

God level 531

Chapter 531: Appearance of Divine Level

With a long whinny, the Unicorn Boss at Forest Lake collapsed with a thud, its body transforming into specks of starlight that converged into the lake and gradually faded away.

At this moment, applause erupted throughout the entire Star Command Center.

Eternal Star, in a great mood, spared no applause and praised, "Very nice, very nice. These few battles have been beautifully fought!"

Tianlan Star wryly smiled and said, "We agreed to deal with Da Fei, but we didn't even catch a glimpse of his shadow. In the end, I turned out to be his professional stand-in."

Eternal Star chuckled, "If you were Da Fei, where would you be now?"

Bu Feiyan laughed heartily, "If I were him, I'd definitely be scared off far away."

Tianlan Star wryly smiled, "Goddess sis, you haven't tried high-level Reconnaissance Skill nor played with disguise divine artifacts; you can't understand the thrill of spying on others. If I were him, maybe I'd be squatting right beside us, watching the show."

Old Jiang said seriously, "No, he'd be waiting to burst your chrysanthemum!"

Eternal Star faintly smiled, "Good to know. For a player like Da Fei, who has at least master-level reconnaissance ability, seeking him is useless and might as well not search at all. He'll come himself to be cheap. So, don't overact; just perform as you normally would."

Tianlan Star sighed, "It's frustrating. I've always been the one using disguise artifacts to squat on others, but today dealing with his bursty outburst, it feels all awkward."

Old Jiang laughed, "Are you looking for excuses in advance in case you lose?"

Tianlan Star wryly smiled and said, "President Jiang, life is hard. Don't tear me down; I'm really stressed!"

Just as Tianlan Star was talking and picking up the corpse, the lake behind in Forest Lake seemed to flash, and then the entire forest slightly trembled!

What happened? Was it an earthquake just now? Tianlan Star looked around, indeed, there were leaves fluttering down in the forest. Tianlan Star hurried back to inspect Forest Lake; the unicorn's body had already disappeared into starlight, and the lake's surface also rippled slightly.

Such a strange event left the entire Star Command Center puzzled.

Old Jiang said in a deep voice, "Although I don't know what happened, killing so many bosses might trigger a scenario event. Anyway, we need to be more cautious in our next actions."

Tianlan Star responded sternly, "Understood."

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—System Prompt: Your Reconnaissance Eagle Xiao Fei, on an Independent Expedition, has killed a Leader-level creature "Forest Guardian," obtaining spoils of war "Bright Iron Hoof".

—Bright Iron Hoof: A-grade strategic equipment, footwear position, Magic Power +10, Knowledge +10, power of Light Magic +10%.

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have obtained all 6 parts of the Elemental Set, combining into the Divine Artifact special skill "Elemental Domain".

—Elemental Domain: Aura skill, within the covered area of the domain, the casting speed of heroes and casting soldiers, as well as allied heroes and allied casting soldiers is increased by 30%, Magic Resistance increased by 30%, mana recovery speed +30%, and spell power effect increased by 30%. The coverage area of the domain increases as the hero's level increases.

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—System Prompt: Your Reconnaissance Eagle Xiao Fei is impacted by a mysterious force, activating its latent potential, and has grown into a medium size. Attack +10, Defense +10, Damage +10, Life +100, Mana +100, Stamina +20, gains 10% All Magic Resistance. Gains 1 space item slot. All special skill effects are comprehensively enhanced.

—System Prompt: Warning! Douglas artifact fragments have absorbed abundant energy and are about to mutate. The mutating artifact fragments, filled with energy, will be coveted by an unknown powerful existence, presenting you with unpredictable threats!

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At this moment, looking at the scrolling list of messages, Da Fei's breath hitched!

Just now, just at the moment when the artifact fragment absorbed the light energy, Da Fei saw a flash of light in front of him, followed by a slight tremble of the screen!

Needless to say, the Divine level is formed, and the aura is indeed awe-inspiring! There's no time to analyze the awesomeness of the Elemental Set, nor to investigate what mysterious force impacted Xiao Fei to mid-size, now is the moment to quickly bring over the Divine level to demolish it, or who knows what kind of Mao God might spring up to snatch the Divine level?

Meanwhile, in the forest, Elina had already begun drawing an Array on the ground, making preparations.

Elina spoke solemnly, "Master, the Divine level is about to appear. The nearby monsters all possess divine properties and have a certain sensing ability towards the Divine level. They might appear to snatch it, and perhaps unknown gods might also try to snatch it. We must act quickly! Moreover, when I demolish the Divine level, Master must protect me from external disturbances at all costs, since the Divine level is like a nascent life of a god, it will instinctively resist, and it takes some effort to demolish it!"

Da Fei nodded repeatedly, "Understood!"

Now, Xiao Fei returned to the forest. At this moment, it stretched its wings, which were as huge as two people's length, covering a large swath of treetops! This is the mid-size Xiao Fei! Has it reached the condition for riding?

Without further thoughts, Da Fei took out a Divine Level Gem that shone like a diamond from the equipment bar, leaving the dwarf spectators once again in astonished awe, their eyes wide open!

Elena spoke solemnly, "Good, this divine level is actually not perfect yet. Theoretically, it still needs spiritual elements, but once it has spiritual elements, this divine gem will instantly resurrect, possessing the power to bewitch people's hearts. Everyone here might become its slave—so, I'll begin now!"

Da Fei hurriedly said, "There are still two pieces of equipment, quick, put them on first to boost your power!"

Elena took the equipment and immediately exclaimed with joy, "What a strong combined divine artifact! It's not just about boosting my power, it can also enhance the whole troop's abilities! With it, a Magic Hero is truly a Magic Hero! Great, with this Elemental Domain, it's even easier for me to dismantle this divine gem."

While speaking, Elena put on the set and a faint light shield appeared, centering around her, covering a radius of several meters around her body. After putting on the Bright Iron Hoof, her pale, shiny thighs seemed to be clad in silvery white thigh-high boots, looking even more sexy and enticing!

Da Fei's eyes widened! Holy crap! This is the joy of equipping a beautiful vice hero! Who knows what effect it would have on Selvia if she wore these boots? How much fun have I sacrificed for the so-called career?

Equipment! Equipment! When I go back, I must arm all my beloved babes with equipment, not aiming for the best, just for the sassiest! Anything is better than their current state of running around naked!

Now, with the Array's magical light twinkling, Elena began to concentrate fully on dismantling the divine level, her Mana Value also draining swiftly at tens of points per second. Da Fei's Forest Demon Army and dwarfs surrounded her in multiple concentric layers.

At this moment, the sky in the space also began to flash with thunder. Needless to say, it must be the so-called Mao God also trying to search for the divine gem. Quick, hurry!

Just then, there was a change in the grassland scenery beside the forest. Fog began to drift! The fog started to seep into the forest!

Da Fei's eyelid twitched, goddammit, proximity brings advantage, huh? Da Fei quickly asked the Forest Demon Leader, "What's that?"

The Forest Demon Leader quickly responded, "Master, that's pollen poison fog. Once any lifeform inhales it, they will pass out and eventually die. Quickly let everyone drink from the Forest Spring to minimize the poisonous effects!"

Da Fei frantically gestured, "Hurry, get everyone to drink the spring water!"

The Forest Demons immediately waved their hands, scattering in all directions to fetch the spring water.

Da Fei asked again, "So, the leader opposite is a Flower Demon?"

The Forest Demon Leader nodded, "Yes, master, she is the Grassland Guardian. If it was before, I might have been able to fight her, but now I have lost a lot of strength and need the master's help!"

Flower Demon, huh?

For a moment, Da Fei's expression was uncertain. Just now, I thought if there were opportunities, I would search the world for scenes with Forest Demons and Vine Demons to recruit, never expecting one right next to the forest! As a Flower Demon admirer, having Vine Demon Heroes and a Forest Demon Boss under my command, only lacking a leading Flower Demon, this is an opportunity for recruitment, right? The Forest Demons have surrendered, how far away can the Flower Demons be? The question is, do I even have the condition to recruit now? If I can't, then I have to fight?

Just how formidable Flower Demons are, Da Fei was all too aware. In normal circumstances, their Level 0 fragility might be scoffed at, but once they are elite or bosses with health multiplied by dozens or hundreds, they are unthinkably strong! Not to mention, these divine Flower Demons still have unknown special skills!

Can't fight! I have to try to win them over with morality!

Da Fei hurriedly asked the Forest Demon Leader, "Do you get along well with her?"

The Forest Demon sighed softly, "Close as neighbors, born and die unrelated!"

—Ah, such a poetic Forest Demon!

The Forest Demon continued, "I understand the master's intention. We Flower Demons are inherently peace-loving, I will do my best to persuade her!"

Da Fei nodded continuously, "Yes, yes, you must persuade her to turn to the light!"

Now, all the dwarfs had already drunk the Forest Spring water and were prepared for battle, all the Forest Demons also disappeared into the trees, releasing forest fog in response.

—Forest fog: Forest Demons can release fog in the forest, obstructing the enemy's sight and inducing fatigue and sleep.

Indeed, there's never been a successful persuasion without a fight, the most persuasive language of persuasion is the fist!

However, the fist must be strong, and the mouth must be sweet. Da Fei suddenly remembered that his Leadership Skill was still intermediate and he had never learned Diplomacy!

What are we waiting for, I've been saving up 2 Skill Points, just got 3 more Skill Points from surpassing mortal limits, let's learn it now!

Da Fei immediately took out the Leadership Skill Book, light shined repeatedly!

—System Prompt: You have spent 3 Skill Points, your Leadership Skill has risen to Master Level! Basic Commanding Ability +50%, Troop Morale +5.

—System Prompt: You have spent 1 Skill Point, you have learned the sub-skill of Leadership Skill: Diplomacy.

—Diplomacy: There's a certain chance to persuade wild creatures to surrender and join your troops, the skill effect relates to the military power comparison between both sides, your faction's reputation. Can increase the success rate of Bargaining Skill.

Now with dual-heroes, dual-Master-Level Diplomacy, plus my adoration for Flower Demons, my credentials are sky-high! What if I use achievements to upgrade my leadership skills directly to Grandmaster Level?

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Chapter 532: The BOSS that Seizes the Divine Level

Pollen poison fog, the forest mist filled the entire forest, the whole forest was a white glow. Even Da Fei, with the Demon's Eye accessory, had less than 20 meters of visibility in this double fog.

