthand what a god can do!

Da Fei then gave a faint smile, "Sir Observer, are you interested in visiting my warship to watch my drill?"

The observer raised an eyebrow, "Drill?"

Da Fei chuckled, "Indeed! Allow the Observer to see my new weapon! The target is to kill the Demon Race's Magic Eye!"

The observer's face changed, "Magic Eye? Where?"

Oh my! You also know the Magic Eye's trouble, huh? Da Fei laughed more confidently, "Sir, you'll know once you're on the ship!"

The observer said solemnly, "Very well! If Lord City Lord is using a boring play to fool me, then that's extremely unfortunate!"

Da Fei laughed and said, "I wouldn't dare!"

Chapter 497: Killing the Demon Eye Watcher

When she heard there seemed to be a drill for battle, Catherine no longer pretended to be reading. She tossed the book aside and boarded the ship.

Now, as the Observer boarded the Flying, he immediately noticed the crystal on the deck, emanating with a blue glow, and exclaimed, "This seems to be produced by the Seven Cities Alliance, and they hardly sell it easily. How did you acquire it?"

Heh, now you see how well-connected I am, huh? Da Fei smiled faintly and said, "There are always ways."

"Is that so?" The Observer frowned, then said in a deep voice, "In that case, let me see this so-called drill!"

Da Fei noticed his displeased expression but had no time for small talk with the imminent boss chase. So he pointed to the coordinates on the map and told Anlicia, "Teleport the ship here!"

Back when Grandma Anwen was alive, she was responsible for this great task. Now, of course, it is her granddaughter Anlicia's turn.

Under the stern scrutiny of the Observer, Anlicia refrained from useless chatter. She flipped the power switch on the crystal, and a faint demon light emerged from the teleportation array engraved on the center of the deck. Anlicia began to guide her spell beside the array.

"The current mana can only teleport once," Anlicia reminded calmly.

"Once is enough!"

It was that moment! Da Fei waved his hand, instantly mobilizing thousands of Flower Demons guarding the inner and outer walls to pounce on the ship. In a blink, the deck of the Flying, its mast, and the cabin top were filled with Flower Demons, whose pollen light tracks swiftly wove together into a magnificent light curtain!

And at that moment, Anlicia completed her spell, causing the space around the Flying to twist and warp violently. With a flash of light, Da Fei's vision went black, and the Flying vanished!

Boom!!! With a massive splash of water, Da Fei's vision brightened, and the Flying appeared at the destination, shaking violently!

There was nothing more to say! Da Fei raised his head and waved his hand—attack! At the same time, he immediately summoned the Blood Eagle's Petrification Aura to maximize firepower!

Thousands of Flower Demons ascended into the sky, and at this moment, the radar flashed red as a gigantic "hot air balloon" with long tendrils appeared overhead. Upon closer inspection, it was much larger than imagined, nearly half the size of the Flying! The most prominent organ of this giant balloon was a massive eyeball, occupying one-third of its "face."

—System Prompt: You have initiated an attack on Demon Eye Watcher Agarlon, the battle begins!

Whoa! It has a name, definitely a boss, and not just any boss! You absolutely can't let it escape! If you manage to run, I'll eat three pounds of dung!

A rainbow light soared up, accompanied by a descending swarm!

—System Prompt: You used the Divine Skill "Lucky Hand" from your Luck Skill Value!

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Selvia cast Master-level Light Magic "Extraordinary Divine Power" on the Flower Demon Army, increasing their minimum damage value by +1.

—System Prompt: Your Flower Demon Army used Swarm Disturbance on Demon Eye Watcher Agarlon, causing 1031 points of damage! Agarlon entered a blinding state!

Blinding! Oh yes! A great start!

In an instant, thousands of Flower Demons surrounded and attacked the giant balloon from all sides! Amidst the fluttering pollen, countless red "-14" "-15" damage indicators appeared, combined with various Tear Strike and Dragon Slayer Strike special effect damages, filling the screen! In that brief moment, the boss's health dropped by nearly twenty thousand!