Throughout the forest, the murmured whispers of the Forest Demon Leader echoed: "Grassland Guardian, do you admire the master's immense power? Are you afraid of the master's mighty strength? Are you drawn to the master's charm? What are you hesitating for, join the master's ranks, following the master is following power, this is the wisest choice! Otherwise, should you fail to seize it, you will lose your life, you should know that your life is limited in the face of the master's power! You should not make a foolish choice!"

The persuasion began!

The reasoning for the persuasion was well-founded, balanced, and effective, worthy of a computer, with rhetoric even better than mine! Although diplomacy did not require language to be initiated, as long as you fight, the other party will naturally understand, yet having language propaganda truly made it feel like persuasion. However, the act of deterring enemies without battle has apparently never happened in the game, so before the battle started, Da Fei did not hold out any hope.

And at that moment, Little Fei, circling in the sky, discovered another situation, the swamp scene on the other side of the forest had some movement as well. A King Giant Lizard-like BOSS was marching with hundreds of small giant lizards into the forest, but the double fog within halted their advance, not daring to go deeper.

Da Fei wiped his brow in cold sweat, perhaps this pollen wasn't entirely a bad thing?

Soon, more developments surfaced, a large group of skeletons emerged from the wasteland and marshland in the other two directions of the forest, along with a large troop of Earth Elements!

At this, Da Fei was dumbfounded on the spot! Attacked from all sides, and it seems these two kinds of creatures were not afraid of poison powder, could it be that I am to fight on all sides? If only I had known this divine level would attract so many enemies, I might as well have Little Fei take it to the Skyshattering Thunder's camp! But it's no use, this divine level doesn't just draw enemies, it can attract deities too. Gazing at the sky with flickering Thunder Lights, Da Fei felt even more distressed and sweaty.

This divine level indeed was a pitfall! What to do? Could I only tough it out until Elena completed the disentanglement? But even if it was disentangled, would these monsters retreat? As Da Fei glanced at Elena, who couldn't free her hands, he looked at the red dots on the radar, indecisive and entwined with anguish. Now it's not even about recruiting, saving my life would be fortunate enough!

Da Fei gritted his teeth, alright! If things go truly awry, I'll just discard the divine level, toss it to Skyshattering Thunder to mess him up!

Now, the Skeleton Army and Earth Element Army were probing their way into the forest, although they weren't afraid of the mist's effects, their vision was still limited. The encirclement began to tighten, and in Da Fei's field of view, he saw the dense figures of Earth Elements within 20 meters, with dwarf warriors holding giant axes ready for pre-battle charge.

It was inevitable, battle was unavoidable, so he might as well strike first while they were groping in the mist, as for striking first, Da Fei lamented how with all this time he still hadn't assembled the Crossbow Cannon, how much combat power was lost because of it!

Then, let's see Little Fei's striking ability at this time, Da Fei began checking Little Fei's attributes:

—Reconnaissance Spirit Eagle (Little Fei): Medium-sized leader creature, Attack 75, Defense 32, Damage 30-31, Life Value 314, Mana Value 235, Attack Speed 20, Magic Resistance 63%, Stamina 193. 4 space slots. 2 Growth Skill Points.

Special Skills: Flying Creature, God-level Reconnaissance Technique, Plane Surveillance, High Altitude Flight, Long Sky Eagle Strike, Glide, Enhanced Dive, Enhanced Fierce Bird Suppression, Enhanced Petrification Aura, Enhanced Rapid Bite.

These were Little Fei's attributes! Attack, Life, Defense, and Damage finally reached the standard of level 7 units, with attack speed, mana, and stamina attributes all surpassed, evolving from an unclassified small creature to this level was simply a miracle of life!

Seeing such a long list of enhanced skills, Da Fei further clicked to view:

—Enhanced Dive: The reconnaissance spirit eagle can launch a dive attack from a high altitude at ground targets, causing 3 to 5 times normal damage, consuming 20% stamina.

—Enhanced Rapid Bite: The reconnaissance spirit eagle's attack speed increased by 50%, damage +10, while stamina consumption increased by 50%.

—Enhanced Fierce Bird Pressure: Increases damage to non-elite bird-like creatures by 100%, and reduces non-elite bird-like creature attack speed by 25%. There is a 50% chance to directly apply the "Broken Wings" effect to all small-sized Flying Creatures.

—Enhanced Petrification Aura: Activating this spell will form a force field with a 30-meter radius, reducing enemy move speed and attack speed in the field by 30%, with a certain chance to petrify enemies in the field. Activating this spell consumes 2 mana points per second. The effect of this skill increases with the user's level.

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These were the skills enhanced after Little Fei reached medium size! And at that time Little Fei's growth was so difficult, killing 6 divine BOSSes while also enduring the impact of the divine levels for growth, perhaps these attributes would be Little Fei's final stabilized attributes, now, it's time to let you take the lead!

Da Fei placed all his hopes on this newly promoted divine skill, "Enhanced Petrification Aura"! Back when the King Giant Lizard in the swamp relied on this divine skill to dare to overstep boundaries to provoke a demigod, I have modest demands, not seeking that level, just to slow down an invading force would be enough! Petrifying them would be even better, after all, I have the divine skill "Luck Body" which can increase unit special skill success rates by 15%!

Go, Little Fei! I'll activate divine skill support for you!

Little Fei descended over the Earth Element Army from above the forest, Petrification Aura, activate!

Da Fei's Luck Divine Skill "Lucky Hand," activate!

A light of rainbow rose from within the forest! In that instant, a squadron of Earth Elements seemed to solidify, halting immediately! Meanwhile, muffled sounds from Flower Demons hitting the lotus could be heard from far across the forest!

—System Prompt: "Your reconnaissance spirit eagle successfully petrified 127 Earth Element Guards, during petrification, the enemies will continuously lose life value and stamina, until death."

—System Prompt: "Your Forest Demon army successfully hypnotized 49 Flower Demon Grassland Guardians!"

Gosh! Divine skill! It truly lived up to my high hopes for the petrification divine skill! At the onset, it disabled so many enemy troops, how many more could it disable in a while?! Or were Earth Elements especially susceptible to petrification?

Da Fei waved his hand grandly: "Dwarf Brothers, chop down those Earth Elements!"

Hangeval immediately called: "Stok, Bazaar, Steel Hammer, your combat group bring 300 men up!"

"Charge!!!" The long-restive dwarves roared as they charged!

As a vanguard under his own leadership, enhanced by his attack and defense skills, the prowess of Stok and the three others was astonishing, cutting down the first row of Earth Elements like a breeze with their direct attacks! Witnessing the dwarves' fierce combat power, viewing the Earth Elements' clumsy and sluggish movements under the aura's slow effect, Da Fei's confidence soared!

Indeed, the drawback of NPCs is that they cannot be massively led by players to gain bonuses, and they're difficult to revive once dead. Yet the advantage is that every fully armed NPC has no less, if not more, combat strength than level 7 units! My team actually equates to a legion of hundreds to thousands of level 7 troops! Provided there is no fear of death, my team is indeed extremely powerful!

At this moment, the ground rumbled and trees fell one after another, an extremely large Earth Element entered Little Fei's vision! Earth Element BOSS! It was pushing down trees to make a path!

Da Fei chuckled in surprise! This BOSS's issue was the same as my Tree Spirit transport team in the Black Forest, that is, its size was too large, restricted by trees, unable to advance. Unquestionably, the forest was an excellent defensive terrain, at the speed of these dwarves clearing small monsters, by the time it bulldozed its way to me, the day would have ended!

We can do this! As long as we quickly incapacitate this path of Earth Elements, the route of the skeletons won't matter! Any BOSS that dares to be isolated is as good as dead! What's more, a portion of the Flower Demons over there were already hit, persuasion is entirely possible!

Da Fei joyously declared: "Everyone, quickly eliminate the small monsters, ignore the big ones, then immediately kill the skeleton monsters!"

Under the dwarves' obliterative assault, under the constant slowing effect of Little Fei's petrification aura, with Earth Elements being unable to support each other due to the restricted vision in the mist,

hundreds of Earth Element army had no capacity to fight back, disintegrated within a mere minute or so!

Quickly moving to the skeletons, Little Fei's mana could only maintain the divine skill for two minutes! Da Fei couldn't help but lament to the sky, why do divine skills always have painful flaws?

When Little Fei reached the Skeleton battlefield, the vast number of skeletons suddenly slowed, a small cluster petrified on the spot!

Skeletons thrive on numbers, altogether they completely didn't compare to Earth Elements, even the Earth Elements were routed, the skeletons under the slowing effect could only be likened to harvested straw! The tide of battle reversed dramatically!

At this time, the Forest Demon Leader continued to encourage: "Grassland Guardian sisters, did you see? Under the master's formidable force, the Earth Element King's army crumbled instantly, should the master wish it, even the Earth Element King is doomed, this is not your home turf, you are conducting a battle with the wrong opponent, at the wrong time, and place. The Ice Mountain King, King of Wilderness, Volcano King, and Desert King were all permanently defeated by the master, you are no stronger than them, following the master is the only correct choice..."

Da Fei laughed loud and hard, damn, this Forest Demon had great eloquence! Indeed, this wasn't your home turf, if I were attacking you, I might not win, but now with divine skill Little Fei on my side, isn't defense easy?

And just then, the giant lizards which had been loitering outside the forest immediately turned around, rustled and retreated back to their lair.

Da Fei's eyebrow twitched! Wow, were they persuaded to retreat? It really did work! Then isn't persuasion possible? There's a great possibility! Quickly flatten the skeleton path! Hahaha, ahahaha!

Chapter 533: Conditions for Incorporating the BOSS

The advancing Earth Element Army was swiftly defeated, and the giant lizard army, just tagging along, also retreated, while the Flower Demon Army's attack was cautiously restrained, only releasing pollen poison fog on the forest's perimeter. With pressure from three sides greatly reduced, Da Fei focused all his strength on fiercely attacking the Skeleton Army.

The Skeleton Army fell like waves of grain in the wind, with victory in sight, Da Fei was full of confidence!

Of course, a mere victory wasn't Da Fei's pursuit; what he sought was to recruit the Flower Demon BOSS!

There were two types of BOSSes: one was a regular outdoor scene BOSS guarding resources or treasures, or the BOSS in an instance, which the system had set with an attribute of "preferring death over surrender," and it would absolutely not surrender to players. Naturally, the system also restricted such BOSSes' duties, and they would never leave their post to seize some divine level.

The other type was the story scene BOSS. Clearly, the current scenario was undoubtedly a story scene, where BOSSes were aware they could seize divine levels, undeniably making them story BOSSes. With the Forest Demon's prior surrender and the giant lizard's persuasion to retreat, it was entirely possible to recruit them!

So, what's crucial is what's missing for recruiting conditions? When recruiting the Forest Demon, I didn't have Master Leadership Skill or diplomacy skills, it was just after a day of "emotional brewing," of course, Alina had Master Diplomacy skills. And now, I have two heroes with double Master Diplomacy, have prestige, have fame, and most importantly, my forces are overwhelmingly superior, yet it's not making any progress, so there's a big possibility that the BOSS was attracted by the divine level, which is above everything!

If that's the case, perhaps there would be a turn of events after dismantling the divine level.

And maybe there's another possibility that my Leadership Skill level was too low! If that's the case, should I use this achievement to rush to a Master-level Leadership Skill?

No, no! Be calm, as this Master is meant for navigators, which is directly used to rush to God-level. I am about to head to the Eastern World, and God-level Navigation is essential. Moreover, recruiting the Flower Demon is merely icing on the cake, not a necessity!

Otherwise, even if I managed to recruit the Flower Demon, but with the navigator stuck at the Master level, unable to advance, and then the whole ship's crew would struggle in the storm, I'd be at a loss of whom to blame! Being stuck at Master is being stuck at God-level! Stay calm and steady!

Time passed second by second, and the Forest Demon Leader's persuasion to surrender continued but was to no avail. The Flower Demon Army still neither fought nor retreated nor surrendered nor responded.

Only the lone Earth Element BOSS resolutely continued its logging advance, completely unaffected by attempts to dissuade it.

Finally, Little Fei's mana was drained, and as the Petrification Aura disappeared, the Dwarf Warriors' momentum in clearing the skeletons also slowed, and more and more skeletons surged back into the woods. This Skeleton Sea was a relentless queue flowing endlessly from the wasteland!

This made Da Fei realize the problem's complications! The most important condition for recruiting and persuading to surrender was not met, which was the comparison of forces on both sides! Although the giant lizard retreated, and the Earth Element Army collapsed, the opposing side was still three against one, and their forces were still stronger than my army!

At this point, Hangeval spoke deeply: "Friend! Things aren't looking good, our brothers aren't in good shape!"

Damn! When it rains, it pours, doesn't it? Da Fei anxiously asked, "What happened?"

Hangeval cleared his throat, stating seriously: "It's the pollen! Although the Forest Spring can reduce the harm from the pollen poison fog, it doesn't mean the pollen isn't effective; we must retract our offensive!"

Sure enough, at this time, the speed at which the Dwarf Warriors swung their axes and ran couldn't compare to before, and people in the crowd coughed continuously from time to time.

Damn! It turned out to be a chronic attack. Presumably, this was also the reason the Flower Demon remained calm and didn't attack? The more they acted superior, the more I wanted to recruit them!

Da Fei hurriedly turned to look at Alina, who was drenched in sweat, with her mana plummeting rapidly, presumably reaching a critical stage of collapse! Hold on! Go for it!

Just then, there was a flash of lightning above the forest!

—Boom! A lightning bolt exploded thunderously over the forest! A flash of red on Da Fei's screen!

—System prompt: Warning! The Douglas Divine Artifact Fragment is about to complete its mutation! The mutated Divine Artifact Fragment will attract powerful entities to snatch it!

Da Fei's heart was shocked, had the Mao God come knocking?

And at that moment, Alina shouted: "The divine level is forming, now is the time! Go all out, give it everything!" As she spoke, the array's demon light surged, and with it, the remaining magic power in her body was instantly drained!

Boom! With a loud blast, Da Fei's vision whitened; the entire forest floor shook thunderously!

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Alina dismantled the Divine Artifact Fragment, and you obtained a Douglas Fire Attribute Divine Artifact Fragment, Douglas Earth Attribute Divine Artifact Fragment... Douglas Light Attribute Divine Artifact Fragment.

Oh yeah! It succeeded! Turning one into six! Wahahaha, my darling, you were actually brewing something this whole time!

Filled with joy, Da Fei hurriedly supported the weak and slumping Alina: "Thank you for your hard work!"

Alina's face was pale and she panted lightly: "The divine level has been dismantled, which means the god probably won't want it anymore, but for these monsters, it still is an item of great value. They still feel the abundant power of the Divine Artifact, so the master still must fully cope with it, I'm sorry, I urgently need to rest and can't help the master temporarily..."

What? Da Fei turned his head to look, the Skeleton Sea showed no signs of retreating! Damn it!

Crash! Another loud noise, the sound of trees falling. The massive, tree-height body of the Earth Element BOSS appeared in Da Fei's sight, the BOSS had finally overcome all obstacles and reached Da Fei!

Da Fei's heart sank! Damn it! Is this somewhere anyone can stay? Don't you just want it? If you want it, just say so, I'm not a stingy old miser who won't give a thread! Let me show you what diplomacy is all about!

Da Fei took out the Light, Dark, and Earth Element Fragments and shouted: "Do you want power? Here is the power you need; if you follow me, I'll give it to you!"

No response! Seeing Da Fei take out the Earth Element Fragment, the Earth Element roared, chopping trees even more vigorously!

Damn it! Da Fei shook the fragments vigorously in the direction of the Flower Demons: "Grassland Guardians, join me! Join me, and I'll give it to you!"

Still no response. Damn it! What am I doing? Even I feel like an idiot!

In fact, upon careful consideration, recruiting BOSSes, such a low-probability thing, is as unreliable as striving for Master. Perhaps because I somehow succeeded in recruiting the Forest Demon, I got carried away, treating a highly low-probability chance event as something pursued as inevitable, isn't this the kind of idiocy akin to waiting for luck to fall into your lap?

Da Fei shook his head with a wry smile, then let it be, I'll go for the ultimate move! I was thinking of doing this from the start, but I was concerned that the Mao God might come to snatch it, so I was lazy to do it. Now I'm no longer worried.

Da Fei then equipped the three fragments in Little Fei's equipment bar. If even this doesn't lead the monsters away, I have nothing more to say but to fight to the bitter end—uh, can I give it for free? Do you really think I don't dare to give it for free?

Sure enough, when Little Fei intentionally shook it in front of the Earth Element, the Earth's gaze indeed turned to the sky! Da Fei couldn't help but smile with satisfaction, at least I did one reliable thing, right? See how I mess with you.

At this time, Alina, who was in Da Fei's arms, also chuckled softly: "Master, let your Flying Eagle fly far and high, far enough to where these creatures can't feel the divine artifact's power, perhaps then the creatures will retreat."

Indeed, retreating is probably that simple; it's just that the fact I couldn't achieve maximum expected value is still quite a regretful thing!

Da Fei sighed slightly: "Alright, everyone's tired, it would be super if no sacrifices were needed."

As soon as he said this, Little Fei's vision suddenly became blurry, Da Fei raised an eyebrow, this—is a scene change! That's right! It's time for the scene reshuffle again!

Da Fei laughed heartily, so this is also a way to break the deadlock! With the scene reshuffled, you're left with no choice but to retreat!

Wait a minute! It doesn't seem right either! Even if the scene reshuffled, isn't this Earth Element still in my territory? What if its old haunt got reshuffled to who knows where, how would it retreat then?

Da Fei suddenly found this problem very interesting and began to watch intently.

After a moment of blurriness, the scene changed. The surrounding forest scenario was repositioned to Ice Lake, mountains, and the Lava Pool. In short, the grassland was gone, the swamp was gone, and the wasteland ceaselessly spawning skeletons was gone too!

And at this moment, crash after crash echoed, the Skeleton Sea that invaded the forest collapsed piece by piece—a typical phenomenon of losing its master's magic power supply!

Da Fei raised an eyebrow; no more skeletons! This means that I retreated a path with troops? Which means the greatest obstacle to recruiting has also been removed; now my forces are absolutely dominant!

At this point, seeing the Earth Element BOSS in the forest looking around in confusion, Da Fei suddenly realized! Actually, there's one more crucial condition: the BOSS can't go back now, there's no retreat!

That's right, a BOSS can flee if defeated, if it can flee, the BOSS still wouldn't surrender; this no-retreat situation is actually similar to when the Fishmen were trapped in the cabin! On closer inspection, the reason the Forest Demon surrendered was not because I was going to burn the forest, leaving them homeless without retreat?

Da Fei finally realized!

It can work! Now I meet all the conditions for recruiting the BOSS, the flames of hope burned brightly in Da Fei's heart!

Da Fei excitedly instructed the Forest Demon Leader: "Persuade! Persuade the Flower Demon to surrender! Tell them they are homeless now!"

It's not just the Flower Demon! If the Flower Demon surrenders, what about this Earth Element BOSS? Even if the Flower Demon can still fly back, this Earth Element can't go back, can it? Earth Elements don't have faction requirements; being a Commander, its chances of surrendering are actually higher than the Flower Demon!

Chapter 534: Recruiting the Earth Element

Plot scene, military strength comparison, faction reputation, high-level diplomacy, BOSS has no way out, all the conditions for incorporation Da Fei could think of were fully met, especially the last one, it's like the system is helping too!

After a brief blind following at the beginning, Da Fei instantly calmed down!

First of all, one must clearly realize that even if all the conditions for recruiting are met, recruiting is still a low-probability event, not to mention recruiting a BOSS, so one must not make the mistake of waiting

ignorantly and rashly miss the godsend opportunity delivered by the system. And, is the BOSS really cornered? It's still possible that the BOSS could flee over mountains and rivers back to where it came from!

Therefore, after briefly assessing the situation, Da Fei decided to focus on the Earth Element, not the Flower Demon. The reason is simple, the Flower Demon has troops, and it's much harder to recruit her than the Earth Element, the 'bare commander'. More importantly, the Earth Element made its way into the forest by cutting down trees along the way. Once in the forest, it's like a trapped beast in a wooden cage, with very low chances of escaping. As for the Flower Demon, at least it can fly.

Da Fei made a swift decision and immediately said to Hangeval: "The situation is very favorable for us now, I want to trap this Earth Element, I want some people to move behind it, use the trees it knocked down to build a barricade to completely block its retreat, and after Elena has rested, this Earth Element will become our prey."