Exactly, the Flower Demons initially had 0 attack, 0 defense, 1-2 damage, and 2 life points, making them fragile level 0 units. But under Da Fei's 100 attack points, +3 to all troops' damage, and the Lucky Hand's boost, the Flower Demons' first-round damage was frighteningly powerful! Additionally, the boss's enormous size allowed most Flower Demons to strike, further accelerating its demise!

And it wasn't over yet! The boss was blinded and couldn't retaliate in the first round! With the Flower Demons' base attack speed of 13 plus Da Fei's equipment bonuses, they could strike again in the next round. Under the slowed effect of the Blood Eagle's Petrification Aura, they might even attack twice before the boss could retaliate!

What does it mean when thousands of Flower Demons with such damage strike twice consecutively? Da Fei's Ranger special skill "Demon Hatred Striker" offers a 10% chance for double damage, plus Da Fei's Luck Value bonus, which significantly boosts the critical hit rate! At that time, the boss's health would drop by another twenty thousand, and how much more can it endure without dying?

This is the tragedy of a lone boss! A boss isn't a god; no matter how powerful, it can't withstand an assault from a Heroic Legion!

And at this moment, the boss took a deep breath, and its enormous balloon-like body suddenly expanded!

Da Fei was horrified, damn it! Is it going to self-destruct!?

The self-destruction damage would surely be shared by the entire army, right? With all the achievements, equipment, and skills boosting life +10 across the army, these over a thousand Flower Demons have over 12,000 health altogether. Can this self-destruction damage exceed 12,000?

But now, there's no retreat, only advancing! Defeat it before it explodes!

As Da Fei clenched his teeth, staring at it swelling larger and larger—thud!!!

There was a loud explosion in the air! A foul-smelling wind pressure came crashing, waves rose on the lake surface, and the entire Flying shuddered violently, causing the thousands of Flower Demons surrounding it to disperse, while the giant Demon Eye, like a deflating balloon, swiftly escaped and shrank from sight!

—Ahhh! Da Fei spat out a mouthful of blood! Are you kidding me? It's capable of jet propulsion!

Chase! Full ship pursuit! Full army pursuit!

The Flying's Magic Sail went into action, with Selvia's Storm Attack propelling the ship forward, and the Flower Demon Army immediately set off in pursuit, led by the Blood Eagle taking the forefront!

And at this moment, the balloon gradually vanished from sight, concealed within the darkness of the underground space.

—System Prompt: Demon Eye Watcher Agarlon escaped the battlefield, the battle is over! You achieved victory in battle, gaining 200,000 experience points for the win!

What the hell! It got away! The battle ended!!!

No! There's still hope! Xiao Fei can continue the chase! Only Blood Eagle Xiao Fei could possibly catch up! After all, Xiao Fei is the authentic Air Force, its speed incomparable to ordinary Flying Creatures!

At this moment, a somber silence enveloped the entire ship of the Flying.

The Observer said in a deep voice, "Lord—" The rest of his words were left unspoken.

Da Fei hurriedly stated, "Observer, don't worry, it won't get away!"

The Observer responded calmly, "Is that so? Then I'll watch and see!"

Although Da Fei said this, he was full of uncertainty! His tightly clenched fists were sweating! Damn it, how could this thing not die? How powerful is this balloon called Agarlon? Even its escape grants 200,000 experience, a match for the Sea Monster encountered in the North Sea! If the Demon Race deploys such units to attack the city, how could I defend it with my meager forces?

While anxious, a red flash appeared in Xiao Fei's sight; he saw it! Da Fei's spirits were instantly lifted!

Chase! Xiao Fei, chase with all your might! The future of Radiant City hinges on this battle!

And the Blood Eagle did not disappoint Da Fei; the distance between them continued to shrink! Indeed, when the balloon became deflated, its speed naturally decreased, plus it was just a balloon without wings, and unlike a flying saucer, it couldn't rotate, making it look nothing like a high-speed aircraft!

Finally, closing in, he could see it, blood flowing from the balloon, with countless "-1", "-1" damage indicators dancing around—it's the Divine Artifact Necklace's Tear Strike effect. Once Tear is activated, the opponent keeps losing blood! And with thousands of Flower Demons attacking multiple times, hundreds could ultimately trigger the Divine Artifact effect!