Hangeval nodded: "Right, our brothers are indeed not in a good state for frontline fighting!" Then immediately directed the nearby dwarves: "All non-combat brothers, immediately move behind the big guy, use lumber to block its path! Combat brothers, you've worked hard, hurry up and rest!"

"Yes, big brother!" The dwarves responded loudly and immediately sprung into action.

Meanwhile, the Earth Element BOSS was completely unaware of its blocked path, and momentarily bewildered after changing scenes, then continued to advance towards Da Fei by cutting down trees.

Damn! You can still cut down trees? Keep going, and the entire forest will be gone!

Da Fei immediately had a new idea: "Let's bring the lumber from behind, surround it with a huge wooden wall to prevent it from advancing easily!"

Hangeval laughed heartily and cooperated: "Makes sense! This reminds me of the old times when we captured giant beasts!"

Oh! Yeah, isn't Hangeval the expert in this? Birds of a feather! Da Fei frankly said, "Friend, actually, my goal is to trap it to death, then figure out a way to recruit it, do you have any ideas?"

Hangeval laughed loudly: "Friend! You're amazing! But recruiting isn't that easy, the stronger the creature, the less likely it is to submit. We need patience, we need to wear down its will, but trapping it first is always right, let's start with that and take it slow!"

Da Fei suddenly realized: "That's it! It's all on you now!"

Indeed! Recruiting a BOSS also involves another key element, which is time and patience! Brother's recruitment of the Forest Demon actually followed a certain method, in fact, I have been negotiating with her all day! Yes, when I asked her reasons to surrender, she had already explained to me—because of my Flower Demon reputation, my combat achievements, and giving her a day's time!

Hangeval laughed: "Alright! Watch our brothers do it, haven't performed our old skills for a long time, feeling itchy!" Then waved and shouted: "Brothers, we're going to completely capture this big guy, you know what to do?"

The dwarves laughed heartily: "We know! Our skills are still sharp!"

In a moment, the dwarves, skilled in their division of labor, in just a few minutes, managed to construct a crude but rugged wooden fence around the Earth Element.

But it was not over yet, the following reinforcement of support wood and strengthening stakes began hurriedly!

Looking at such an incredible construction, Da Fei completely viewed these dwarves in a new light! These dwarves indeed had talent, indeed capable of achieving great things, sincerely it wasn't a waste for me to spend a Divine Artifact branch and so much effort to protect you guys! Alright! I'll protect you all the way!

And just then, those old Mage heads also coughing and wheezing, tremblingly approached Da Fei.

Damn! Hadn't seen any action from you guys, turns out you're still alive! While Da Fei really wanted to courteously ask, "Gentlemen, you've been hit continuously, make sure to rest!" but now was the time to utilize every resource, couldn't let them go!

Da Fei then asked: "Masters, do you have any good ideas?"

Some old heads said: "Sir, we know the Elemental Dispelling Technique, although it definitely won't work on this level of Earth Element, it might still weaken its strength."

Another said: "Sir, we know the Sealing Skill, though, well, it can still limit it somewhat!"

Another group said: "We know the Stone Solidification Skill, can temporarily enhance the durability of buildings or facilities, we can definitely help!"

Da Fei happily exclaimed: "Great! Dear masters, I really feel apologetic making you suffer!"

The old heads coughed heavily, "As men, how could we watch Miss Elena struggle so hard..."

Ah choo! Still talking about being men, Da Fei almost spit out his drink!

Now, with the collective strategies, the Earth Element BOSS became a panicking beast trapped in a cage, wherever it rammed into, the Dwarves immediately transported lumber to reinforce that spot, the BOSS was completely unable to break out!

Da Fei's confidence soared unprecedentedly! Alright, what's left is just one thing, time and patience! I'll hang in there with you for a day, I don't believe you won't surrender!

Meanwhile, the poisonous fog in the bewildering forest gradually thinned, neither the Flower Demons nor Forest Demons could maintain their special skills for long, and ceasefires spontaneously occurred.

Very good, the biggest external factor affecting everyone's state had been eliminated, the situation was entirely in my hands.

With the fog clearing, the formation of hundreds of Flower Demons at the forest edge finally appeared in Little Fei's eyes, now they too were in a confused state, neither fighting nor backing down nor surrendering, of course, we can't rule out the possibility of them regrouping to fight again.

Battle is good, brother's only fear is that you wouldn't fight!

Now, Elena has finally recuperated and stands on a tall temporary stake, launching a lightning strike at the struggling beast in the cage, causing a staggering 5000 damage!

Da Fei couldn't help but exclaim: "Don't kill it!"

Elena laughed loudly: "Master, leave it to me, torturing criminals is what I love to do most! Submit or die? Foolish elemental creature, you should know, even if your divinity is shattered into pieces, it is still a fragment that can absorb power, your destiny is to become a part of the master's power, but you can choose how, hahaha..."

Da Fei is convinced! Speaking of which, isn't this the Dark Elf's special skill "Intimidation"? I remember Catherine, as a pirate, also possessed this skill. Back when I had just escaped from Desolate Island, and was nearing the coast of Elorin, I encountered that fleet of the Skyshattering Cannon and we wreaked havoc. Catherine used the intimidation skill to recruit many of their crew. This intimidation skill does come with a diplomatic effect!

Hahaha! Who would have thought, after many years, I've encountered this Skyshattering Cannon again. The clown from back then now has the capability to trick me and even dare to play the trickster in front of me! Alright, let me show you if this tiger can be bullied by you!

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At that moment, on the other side of the space. The recently transformed scene has redefined the area. The Skyshattering Thunder has already calmed the scenes of the Snow Mountain, Wilderness, Volcano, Desert, Thunder Valley, and Forest Lake, all still connected together.

Skyshattering Thunder said with relief: "Expert brother, once we've settled this area, the Dwarf Prince will definitely let me build a city here. With so many scenes, who knows how many hidden resources

there might be? Perhaps it holds all the resources in the world, then I will certainly invite your guild to develop them together, and we can make a contract through an online intermediary!"

Tianlan Star said solemnly: "The recent lightning and earthquakes made me feel that settling this area won't be so easy."

Skyshattering Thunder chuckled: "It might also be Da Fei encountering a powerful Boss and putting up a big fight. But the more Bosses he kills, the more he exhausts himself. It's like he's clearing the field for us, letting him struggle."

Tianlan Star chuckled: "Probably, Da Fei has been here so long he must be stirring up some major events."

Skyshattering Thunder added: "Right, Expert brother, that NPC named Vali said the volcano is too hot, unbearable if stayed too long, they might just run off if we don't manage them. Should we consider relocating our camp? That Forest Lake looks good."

Tianlan Star shook his head and smiled: "Don't you know the old saying, 'never enter a forest'?"

Skyshattering Thunder laughed: "We should give him a chance. If he keeps hiding, he might just find an exit and escape. I still have unfinished business here, not sure if we should pursue."

Tianlan Star chuckled: "That's what you said, don't blame me if anything happens!"

Skyshattering Thunder grinned knowingly: "No worries, I'll take full responsibility if anything goes wrong, it's just like snapping a photo, Expert brother, you must also be hoping he'd come find trouble quickly?"

Tianlan Star smiled faintly: "Yes, so I can finish work and rest sooner."

Skyshattering Thunder laughed: "Don't worry, Expert brother, I won't let your hard work go unrewarded. Just send your account number, I'll send some money to show my appreciation."

At this remark, the entire Star Command Center burst into laughter! Eternal Star's face darkened.

Bu Feiyan laughed out loud: "Oh! Little Lan also has times when he makes some extra money? Caught red-handed by the president!"

Old Jiang sighed: "Little Lan, this kind of thing, sneaking around is okay, but don't do it in front of everyone, especially not in front of the president?"

Tianlan Star was exceedingly embarrassed: "This, this, how could it be? Hahaha! Watch me refuse him!" He immediately said with righteous indignation to Skyshattering Thunder: "Please respect me, I'm not that kind of person!"

The command center roared with laughter.

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Time slipped by unnoticed, Elena's lightning occasionally struck the Earth Element in the cage, and Da Fei began a game of patience with the Earth Element. Da Fei believed that no matter what, in a test of patience with a life-threatened prisoner, he would never lose.

Da Fei also began to learn from his experiences, quickly assembling the Crossbow Cannon in his spare time. Twenty minutes of real-time passed, and the first Crossbow Cannon was assembled. Then, another twenty minutes passed, and another Crossbow Cannon was assembled.

Da Fei started to feel bored, sometimes glancing at the Flower Demon by the forest edge, sometimes at the Earth Element in the cage. Suddenly, Da Fei thought of the Radiant City again, wondering what the situation was like there now? Should he ask the Goddess? But it didn't seem right for him to keep asking others about his own city.

Just then, the long-awaited system prompt sounded with a ding-dong!

— System Prompt: Your enemy "Earth Altar Guardian" fears your military might and surrenders to you. Do you accept?

— System Prompt: You have successfully persuaded a powerful Leader-level creature to surrender, you've obtained information on Master-level Leadership Skill!

— System Prompt: You have successfully persuaded a powerful Leader-level creature to surrender, your Vice Hero Elena has obtained information on Master-level Leadership Skill!

Finally surrendered! And with information too! Da Fei laughed heartily! If the Earth Element has surrendered, can the Flower Demon be far behind?

— Accept!!!

Chapter 535: Comprehending Master-level Leadership Skill

— System Prompt: You accepted the surrender of the Earth Altar Guardian, and the Earth Altar Guardian joined your troops.

Da Fei laughed heartily, and all the dwarves cheered!

They finally surrendered! Recruiting the earth elementals wasn't the goal, just a tactic. With the surrender of the earth elementals, the Flower Demon Army was now completely isolated, and the balance of power between both sides shifted.

Now the objective conditions to recruit them were fully met, especially since Da Fei's Flower Demon reverence reputation was a huge advantage. As for the disadvantage, it was that Da Fei still couldn't determine if they truly had no way out. After all, their situation was slightly different from when the Forest Demon's home was burned.

Da Fei decided not to launch a strong attack for now, lest they be blasted away by a few bolts of lightning. He would continue to wait, keep shouting, and now the most needed thing was patience. Since he was waiting, the dwarves who were injured, poisoned, and fatigued in the last battle should seize this chance to rest. And these Flower Demons were so far from home; do they have any supplies? Fine, I'll wait you out for a day!