This means, during the escape, it also suffered considerable damage; perhaps Xiao Fei could win! No! It must win! The main attack of Demon Eye is Demon Eye Beam; Xiao Fei just needs to use its agility to get behind its head! The rest is to avoid its tendrils, which aren't highly damaging, and just a matter of outlasting one another!

And right then, the balloon's image began to blur and then vanished! Damn it! It went invisible! Its life-preserving tricks are indeed many! Worthy of the Sneaky Grandmaster!

Da Fei gritted his teeth, "Search for it!"

Soon, within Xiao Fei's God-level Reconnaissance Technique, the blurred figure reappeared! Found it! Da Fei laughed uncontrollably! Any other player might have let it slip, but encountering me, it's not that easy! Trying to out-sneak me?

Nothing more to say, the outcome depended on this battle! Xiao Fei, charge!

The duel began! The Demon Eye transformed into a spinning balloon attempting to death stare Xiao Fei, but its enormous size meant it was powerless against this tiny fly! Xiao Fei weaved in and out, rapidly biting at the bleeding wounds on the Demon Eye!

The relentless battle continued, and time ticked by. Xiao Fei's sight caught the silhouette of the lake shore's long and low city walls! Was it trying to get back? Sweat streamed down Da Fei's face!

No! It's not right! The opponent flew lower and slower; under this relentless pursuit, it couldn't make it! Hold on! Victory comes to those who endure!

Sweat blurred Da Fei's eyes, feeling raw and painful. But he dared not blink, let alone close his eyes, persevering at all costs!

Finally! Splash! With a huge crash, the Demon Eye couldn't fly anymore and plunged into the lake! Now it was completely at Da Fei's mercy!

Success! Da Fei shouted in excitement!

—System Prompt: Your Reconnaissance Eagle Xiao Fei, on an Independent Expedition, killed the powerful creature "Demon Eye Watcher Agarlon," activating its potential, gaining growth, Attack +8, Defense +4, Damage +4, Life +40, Stamina +15, gaining All Magic Resistance +5%. Gained 1 Space Item Bar, with an enhanced effect for the special skill 'Fierce Bird Pressure.'

—System Prompt: Your Reconnaissance Eagle Xiao Fei obtained spoils of war "Mysterious Atlas," "Demon Eye," "Grand Marshal Medal"!

Wow! So much gear! And leveled up my Xiao Fei! Wahahaha! Da Fei laughed uncontrollably!

Chapter 498: The Correct Way to Trade with a Mage

With Da Fei's victorious cheer, the entire deck of the Flying erupted in celebration along with the advisors!

That's the good thing about NPCs, their back-end system knows for sure whether the Boss was killed or not, so they'd never feign ignorance and say something like, "Really? Where? I didn't see it!"

Chasing down the remaining enemies feels extraordinarily good! Da Fei calmed his excited heart, smiling as he approached the Observer and said, "Lord, sorry, I thought it was just an ordinary Magic Eye, but it turned out to be quite special. But no worries, it's still destined to be caught! The exercise is successfully concluded!"

At this moment, the Observer's tense expression turned into unconcealable excitement, "Incredible! Truly befitting of a Super Hero, if I remember correctly, this Magic Eye named Agarlon should be a significant figure beside the Demon King. Killing him is sure to deal a severe blow to the Demon Army's morale and resolve!"

That's the expression I wanted, that's the praise I wanted from him. Da Fei couldn't help but laugh out loud again! So this Boss was a big shot, no wonder it was so tough to deal with. The loot must be awesome!

The Observer quickly added, "By the way, quickly retrieve the Magic Eye's body, don't let the lake water of the Pool of Radiance purify his body. Such a level of Magic Eye body is extremely rare material!"

Damn! Benefits like this too!

Da Fei hastily said, "Thank you for the reminder, Observer Lord!" Then he made a grand gesture, "Move forward! Full speed ahead! Hurry up!"

Heh! Not only am I going to take its material, but I'm also going to absorb its soul! Speaking of which, so far, I've only obtained a Sea Soul from Sea Monsters using the Sea Soul Staff, what will this obvious non-Sea Monster be transformed into by the Sea Soul Staff? Truly can't wait to see!