Now, my goal is not just to incorporate them, but also to use this valuable opportunity to advance my Leadership Skill to Grandmaster! So, this is how you push Leadership Skill to Grandmaster, huh?
Wahahaha! It can be done; with so many troops and the concept of the earth elemental as a Commander, it's only natural to absorb them all and not level up to Grandmaster? No justice otherwise!

Wait a minute! Suddenly, Da Fei recalled something. Why didn't I get any notification when I recruited the Forest Demons? Although at the time I didn't have Diplomacy Skill and only had Intermediate Leadership Skill, it would've been normal to be directly rewarded up to an advanced level after successfully recruiting, just like how I once achieved Crisis Management in the Nether Sea, which directly rewarded me to an advanced level. But as a result, there was no movement for me, and even Vice Hero Alina had no notification at all! She was the main force in recruiting! There's no reason for her not to get any notification, right?

Perhaps, there is only one possibility! Da Fei's eyebrows twitched, casting his gaze upon Hangeval. Although he was hit at the time and kept sleeping, was he really sleeping? If my waiting in the forest all day was also fighting the Forest Demons, was he actually fighting on the frontline of a dream battle?

Da Fei asked, "Friend, your Leadership Skill level must be very high, right?"

Hangeval laughed, "Did you figure that out already?"

Da Fei's heart raced with sudden realization!

Indeed! The recovery of the Forest Demons, he was the one who played the major role! Or rather, for this recruitment of the earth element, he also made a significant contribution; otherwise, this low-probability event of recruiting a BOSS, especially such a strong BOSS, would not have gone so smoothly with just me and Alina, both at Master-level! Otherwise, players all around the world would have learned Master-level Leadership Skill, and a group team-up to recruit BOSS would be incredibly thrilling, wouldn't it?

So, he is the unassuming heroic figure holding down the fort! Considering his former profession was helping princes capture god-level beasts everywhere, he must have mastered the skills to subdue bosses!

I see! That must be it!

Alright, now is the time to show my cards. I want to take this opportunity to praise you and fully win your allegiance! Damn, after I already rescued all of you from prison so long ago, when are you going to give the mission reward? What if his attribute truly is notorious, and he screws me over once we go out, then this game will be a real pain to play!

Da Fei quickly bowed and said, "Friend, without you, these two battles wouldn't have been so smooth, and we couldn't have recruited the opponent. I have to thank you!"

Hangeval laughed heartily, "Friend, the key is still your own strong capabilities, otherwise I would be powerless to help even if I wanted to! And without you, we'd still be in jail waiting to die! So you don't have to be so polite with us."

Not polite, huh? Fine, then I'll really be impolite then!

Da Fei chuckled, "I want to learn from you the secrets of advancing to Grandmaster-level Leadership Skill."

Hangeval pointed towards the Flower Demons outside the forest and laughed, "Friend, why do you even need to ask about that? However, if you do advance to Grandmaster-level, I can teach you a leadership skill that only Grandmasters can learn; it's not found in ordinary books!"

Oh my! Offering to teach hidden skills? That's a sign of outstanding favor! The praise was definitely worth it!

Da Fei immediately pulled out two bottles of beer, "A toast to our friendship!"

Hangeval shook his head with a smile, "Originally, I shouldn't drink for fear of causing trouble, but for our friendship, cheers!"

All the dwarves also shouted, "Big brother, we also want to toast to celebrate our friendship!"

Hangeval helplessly said, "Alright, Bazaar, just a sip for everyone!"

All the dwarves cheered.

Now, Da Fei further respected this dwarf hero. As a hero, to gain such unwavering loyalty from NPC subordinates, the hidden skills he taught must be extraordinary. Da Fei eagerly awaited advancing to Grandmaster-level.

After taking a sip, Hangeval shook his head and said, "We dwarves only drink when we're happy, and now this atmosphere is quite off-putting. How about this, let's drink and sing together, let the Flower Demon ladies outside feel the harmony, we actually don't want to be enemies with them!"

All the dwarves laughed, "It's our Lord who doesn't want to be enemies with the flower ladies!"

At that moment, the cheerful singing and hearty laughter echoed through the forest, sweeping away the tension and stern atmosphere from before.

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched! Was he demonstrating to me how to properly use diplomacy? Oh my, so it comes down to this kind of thing, huh? So, when recruiting in the future, I should bring along the band and circus I'm cultivating, banging drums and cymbals?

I see! Haha, wahahaha! You sing, you laugh! All thanks to you!

For now, Da Fei began to inspect the attributes of the newly recruited earth element. Like the Forest Demon Leader, after surrendering to the player, it was "punished by the gods" and lost its divinity, its massive size shrank from tree height to half of a tree height, allowing the forest to no longer block it entirely. Of course, a BOSS without divinity meant the Divine Artifact shards were useless on it.

—Earth Altar Guardian: Massive leader-level elemental life, Attack 60, Defense 85, Damage 55-115, Life Value 10500, Magic Resistance 75%, Attack Speed 8, Move Speed 14, Command Value 150, special skills: Earth Rebirth, Catapult Attack, Attack Rebound, Master-level Defense Skill, Dazing Strike, Crushing Attack, horizontal slash.

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Da Fei's eyelid twitched! Even though being systemically weakened, this earth elemental's over ten thousand Life Value was still glaringly strong! For a BOSS of the same scene, its attributes were far superior to the Forest Demon Leader with an extra thousand Life!

Of course, it isn't comprehensive to evaluate a troop's combat power solely by attributes; the key is also to consider special skills. Moreover, the inconvenient thing about elemental life is they can't be healed by magic; they can't be resurrected by magic post-battle, nor can they enjoy magic buff effects (though they're also not affected by negative magic debuffs). So, their attributes being far superior to life forms of the same level is quite normal.

Da Fei hurried to view its first special skill:

—Earth Rebirth: This life form regains 1% of its Life per second while standing on the earth.

Oh my gosh! With its total blood volume of ten thousand, it regains 100 Life every second! Coupled with its high defense, Master-level Defense Skill, and the earth element's trademark skill Attack Rebound, it's definitely not something that low-level soldiers can besiege. Even after being weakened, it recovers 100 Life every second, what level of strength was it at before weakening? Da Fei couldn't help but be grateful for not rashly attacking this giant creature.

—Catapult Attack: This life form can improvise with large stones on gravel barren land, mountains, city ruins, mines, and other terrains to launch ultra-long-range attacks. Attack attributes are equal to those of a catapult with Advanced War Machine Technology, and no longer enjoy Heroic Archery and War Machine Science increments.

Da Fei's eyelid jumped in surprise! Hell! It turns out to be a mobile siege car! Move Speed 15, and a catapult that requires no assembly. I really stumbled upon a treasure! It was fortunate that the battle took place in a forest, or else I would have been smashed with multiple head bumps!

Da Fei let out a long sigh of relief, this BOSS was truly worth the effort in capturing it. However, as precious as it was, figuring out how to protect it was an important issue.

Though it was almost impervious to physical damage under my defensive bonuses, it was still vulnerable to spells! For example, Alina's lightning struck it for 5000 earlier. In a large-scale battlefield, with its large

size and conspicuous presence, if the opponent concentrated the power of hundreds of magic troops to blast it in one go, I wouldn't even be able to cry when the time came!

Therefore, it was necessary to equip it with a large number of earth elemental minions, and have them share a tactical position with it to absorb spell damage. But, the trouble was recruiting elemental buildings was tricky, seemingly out of reach for players at this stage.

In any case, if there's a chance, I'll buy them or trade with equipment if possible.

Time unknowingly passed, and the dwarves' singing showed no sign of fatigue, and what was supposed to come, finally came! The system notification sound chimed!

—System Prompt: The troops of the Grassland Guardian admire you greatly and wish to join your team, do you accept?

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You successfully subdued the powerful leader life form Grassland Guardian and its army, your Leadership Skill successfully advanced to Grandmaster-level!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Hero Alina's Leadership Skill successfully advanced to Grandmaster-level!

Oh yes! This is the moment I've been waiting for! Accept!!!

—System Prompt: The Grassland Guardian's army of 200 Elite Flower Demons has joined your team!

—System Prompt: Battle over! You've won the battle! You gained 4 million Experience!

And just then, a familiar upgrade golden light descended from the sky!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You've successfully leveled up to 41! You gained 1 attribute point, 1 Free Skill Point, 1 free attribute point from Master-level Navigator profession bonus, 1 Attack bonus from Ranger profession, 1 Attack bonus from Primary Sentinel Profession...

At the same time, Alina was also shining with golden light, skyrocketing in levels like a rocket!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Hero Alina leveled up to level 11...

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your Vice Hero Alina leveled up to level 12...

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Da Fei breathed a sigh of relief, the long 1 vs. 4 battle, finally ended! Hahaha, wahahahaha...

Chapter 536: Now to Deal with the Skyshattering Thunder

The long battle finally ended, and all the dwarf mages burst into enthusiastic cheers. Da Fei finally managed to comprehend the Master-level Leadership Skill. Normally, the sub-skill of Master-level Leadership Skill in textbooks is "Coordinated Combat."

—Coordinated Combat: When mixing troops from the same camp or with neutral camps, the Morale of the troops does not decrease. When mixing troops with an enemy camp, the decrease in Morale is minimized.

In the game, when players mix troops from different races, the Morale drops. The more mixed troops, the greater the drop. Once troops from an enemy camp are included, the Morale drops even more significantly, often into negative numbers.

Morale is very important, and the most direct manifestation is the combination skill of Leadership Skill and Attack Skill, "Morale Strike."

—Morale Strike: For every point our army's Morale is higher than the enemy's, the total damage increases by 5%, up to 50%, which means the maximum Morale difference between both parties is 10 points.

This means that if a troop with negative Morale in a motley army is hit by a high-Morale enemy troop, the pain is intense. If a troop's Morale suddenly peaks, like with Luck Skill where a rainbow light appears overhead, with a golden flying eagle overhead, the troop's Morale becomes infinitely high, directly increasing damage by 50% regardless of the opponent's Morale!

This is why Leadership Skill is a core compulsory skill for non-undead players. It's not just about bringing more troops; it's equivalent to having an additional Master-level Attack Skill.

Now, Da Fei's biggest problem is the motley army! Da Fei's banshee and flower demon, elf archer, and druid are all from enemy camps, and Da Fei, being a human hero, doesn't fit well with either side, further lowering Morale. If the team is highly mixed, the banshee's Morale will definitely drop into negative, and it must be pulled up by the hero's Leadership Skill.