As for now, let's check out what Little Fei will bring back.

—Mystery Map Book: Task item, records the geographical environment around the Pool of Radiance and the Hell Army's garrison distribution.

—Demon Eye: S-grade strategic equipment, accessory. Halves the effects of mist, illusion, and darkness on vision.

—Grand Marshal Medal: A-grade strategic equipment, accessory. Command Power +500, Morale +1.

Da Fei's eyebrows jumped! This is the loot from this battle!

A map booklet? I was worried about having no clue about the surrounding environment, is this surrendering maps as a form of defection? This can be set aside for now, the key is this Demon Eye! Damn, it halves the effect of mist and darkness! This is freaking awesome! This is true night vision!

Da Fei, having long been aware of the flaws of the God-level Reconnaissance Technique, deeply understood its shortcomings. When lines of sight are obstructed, like when Anlicia casts fog, everything goes dark, and one can only rely on the radar red dot on the mini-map for positioning. Similarly, at night, visibility greatly reduces, and even the God-level Reconnaissance Technique isn't much better than what normal people can see. Therefore, navigating at night in misty reefs is incredibly frustrating!

But with this Demon Eye, it becomes different; at least under the same conditions, I can see twice as far as others. This often turns out to be the key for long-range troops to determine victory! Not to mention, this equipment also works against illusions, awesome! Very awesome! Wahaha, I'll gladly accept this!

Then there's this A-grade accessory, Governor's Medal.

Goddamn! It adds 500 Command Power, that's directly one Captain Rank! Plus, it adds 1 point Morale, it's like integrating a C-grade accessory Courage Medal! Really lives up to the A-grade rating!

However, Da Fei shook his head and gave a wry smile! Honestly, my Command Power is too high to use up, where do I have so many troops to lead?

In that instant, Da Fei suddenly recalled what Shenlan said when borrowing money earlier, how he's a human in the Elf Kingdom, unable to recruit troops here! Otherwise, there wouldn't be this predicament of high but unused Command Power. In the eyes of professional players, my development is indeed bizarrely out of place.

Although I currently have over 3000 Flower Demons, 200 Forest Goddesses, and over 130 Banshees, unless undefeated, once defeated where would I recruit more troops? Even if undefeated, if the situation is intense and there's no chance for resurrection, I can't sustain it long either?

Lack of long-term viability is indeed a problem! But where do I find the time? Well, there's no use in rushing future matters, let's get past the current hurdle first.

Now it's rare that the Observer is impressed by my God-level prowess, might as well take this opportunity now that his attitude has improved to ask more questions. It must be said, these Elves are arrogant yet objective, as long as I make achievements, they change their attitude. Let's start with the Magic Eye.

Da Fei laughed and asked, "Observer Lord, what uses could this Magic Eye's body have?"

The Observer calmed down from the earlier excitement, but his tone was noticeably more relaxed, "What does Lord City Lord think this Magic Eye looks like?"

Like a pile of flying excrement! Da Fei was bewildered, then laughed and said, "Like a hot air balloon!"

The Observer nodded, "Correct, its skin is tough and thick, the top-level material for making hot air balloons, and the two highest craftsmanship forces for hot air balloons are the goblins of Las Vites and the Seven Cities Alliance, which Lord City Lord just dealt with. Trading this material with them would be a wise choice. However, to be honest, I would rather you trade with the goblins than with those mages! Although goblin product quality is very unreliable."

Da Fei's eyebrows jumped! Indeed, during the public beta, experts summarized a rule that dealing with the Mage Academy is no different from dealing with demons, one mustn't get addicted or dependent. It's said to be more expensive, the reason unknown. Now that the Observer mentioned it, the friendliness must have gone up, otherwise, such words wouldn't be spoken to a stranger, right? Okay, I'll listen to the NPC's view on this!

Da Fei promptly saluted and said, "I indeed admire those mages' cutting-edge products, but I wonder what downsides there are in trading with them? I sincerely ask for your guidance!"

The Observer chuckled, then asked the group of advisors around Da Fei, "Do you know why?"