So "Coordinated Combat" is definitely a compulsory skill for Da Fei. With this skill, Da Fei can truly feel at ease to continue down the path of the motley army.

Of course, the motley army is not Da Fei's pursuit; it's just that Da Fei's development has never focused on legion battles. After reaching this stage, Da Fei suddenly awkwardly finds that there's no turning back. So, Da Fei's development model looks very awkward and lacks potential in the eyes of professionals in Star and Ninth Heaven.

As for now, Da Fei couldn't wait to know what the hidden Master-level skill Hangeval wanted to teach was.

At this moment, Hangeval laughed heartily as he approached Da Fei: "Friend, you're truly amazing! I'm very pleased to pass my ultimate skill onto you!"

Finishing speaking, he patted Da Fei on the shoulder. Just then, a golden stream of light flowed from his arm onto Da Fei!

— System Prompt: Congratulations! Dwarf Hero Hangeval taught you the hidden sub-skill of Master-level Leadership Skill "War Intimidation"!

— War Intimidation: In battle, there's a certain chance the enemy's troops will be intimidated, hesitate, or even directly flee, surrender, and turn their coat. The skill's effect depends on the comparison of both sides' forces, Morale, and Leadership Skill level. Prerequisite for learning: possession of Master-level Diplomacy Skill.

Da Fei was startled and his eyelid twitched. Is this an enhanced mutant skill of the Diplomacy Skill? Is this the reason he can subdue so many giant beasts? Holy crap! Isn't this intimidation and hesitation the effect of a giant dragon's Dragon Power? As for surrendering, isn't this the legendary "God-level Teammate" ability that the orcs' Level 1 Goblin possess? Just hit them hard enough, and some goblins will switch sides on the spot!

Hahahaha, divine skill! This is truly a divine skill! Now that I have this skill, I will bring Deirdre, who learned Negotiation Expert, along with my artillery, Elena—

Right, thinking of Elena also being a Grandmaster, Da Fei shamelessly smiled: "Brother, saying thank you is too formal since you've already passed it on to me. Could you also pass it on to my Elena?"

Elena sighed slightly: "Master, he used his Inheritance Power to transfer the skill to you. After you learned it, he no longer has the skill himself."

Inheritance Power! Da Fei's heart tightened. Generally, isn't Inheritance Power only owned by old NPC heroes who are about to die? Like the old spider I killed in the Pool of Radiance back in the day.

Hangeval laughed heartily: "This skill is the insight and understanding I gained over many years of capturing beasts; it can't be taught in other ways, and now I can't do this job anymore, so I'll hand it over to you to carry it forward!"

So that's how it is! Da Fei laughed heartily: "Rest assured, brother, I will certainly not disgrace this skill!"

At this time, Hangeval yawned broadly and, looking weary, said: "Alright, brother, I'm very tired now, keep an eye out for the pursuit and call me when the time is right." He finished speaking, lay directly to the ground, and fell into a deep sleep.

Da Fei was suddenly stunned. Sleeping again after a whole day of sleep? Is this a symptom after using Inheritance Power? Alright! You sleep slowly; let me first look at my newly recruited flower demons.

The flower demons were re-purposing themselves, but still on standby outside the forest.

However, when Da Fei appeared, the flower demons' leader, the Grassland Guardian, flew respectfully in front of Da Fei: "Master, I sincerely apologize for my offense. From now on, I will strive to serve you well!"

Da Fei laughed heartily: "Good! Very good!"

Da Fei began to examine the attributes of these flower demons:

—Grassland Guardian: Flower Demon, small-sized Leader-level Spiritual Creature, Attack 25, Defense 22, Damage 21-29, Life 1100, Mana 300, Attack Speed 13, Command Value 30, Magic Resistance 75%, Stamina 150, Special Skill: Special Skill: Flying Creature, Daily Production, Grassland Concealment, Flower Pollen Poison Fog, Flower Pollen Strike, Pollen Collector.

—Grassland Flower Demon: Small-sized Spiritual Elite Unit, Attack 19, Defense 15, Damage 9-19, Life 110, Mana 100, Attack Speed 13, Command Value 3, Magic Resistance 75%, Stamina 100, Special Skills (same as above).

Da Fei chuckled with joy!

These attributes really make them sisters in distress with the forest demons! But upon closer thought, for a flower demon with 2-point Life and 1-2 Damage to grow into such a form is truly astonishing. Most importantly, they still possess the outstanding quality of flower demons, "Daily Production," characterized by diligence and hard work! Great, I like it!

No matter what kind of troop, as long as it has the ability to produce, it qualifies to be part of the populace. So if Lord Players have a population problem without enough NPC citizens, they can recruit Level 0 troops to fill the ranks. Of course, Level 0 troops in the population do not contribute to various city indicators. Instead, due to the increase in city population, the indicators may actually decline.

After all, a city with only 100 people can easily achieve dual 100 scores on cultural and health ratings by building one large school and one hospital. But once the population soars to 10,000, just one school and hospital are definitely insufficient, and the scores will naturally be dragged down by the huge population base.

Huh? Wait a minute! At this moment, Da Fei was suddenly surprised to find their Command Values were different; the Command Values of 30 and 3 flashed green! Such a low Command Value requirement for elite troops! Da Fei had only encountered this with the fishman Boss before, but his was flashing red. Da Fei hastily clicked to view the Command Value.

—System Prompt: You hold a high reputation among the flower demon race. The flower demons willingly accept your leadership, and you have obtained a Command Value reduction bonus.

Da Fei finally understood! Having a high race reputation lowers the Command Power required to lead troops, allowing for more high-level troops from that race! So that's it! My reputation with the Vine Demon Tribe is also revered, meaning my Command Power for vine demons will also be favored! Hahaha, I like it!

Da Fei continued to view their special skills:

—Grassland Concealment: Grassland flower demons can hide and conceal themselves in the otherworldly plains terrain, making it hard to detect them.

—Flower Pollen Poison Fog: Grassland flower demons can create large-scale pollen poison fogs to weaken and paralyze enemies. This skill can be used in a concealed state.

Not bad, not bad! These skills are insidious and cunning, and I have just experienced them firsthand.

—Pollen Collector: The pollen collected by grassland flower demons is both a rare ingredient and a valuable herbal medicine. Each grassland flower demon can carry up to 10 portions of pollen.

Collecting pollen? Da Fei's eyebrow twitched. They have supplies like the forest demons? Da Fei hurriedly asked, "Where's your pollen?"

The Grassland Guardian replied softly: "Master, it's in the homeland we once guarded, but now we don't know where our homeland is."

Just like the forest demons! Da Fei nodded, "I see, no need to worry! Alright, everyone, rest in the forest, I'll treat you to Forest Spring!"

"Thank you, Master!"

Now Da Fei realized how rich in content this map was. Both forest and flower demons have goods, so what about the earth elements?

Da Fei then led the flower demons back to the forest to rest and directly inquired to the earth elements, "Is there any good stuff at your place, should we take it along?"

The earth elements responded, "Buzz... buzz... buzz buzz buzz..."

Holy crap! You're awesome!

Alright, since even the Forest Spring can't be taken away, it's useless asking for further treasures. Seeing his goal was to develop here, Da Fei felt even more uneasy! With everything here as it is, who knows how many good contents are here, how could they be at your convenience?

Okay! Now that my hands are free, the next target is to clear you!

The Blood Eagle soared into the sky again, heading for the volcano. At this time, the Skyshattering Thunder's convoy was nowhere to be seen at the foot of the volcano. Huh? Where did they go for conquest again? There's no reason! The volcano is a good base for healing magma dragons, why abandon it?

The Blood Eagle circled around and soon found the target at Forest Lake, where the unicorns were killed. His convoy was by the lakeside, with those prison guard NPCs guarding and snoozing by the convoy!

Da Fei's eyebrow twitched! Damn it! This is actually quite cooperative! If they were still on the volcano, I wouldn't know how to make a move, but now they're lying directly in the woods, should I use the flower and forest demons' double poison fogs to wipe you all out?

This is your own doing, don't blame me! Hahaha!

But there's a big problem—reaching the Forest Lake scene requires traversing several scenes, and having witnessed the power of these scene bosses, even the weakest flower demon boss is extremely cunning. How can Da Fei confidently pass safely? Moreover, this battle might not see my involvement; it will be up to the NPC heroes, who will surely fight when encountering monsters, leading to inevitable casualties. If the commotion is large, it may alert the opponent and fail!

Perhaps the safest method is to continue waiting for the scene to refresh until my forest adjoins their forest.

The probability of this isn't low, because I've helped Skyshattering Thunder settle 6 scenes already, which connect into a piece making the territory not small. As long as my forest adjoins any of those scenes, I can move on!

And there's another advantage—Skyshattering Thunder might not know the monsters here can actually be resurrected, and I might use the function of the Divine Artifact Fragment to summon monsters to trouble his main force. Surprise!

Yep, great! Use the Blood Eagle to lure the monsters. The more Da Fei thought, the more feasible it seemed. However, there was something still not reliable, which was time!

My initial plan was to quickly rescue the Dark Elf hero and return to Radiant City immediately, but now delays have added a couple of days. Who knows how long waiting for a scene refresh will take?

Da Fei reopened the friend list; perhaps, I should have a deeper conversation with the Goddess. Relationships between people require mutual help and care; when asking for help, one must be brave enough to open one's mouth!

You know, between people, there must be some basic trust. When you need help, you have to have the courage to ask for it. Although last time my request to borrow money was turned down by the "proxy player," it's understandable. If someone else asked me to lend them money, I'd also turn them down with "proxy player." But helping to defend the city benefits everyone and is for the prosperous and powerful development of the Elf Kingdom. Not helping would be completely unreasonable, right?

So, Da Fei sent a message to the Goddess: "Goddess, I have something important to ask for your help with!"

After a while, Bu Feiyan replied: "Oh, Brother Fei, what's the matter?"

Da Fei chuckled and said: "Well, I wonder how the situation is at Radiant City now? I'm very concerned about it, and I hope your Guild can help with the defense. Although my Vice Hero has quite a temper, they're just an NPC, so please don't hold it against them."

Bu Feiyan laughed and said: "That's strange, aren't you the City Lord? The City Lord doesn't come back to guard the city after being away for so long, and you still expect others to do their best?"