The group of advisors looked puzzled, only the economic advisor coughed lightly and replied, "I believe, the mages' items are extremely expensive, and besides, the cost-performance ratio is not very high."

The Observer shook his head, speaking solemnly, "That's just a surface reason, albeit a very important one, but the more crucial reason is— Lord City Lord, what sets trading with the mages apart from trading with others?"

Could you stop beating around the bush? Da Fei coughed lightly and said, "They deliver using Space Gates, very cool!"

The Observer shook his head.

Da Fei had no choice but to continue, "They use a Demon Light Scroll as a contract!"

The Observer nodded, his expression serious, "Exactly! That contract scroll is used to collect clients' Power of Prayer. As for the Power of Prayer, it relates to too complex and mysterious domains, of which I know little, this topic ends here!"

—System Prompt: You have obtained information on the "Power of Prayer!"

Da Fei was suddenly stunned! Power of Prayer? Indeed, the Mage Academy's level 5 soldiers were Lamp Gods, said to be the third-fastest flying troop after Wind Elements and Phoenixes, commonly known as Fat Wind! The building to produce these troops is called the Prayer Altar! Moreover, on top of the Prayer Altar, an additional building called Prayer Treasury can be added, supposedly providing gold coins and resources for the city daily!

Could this be another pitfall like the devil's luck coin? Possibly! However, the Angel Brother of the Nether Sea mentioned that I have God-level Luck Skill, which gives me the ability to counter Heavenly Destiny. Can this Power of Prayer really backfire on me? If it can, what's the point of investing so much in Sain as a channel?

Da Fei immediately said, "Thank you, Sir, for the guidance. Then, how should I interact with the mages?"

The Observer responded seriously, "Of course, through conventional trade. Conventional trade means having them voluntarily buy your stuff, like this Magic Eye material. This puts you in control, so you don't have to sign such a Prayer Contract. In short, this topic ends here; once ashore, no one should mention it before the mages, best to forget it now."

The advisors hurriedly said, "Yes, following your instruction, we've forgotten what was just discussed."

It seems everyone holds the Mage Academy in reverential awe!

I get it! Being desireless makes one indomitable, as long as I don't seek them, they'll come to seek me instead. Of course, provided I have good goods.

While speaking, the Flying had arrived at the Demon Eye's sinking site. From a distance, it looked like a large piece of plastic cloth floating on the lake.

Da Fei was delighted, "Great, it seems the body hasn't been corroded by the lake water, uh, purified!" Then he grandly waved, "Quickly pull it in with a rope!"

While looking at this pitch-black lake water, the Observer solemnly said, "This also indicates that the lake water on our side is seriously polluted. Once the water loses its purification ability, it no longer poses a threat to demons, by then they could deploy some water-combat-type demons to attack."

Da Fei hurriedly said, "No need to worry, Lord, I'll soon show you my new troop type, giant slime monsters, which are very effective at purifying the lake. The more serious the Demon Race's pollution, the more they produce; there are already 10 giant slime monsters. As for deploying water-combat demons, there's nothing to worry about, my Leviathan can be hatched at any time, no matter how many they come, as many will perish! The situation is entirely under my control!"

The Observer's expression relaxed, but he shook his head, "The death of this Observer might introduce variables, claiming control over the situation is premature. In short, I did see many slime monsters floating in the water when boarding earlier indeed, which does require a visit upon return."

Everyone agreed, "The Lord has a point!"

And just at that moment, a thick dark red smoke rose from the massive balloon, entering Selvia's Sea Soul Staff!

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Selvia used the Sea Soul Staff to absorb the soul of Demon Eye Watcher Agarlon.

Oh yeah! This balloon is a treasure trove! Then let me see your fortune! Wahahaha!

Chapter 499: The Candidate for Deputy City Lord of Radiant City

Pool of Radiance Demon Camp, the piercing alarm sounded, the Demon Army densely packed on the city walls was ready for battle.

Indeed, when Da Fei saw the city walls, the Demon Army on the walls of course also saw Da Fei's ship. They were all large in size, so there was no reason for them not to see it. It's just that the distant solo sail couldn't be seen very clearly.