Da Fei hurriedly said: "That's not true! I'm out there raising money for the defense, heroes face desperate situations for money!"

Bu Feiyan laughed and said: "Have you raised the money yet?"

Da Fei sighed and said: "It's difficult, I've hit a huge snag! In short, I won't be able to come back for a while, so I have to ask you guys for help."

Bu Feiyan sighed and said: "We're also having a tough time with city defense! In short, it's not something that can be explained in a word or two, so we each have to do what we can. Brother Fei, you really shouldn't have too high expectations."

Da Fei felt a tightness in his heart and asked anxiously: "Is the enemy attack fierce?"

Bu Feiyan sighed and said: "Storm clouds gathering in the city!"

Da Fei urgently said: "What about our Kingdom's NPCs? My city is a strategic location, and the Kingdom owns half of it. They can't just stand by and do nothing, right?"

Bu Feiyan sighed and said: "Of course, they won't ignore it, but the disadvantage with our teleportation troops is clear, this battle is tough."

Da Fei's eyelid twitched, and he gritted his teeth, saying: "No worries, Radiant City's double level 10 walls plus the moat, and the Guard Towers I amassed a huge debt to build. If the enemy dares to come from the sky, they'll die in the sky! And if they come from the water, they won't even leave a scrap behind. That's why I'm daring to go out and raise funds, so you guys should be fine!"

Bu Feiyan laughed loudly and said: "But you're still not at ease, otherwise why say so much to me?"

Da Fei chuckled and said: "Humans, we all have our moments of unease, so I'm counting on you."

Bu Feiyan chuckled and said: "Well, in case we can't hold it, Brother Fei, don't scold us. After all, there's the Dragon Slayer on the other side. If you want to scold someone, scold them."

Da Fei hurriedly said: "That's right, that's right, thank you in advance!"

Ending the conversation with the Goddess, Da Fei felt utterly restless! The issue is, what's the use of being anxious myself? Should I just drop everything and fly back from the Dwarven place? Fly where? The return point of the Legion Return Scroll from the mission given by the Second Prince is his estate, which must be in the Dwarf Kingdom! How many in-game days would it take for my troops to be transported from the Dwarf Kingdom to the Elf Kingdom Capital? At least a month, right?

Even if the Prince is generous enough to let me use the Military Teleportation Array to directly transport my troops to the Elf Capital, the teleportation capacity of Radiant City's array is only 500 Command Value per day. My troops would have to be divided into three groups, taking three days to fully garrison!

And if the situation becomes so critical that even the Elf Kingdom's NPC troops can't hold it, what difference could my forces make? How much difference could my presence make? Rely on the hidden Elena to blast enemies with Thunderstorm?

Da Fei couldn't help but let out a long sigh! Life, sometimes it's just so tangled! Of course, the biggest tangle isn't actually my worry about being unable to defend, but rather that if the NPCs screw up and replace the City Lord again, that would be the most absurd!

If Star is eyeing the City Lord position, what trust can there be between people? Then I can only trust the NPCs, and trust Anlicia! That's right, you're the Deputy City Lord with connections, background, and God-level Magic. You can do it! I believe in you!

Star Command Center was in stitches at the conversation between Da Fei and Bu Feiyan.

Eternal Star seldom showed a satisfied smile: "He finally knows he's in big trouble? Can his trouble get any bigger?"

Tianlan Star laughed: "Perhaps those lightning and earthquakes at that time were his work, but maybe his ambitions were too big, and now he can't handle it."

Eternal Star smiled faintly: "This is the common problem of ordinary players, especially solo players. Development is either at their whim or with unclear goals. There's always a time to stumble."

Bu Feiyan sighed: "But if he takes a fall, who knows how he'll curse me into oblivion."

Eternal Star asked in surprise: "What's it got to do with you?"

Bu Feiyan gave a wry smile: "I'm the only Star Team member on his friends list. Who else would he vent on if not me?"

Old Jiang chuckled and said: "What's there to worry about? If it were someone else cursing, maybe, but Da Fei daring to curse, who would believe him?"

Everyone laughed and agreed: "Exactly! At that time, players throughout the China Region could drown him in their spit!"

Radiant City.

Though it was all fun and laughter in the command center, the game IDs of Eternal Star and the rest of the Star Team were diligently standing guard on the city walls.

"Splash!" Another sound of water as another giant Slime Monster emerged from the sewer exit. Eternal Star's eyebrows twitched in response.

Looking at the countless Slime Monsters surrounding the city's waters and the terrifyingly massive rotating vortex in the outer waters, Eternal Star's greed grew increasingly uncontrollable. This must be Da Fei's tool for controlling the pollution, right? I must say, even as a regular player, having so many goodies that make me envious is quite something! By any means necessary, Da Fei must be brought down!

Just then, Eternal Star's message alert went off. It was an old acquaintance from the other side!

Ma Yinglong laughed and said: "Brother Long, this doesn't quite seem like you!"

Eternal Star, not in a good mood, said: "You handle your task, I'll handle mine, what now?"

Ma Yinglong sighed and said: "I asked you a pointless question that day, but now it seems to make sense. So many of you guarding the city, who are you working for?"

Eternal Star laughed heartily and said: "Working for the Kingdom's NPC Deputy City Lord, any issue with that?"

Ma Yinglong laughed and said in surprise: "That's how you see it? But that's Da Fei's Vice Hero! Would a man's wife really turn against him?"

Eternal Star grumbled: "Haven't I seen enough wives turning against their husbands? I say, you always seem to have information sources, don't you?"

Ma Yinglong shook his head and laughed: "Alright, alright! Are you ready? We're about to start fighting, bring over your so-called invincible Star Annihilation Team. Let's all hang a couple of levels as a warm-up!"

"Who's afraid of you?"

Eternal Star couldn't help but look up, only to see a flickering glow in the sky and felt a chill in his heart. He urgently ordered from the command center: "Third Main Force Group, assemble and get in position! Fourth Main Force Group, stand by outside the square teleportation array!"

In an instant, the Radiant City teleportation array flared up with light, and hundreds of Star Guild members, without troops, appeared simultaneously!

"Group One and Two, guard at the Bell Tower construction site!"

"Group Three, guard the sewer entrance. Groups Four and Five, guard the Treasury construction site!"

"Groups Six and Seven, roam the streets!"

As soon as the order was given, each group hurried to their posts.

Just then, Miss Deputy City Lord Anlicia signaled to Eternal Star from the wall. Eternal Star, Old Jiang, and Bu Feiyan immediately climbed up.

Anlicia pointed to the sky above Radiant City and said coldly: "There's a large spider suspended up there, the Execution Officer Nakasha from the other side. Soon countless little spiders and Filthy Demons will descend from the sky. I'll hand over the ten Magic Watchtowers on the wall and all the Arrow Towers to you for command. These are tools for earning Merits through killing enemies, so make the most of this opportunity!"

Eternal Star chuckled. Isn't this exactly what it means to turn against your own? Eternal Star said joyfully: "Please rest assured, Miss Deputy City Lord!"

Anlicia nodded: "There's nothing more to say now, just kill more enemies!"

With that, she jumped off the wall and headed to the large ship at the pier. At this moment, the entire ship was resplendently lit, densely packed with thousands of Flower Demons gathered from all over the city! Da Fei's Vice Heroes who stayed behind were also on that ship.

It must be said, Da Fei's ship truly was the city within a city, the ultimate fortress. As for us players, we were all cannon fodder!

There they were! The sky above Radiant City manifested several enormous floating Demonic Beasts resembling deep-sea manta rays! Of course, the experienced Star Team couldn't mistake these infamous Demon Race "Space Transports"—Astaroths! Ranked 29th among the 72 Demon Gods, the offsprings and descendants of Astaroth, the Demon God proficient in space-time travel. Their giant mouths contained built-in Hell Space Gates. As soon as they opened their mouths, countless demonic creatures would pour out from the other end of the Hell Gate.

Eternal Star coldly smiled: "What a grand display, the Demon Race really is going all out!"

Old Jiang couldn't help but be amazed: "This is high-tech usually kept dormant. Activating it once probably consumes unimaginable resources!"

Bu Feiyan exclaimed: "Starting the airdrop from such a height, aren't they afraid of breaking the troops into pieces?"

Eternal Star rubbed his own head: "I'm more worried about whatever they drop smashing me to bits!"

At that moment, Eternal Star's message alert went off again. Of course, it was Ma Yinglong once more.

Ma Yinglong laughed and said: "Don't worry, this is just a warm-up, scared yet?"

Eternal Star snorted coldly: "You just came to talk nonsense?"

Ma Yinglong laughed and said: "Of course not, I want to ask Brother Long if I can share your video view, let me watch a movie. Brother Long won't be so stingy, right?"

Eternal Star laughed heartily: "Of course, so many monsters are delivering experience to me. I can't be happier, sharing the joy is even better!"

Ma Yinglong laughed and said: "That's Brother Long for you!"

Now, a muffled howl resounded through the Underground Space, as the enormous Demonic Beasts opened their giant mouths, revealing shimmering Space Gate throats, from which countless black dots poured out like a torrential black snow!

The siege on Radiant City officially began!

The command orders from the Star Team echoed through the city: "Everyone ready!!!"

Eternal Star coldly smiled: "I love little rascal creatures!" Eternal Star focused all the Magic Watchtower firepower into a network aimed at the sky. As soon as anything came within range, they'd get a kick out of blasting it!

Close! Getting closer! Fire!

Ten beams intertwined like ten searchlights—Boom Boom Boom Boom Boom!!! The moment the beams hit, explosions followed, turning the sky into a dazzling mesh of fireworks!

The city was awash with exclamations, and even Ma Yinglong, who was watching the live stream, couldn't help but gasp: "Brother Long, your explosions are spectacular! Except for their only flaw of being all show and no substance, it's truly a Divine Artifact!"

Watching the vast swarm of flying insect creatures breaking through the firepower web, Eternal Star smiled faintly: "You always have to leave some experience for the ground troops, right?"

Ma Yinglong laughed and said: "Indeed, indeed!"

At this moment, a whirlwind rose to the sky, and the descending insects scattered like snow caught in a storm, losing balance. Some fell like hailstones, crashing to the ground in a gore-spattered mess. Others veered off course and plunged into the lake, becoming targets for the Slime Monsters. A few surviving ones that reached the ground quickly became experience points for the ground troops!