Lei Huolong and other studio members stood on the wall, raising their telescopes to watch attentively. Although the specific situation was unclear, the glaring red characters "Da Fei (Flying)" still inevitably shocked everyone's hearts.

"It's Da Fei, his big ship is indeed still here!"

"F*ck! This Da Fei is too successful, isn't he? One big ship here, and another two big ships in the city!"

"Hah, that ship won't last long, it won't be bouncing around for much longer."

"What is he doing? Is he here to scout? Even if he scouts, what could he do?"

Lei Huolong said indifferently, "Whether he scouts or not, the wall is right here, unchanged!"

Everyone applauded, "Captain, what a great poem you've chanted!"

Looking at Da Fei's ship lingering in the distance, not daring to approach, then slowly disappearing from view, Lei Huolong's mind was filled with thoughts. What would Da Fei think when he saw this lineup? Panic? Despair? After all, amateur players are just amateur players, they can be arrogant for a while thanks to their initial lucky advantage, but ultimately they are nothing special, powerless to continue!

Speaking of which, from the first Pool of Radiance battle, the boss had arranged for him to contact Da Fei, himself the top techie player in the China Region and top player of Hell, had to humbly call him "Brother Fei," and then rely on him to recruit Elite Hell Hounds and break through the situation, finally achieving significant results. When it came to international competitions, the boss still required him to greet Da Fei and ask for his favor, even during competitions, not only his guild, the other two large guilds also imperceptibly regarded Da Fei as the secondary core.

Why? Just because this upstart's early advantage was too dazzling!

Lei Huolong had always been developing under Da Fei's shadow, whether it was his pride as a professional player or his jealousy as a game player, he always had unsettled feelings in his heart.

But now, everything was going to end! He was finally going to step out of Da Fei's shadow. Suddenly, a long-gestated feeling of frustration in Lei Huolong's chest also came bursting out! Along with it, came the exhaustion of staying up for three days and three nights! After all, there's nothing more exhilarating in life than seeing your opponent struggle hopelessly, hahaha!

Right at this moment, a message-bearing Demon approached, "Sir Lei Huolong, Execution Officer Nakasha has an urgent summons for you!"

Lei Huolong immediately headed to the giant spider, saying nothing, "What are the commands, my lord?"

After a silent moment, Nakasha began with a subdued voice, "Some very bad news, Demon Eye Governor Agarlon, sent by Lord Demon King to inspect the front lines, may have died; I can't even feel his Soul Mark anymore. Assuming the worst, his soul might have been erased!"

The whole team was in an uproar, "No way? How could such a powerful and sneaky Magic Eye be killed?"

Lei Huolong was even more shocked, eyes widening, "Dead? Soul erased? Does that mean even the Demon King can't resurrect him?"

Nakasha nodded heavily, "Exactly! He's gone for good! It's a pity; he was just a step away from becoming a hero, soon to be the brightest new star of the Magic Eye family. The Demon King had planned to cultivate him here, he was a highly trusted favorite of Lord Demon King. His death, I don't know how it will enrage the Demon King! Anyway, we must respond to Lord Demon King's rage; we must wage a war of revenge soon!"

Lei Huolong exclaimed, "My lord! We can't! Since we set this siege tactic, we simply don't have the capability to launch an attack anytime soon! We don't have ships, nor are the webs ready!"

Nakasha said sternly, "Do not speak such words to me! How about this, I'll grant you an audience with Lord Demon King, and you can explain your reasons yourself!"

Lei Huolong despairingly, "Why me?"

Nakasha, with its eight spider eyes focusing together from above, looking down, "Of course, you! Because you were the one who encouraged that lord to scout the front lines!"

Lei Huolong hurriedly said, "But I never expected anyone could kill him! Who could have imagined Elves could be so powerful!"

Nakasha murmured, "Indeed, no one expected Elves to reach such a level—perhaps that's another reason to urge the Demon King to calm down, or perhaps a reason to escalate the war. We need a more powerful army, higher-end troops!"

Lei Huolong suddenly realized! Indeed! This war has been so conservative; ultimately, the Demon King is reluctant to transfer other strategic elite troops! Right, this is an opportunity! This giant spider is truly a demon; what bad news? Clearly, it's the best situation!

Good job, Da Fei! Truly great merchandise there, but as impressive as you are, a rotten pool can't withstand the true elite troops of the Demon Race!

Lei Huolong took a deep breath, "My lord, leave it to me! If the fury of the Demon King's vengeance cannot be soothed, I will find a way to persuade the Demon King to send a more powerful siege army!"

Chapter 500: The Candidate for Deputy City Lord of Radiant City_2

"Go! Time is precious!"

...

The Flying returned to Radiant City, towing its spoils of war. At this time, countless large and small Slime Monsters outside Radiant City had cleared the surrounding lake waters into a murky gray.

Of course, achieving complete clarity was impossible for the time being, given that the dense black wastewater from the lake's shores kept pouring in nonstop. The fact that we could see a distinct gray and black pattern was already a major success.

For a moment, the observer couldn't help but nod repeatedly: "Well done, Lord's new troops are very effective!"

And just then, another giant "jelly" rolled out from the sewage outlet, a giant slime monster was born!

Da Fei couldn't help but express his delight: "Look, my lord, the more severe the pollution from the Demon Race, the faster and more giant slime monsters I produce. The Demon Race is actually indirectly developing troops for us. When we have tens to millions of slime monsters filling the pond, they won't be able to outlast us."

The observer nodded: "It's a very good idea, and the production of Slime Monsters is also very promising. But today, Lord, you killed a big figure of the Demon Race, and the situation may change. I need to report back immediately on this situation. I will come back tomorrow to see the progress."

Da Fei quickly said: "I hope you speak kindly of me."

The observer shook his head: "Lord, your reputation as a Super Hero is well-known in the Military Department, and this so-called 'exercise' has proven it. There is no need for flattery; this is just an objective assessment."

Da Fei felt thrilled inside, thinking that bringing him on board was not in vain. Wahaha! Wait! Tomorrow? I have to meet the Dwarf Prince tomorrow, can I leave? If I'm gone when he arrives and finds me absent, won't he give me an "objective assessment" of desertion in wartime? No, that won't do; I'd better write a leave note!

Da Fei hurriedly said: "Observer, I need to make a trip to the Dwarf Kingdom tomorrow to seek help in defending the city."

The observer raised an eyebrow: "The Dwarf Kingdom? They are too far to put out a nearby fire, what help can they provide?"

Da Fei coughed and said: "Some strong equipment would always be good."

The observer exclaimed: "Equipment? We have those in the Elf Kingdom too!"

Can we not ask anymore? Looks like it's time to lay it all out!

Da Fei had to cough again and say: "My strategy, actually, is to use the power of the Demon Race to build walls and then seize the opportunity to take them for our own use. This plan is very risky, and it has caused some people in the Kingdom to misunderstand me. It's really embarrassing to ask the Kingdom for help..."

The observer's brow twitched: "Seize the enemy's walls?"

Da Fei's heart raced, nodding repeatedly: "Exactly!" Fuck! Were you floored by my grand vision? As soon as I laid out my plans, Makar was on his knees; are you about to kneel too?

The observer laughed heartily: "So that's what Lord had in mind? I understand now!"

Wahahaha! Another one bites the dust! If you kneel, won't the Kingdom Military Department follow suit?

Da Fei chuckled: "It's a bit risky; apologies for making you laugh, my lord."

The observer's laughter stopped, and his expression became serious: "Lord, you may have realized that some people in the Kingdom are dissatisfied with you. Do you know the reason?"

Oh! Is the gossip coming? I love hearing what others say about me behind my back!

Da Fei eagerly said: "Please enlighten me, my lord!"

Observer chuckled: "Actually, there's no harm in just saying this, I only mention this on board, let's all forget about it once we disembark."

Da Fei and his group of advisors hurriedly said: "Absolutely forgotten! Absolutely forgotten. By the way, what day of the week is it today?"

With a long sigh, the Observer said: "Because Mr. Lord is just too excellent, overshadowing the rising talents of our Kingdom, making it difficult for some people to accept in terms of self-esteem and feelings—By the way, does Mr. Lord know how he became the City Lord of Radiant City?"

Da Fei suddenly realized, of course, as a human being, I'm just too superior for the prideful Elves to handle! As for the City Lord position, it was a reward for the Epic Quest, naturally! Could it be that the City Lord position was not a reward?

All Da Fei could do was say: "Please enlighten me, my lord!"

Shaking his head, the Observer pointed at Anlicia: "Of course, it was at the behest of Miss Anlicia's grandmother, Professor Anwen, before she left! By the customs of the Kingdom, the territories of the Elf Kingdom are of course first entrusted to the Lords of the Elf Kingdom to govern. Normally, Mr. Lord would have to compete for the City Lord position with other new talents of the Kingdom, of course, I believe in your strength to win, but in special circumstances, this step was just skipped, and that's why some people have disagreements!"

So that's how it is! Da Fei indeed remembered what the old grandma had said last time! And at that time, I absolutely thought the City Lord position was mine! For a moment, Da Fei was filled with mixed emotions and sighed with emotion.

Anlicia also heaved a long sigh: "Can we not talk about my grandmother, it makes me sound so incompetent."

The Observer chuckled: "Actually, if Mr. Lord wants to rid himself of troubles, it's simple, and it's even simpler for Miss Anlicia to prove her worth—" indicating Anlicia again: "If Mr. Lord concedes the City Lord position to Miss Anlicia, the descendant of a martyr and hero, I guarantee that no one in the Kingdom would dare to utter a single doubt!"

—Ahem! Da Fei spat out a mouthful of blood! Damn, can't they stand to see me be the City Lord? To surrender the City Lord position to an NPC? I'm fuming! Then would I be listening to her, or would she be listening to me? Besides, she was already creating a ruckus just being a Captain, can you imagine if

she became the City Lord? No way! The authority of the husband must be upheld, the position of the City Lord absolutely cannot be conceded!

Anlicia, too, was in a panic: "No way! I haven't had enough fun yet, I don't want to be any City Lord!"

Right, right, right, you've got some self-awareness, and that's for the better!

The Observer shook his head: "At least being the Deputy City Lord is also viable."

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched, right, the Deputy City Lord! Damn, I've never even thought about the Deputy City Lord spot! But I don't even have the option to appoint a Deputy City Lord, do I? Right! This city was a joint venture with the Kingdom; the position of Deputy City Lord is often the all-purpose steward sent by the Kingdom or directly promoted from advisors. Damn! This is where it gets tricky!

So Da Fei turned to Anlicia and said with a smile, "Since even the Observer himself says so, wouldn't you like to try being a Deputy City Lord?"

Anlicia shook her head: "No interest, I prefer to go out and have fun everywhere. Selvia, Catherine, and Deirdre are all candidates."

The Observer shook his head: "With Mr. Lord himself facing objections, the other two human ladies certainly can't be, and as for Ms. Deirdre, it's even less possible."

Damn it! This is the vexing part of jointly establishing a city; appointing a Deputy City Lord has to go through a "board meeting," and it's not something the City Lord player can decide on their own.

Anlicia sighed and shook her head: "Fine then, I've never been a Deputy City Lord before, I'll reluctantly accept it as long as it's not boring and I don't have to do anything."

Damn! It's good that you don't want to do anything! Just be tied down as the Deputy City Lord and be a part of my family loyally! Da Fei, overjoyed, said: "Thank you for your assistance, Miss Anlicia! And thank you for the advice, my lord!"

The Observer sighed: "It's all for the Kingdom, for the World Tree, I'll report this to the superiors right away! With the big war looming and our troops at a transport disadvantage, the higher-ups actually don't want to see various discordant impediments. They also need someone of Anlicia's stature to mediate!"

Da Fei was moved and said: "Thank you, my lord!" It seems there are still upright people who get things done in this world! That's right, it's just a game after all, not as vexing as reality.

The Observer shook his head with a faint smile: "Don't thank me, initially, I personally thought about replacing Mr. City Lord, but your performance completely changed my mind, making me believe you are indeed a Super Hero! Only you have the capability to defend this critical position!"

Da Fei's jaw dropped! Damn, it's a cruel world!