At that instant, Ma Yinglong was stunned! Eternal Star was left speechless, gazing at the source of the whirlwind—the golden-haired nun on Da Fei's ship, wielding an unknown Magic Wand!

Chapter 538: We're in the City, Brother Fei Rest Assured

Radiant City, howling winds, swarms of Demon Worms flapping in the rampage of the gusts, withering and falling.

Amidst the fierce winds, time seemed to freeze into eternity, one second, two seconds... ten seconds... twenty seconds... thirty seconds...

On the ground of Radiant City, the shattered demon corpses piled up into a bloody muck, and Star's ground team members scurried through this ankle-deep sludge in pursuit of their enemies!

A flash of gold on the big ship, and the little blonde Nun leveled up!

Only then did Ma Yinglong snap back to his senses, his face filled with incredulity as he exclaimed, "Hey hey hey! She's been blowing for half a minute now, right? That's at least a few thousand Mana, right? Where did she get so much Mana from?"

While seeing Ma Yinglong make a fool of himself was a very happy thing, at this moment, Eternal Star was unable to feel happy no matter what!

Eternal Star said woodenly, "Ate that thing, just can't stop!"

Ma Yinglong chuckled bitterly, "I heard last night that Da Fei's Vice Hero could blow ships, I thought it was just bragging, now I see it's genuinely awesome."

Eternal Star chuckled, "I'm saying, after all that blowing, I'm afraid that at least ten or twenty thousand have died, right? You guys still want to continue air-dropping?"

Ma Yinglong sighed, "Once the big mouth starts, it just can't stop indeed!"

Eternal Star laughed heartily, "Fine, then we'll happily accept the Experience Boss Ma sent our way!"

Ma Yinglong laughed, "You wish, the bulk of the Experience and Merit was all snatched by Da Fei, you're just a janitor cleaning up the streets afterward, hahaha!"

Finally, Eternal Star exploded, immediately turning off the video, "Too much nonsense and too noisy, I won't let you watch the movie!"

Ma Yinglong hastily said, "Hey hey hey! Brother Long... haha!"

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A minute later, the rain of insects in the sky finally ceased, those few giant Trolls shrouded in black smoke finally slowly closed their huge mouths and then faded, vanishing from sight.

The battle is over! The troops throughout the city erupted into victorious cheers!

Anlicia excitedly grabbed the little blonde Nun and smothered her with kisses, laughing wildly, "Miss Selvia, you are so amazing! Truly remarkable!"

Selvia disgust shaking her off, desperately wiping her kissed cheeks with her sleeve, and shouted angrily, "Saliva! Put me down! I'm going to scream harassment!"

Anlicia gently set her down, cooing with a flirty smile, "Miss Selvia, to express our gratitude, is there anything that this Vice City Lord can help with?"

Selvia replied coolly, "I would ask our Vice City Lord to be more composed, it was but a probing attack, no need to lose oneself over it!"

Anlicia coughed dryly and chuckled, "Still, this is the first victory since this Vice City Lord took office, and the Kingdom is watching, it's quite significant!"

Selvia replied coldly, "Significance? Can you eat it?"

Anlicia laughed, "What do you think? With the Vice City Lord's inaugural victory, the Kingdom's confidence in me will soar, they'll give me whatever I ask for after this."

Selvia snorted and said no more.

Deirdre, however, chuckled, "Vice City Lord, actually, Miss Selvia has always wanted to equip a set for the Artillery Emperor Army on the ship—"

Selvia immediately interrupted, "Shut up, shut up! Don't say it!"

Anlicia burst into laughter, "Such a small matter, why be so formal with this Vice City Lord? Easy, too easy! Rest assured, Miss Selvia!"

Meanwhile, at Star Command Center, all members were solemn.

Although they won the first battle, no one felt like celebrating. That's right, if one didn't earn more Merit than Da Fei's Vice Hero, then everyone would indeed be what Ma Yinglong called, Da Fei's underlings.

But Eternal Star still had the greatest hope, he grimly said, "Tianlan Star, do everything you can to capture Da Fei."

This was serious, and Tianlan Star broke into a cold sweat, "Understood!"

Bu Feiyan then asked, "President, what if Da Fei escapes?"

Eternal Star's face darkened. Indeed, as the head of a professional team, this question couldn't have been overlooked. In fact, before learning that Da Fei was wanted, he had considered what to do if he couldn't squeeze out Da Fei, the City Lord.

If you can't squeeze them out, work together!

Any mature team organization couldn't possibly have a fight to the death every time, like Star and Dragon Slayer, there's competition, as well as cooperation. But that's only with Dragon Slayer, and only someone as significant as Dragon Slayer had the qualifications to work with themselves. But what was Da Fei? Just an individual player, a nouveau riche trash who rose through cheating and deceiving! Working with him would directly tarnish the image and grade of Star.

So, the thing Eternal Star least wanted to think about was the issue of cooperating with Da Fei. But the World Tree is related to the foundation of the Elf Kingdom, to the very foundation of Star, and Star had no choice but to help, whether willing or unwilling. Could Eternal Star really abandon everything in a fit of rage, and let his vast enterprise be buried alongside an ordinary player like Da Fei? Ma Yinglong mockingly called himself a wage earner for Da Fei, wasn't this a wicked hope that Star wouldn't take action?

It's very complex, extremely complex!

With a long sigh, Eternal Star said, "Little Deng, please reply to Da Fei or just send him a few pictures of the city's great victory, tell him that with us here, the city is fine, let him rest assured!"

— Ah pfft! Bu Feiyan almost couldn't hold back her laughter: "Got it, I'm going to take pictures now!"

Eternal Star helplessly looked at Old Jiang beside him and sighed, "If you guys want to laugh, then laugh!"

For a moment, the whole command center burst into laughter.

Indeed, "Letting Da Fei rest assured" is Eternal Star's ultimate skill in being a person as well as a ghost. If Da Fei really rests assured, he would not take desperate actions to escape, creating more favorable conditions for Tianlan Star to succeed. That's playing the ghost. If Da Fei ultimately runs away and Eternal Star's plans fail, but Star has helped him defend the city, what more could he ask for? That's playing the person.

...

Meanwhile, in the Divine Domain Space.

Da Fei, anxiously waiting for the scene to refresh, suddenly received a message. Da Fei quickly opened it—it's the Goddess!

Bu Feiyan laughed and said: "Brother Fei! Just now, the Demon Race suddenly launched a surprise airborne attack on us, but Brother Fei's beautiful Vice Hero showed great prowess, easily defending the city. Do you want to see the video?"

Da Fei, thrilled, nodded over and over: "I want to see, I want to see! Thank you, Goddess!"

"Receive it!"

"Okay, okay!"

The video was short, about a minute, but from the first second of the video, Da Fei was stunned by the imposing drop-in of the Demon Race! How many soldiers would it take to defend against that? Then Da Fei saw Selvia's endless hurricane!

In that moment, Da Fei was moved to tears! My dear Selvia, all the care I've given you wasn't in vain! In that brief minute, Selvia gained two levels, which means the rest of my darlings should at least rake in one level of experience, right?

Ha ha! Wahaha! Da Fei laughed until he peed, peeing from beginning to end for a minute! Life truly has its own delights, it's not about personally defeating a god or recruiting a BOSS to feel awesome, watching your beloved ones manage on their own is equally thrilling!

Bu Feiyan sent another picture: "Brother Fei, look at your streets, what a mess! Our team members are helping you clean it up, alright? It's all for the Kingdom, for the Alliance, so you don't have to thank us!"

Haha! Wahaha, Star has so many good people!

Da Fei exclaimed excitedly: "What are you saying, Goddess? I am truly grateful! Once I've recovered, I must show my appreciation."

Bu Feiyan laughed: "Oh my, how could we possibly accept that? Alright, we still have tasks here. Anyway, Brother Fei, take your time raising funds. With us here, you don't have to worry."

An elite professional team's one soldier could be worth ten ordinary players, what could I possibly worry about! Da Fei said emotionally: "Thank you! Thank you so much!"

After ending the conversation with the Goddess, Da Fei felt incredibly relieved and confident! The Demon Race's pollution didn't work, the water assault didn't work, even the airborne attack didn't work; what other tricks do they have? My Radiant City is solid as a rock! So, still unsatisfied, he watched the defense video a few more times, laughing foolishly each time.

Great! So great, now that I have no worries, Skyshattering Thunder, I can focus on dealing with you!

...

On the shores of the Pool of Radiance, at the Demon Camp square.

Amidst the rising blood fog, the Execution Officer Nakasha returned from the battlefield. Lei Huolong and others immediately approached with respectful greetings.

However, not knowing what to say, the atmosphere was solemn for a moment.

Nakasha said in a heavy tone: "Although this attack failed, we also successfully gauged the strength of the Elves, which is very strong! Actually, this is not a bad thing for us, because Lord Demon King has no patience or interest in weak enemies. If we cannot defeat a weak enemy after a prolonged siege, we could not bear the wrath of the Demon King. But now the situation is different, the death of Military Governor Agarlon and the failure of Astaroth's drop-in have brought us to the serious attention of the Demon King, meaning we can gain more authority, more power!"

Lei Huolong was convinced! This great spider always managed to see the bright side out of bad situations, indisputable indeed. Speaking of which, if Boss Ma was also like him, how pleasant that would be.

Lei Huolong busily replied: "Sir, your words are sensible."

Nakasha added: "Given that the enemy's strength is greater than anticipated, then the situation on the main battlefield will likely be at a stalemate for a long time. Therefore, we should play to the Hell Race's advantage of surprise by attacking from the flanks!"

Lei Huolong exclaimed: "The flank?"

Nakasha said in a deep voice: "Exactly! That is to invade the World Tree Space! Before my appointment, I visited the Ancient Tree Space opened by the former Execution Officer Siriel, and there I noticed the Elves' activities and sensed unstable rifts in the space. This is our best opportunity to invade the World Tree Space. Therefore, I will request the Demon King for a space expert to come decipher it, and you must be ready to embark, your mission will be to scout the route for our invasion forces and even clear the obstacles!"

— System Prompt: Execution Officer Nakasha has issued you the task "Invade the World Tree Space"!

— Task Hint: The World Tree connects multiple spaces; each is an essential component of the World Tree, defended by Elf Armies and powerful native creatures.

Chapter 539: The Time to Receive the Convoy Has Arrived

Divine Domain Space, Da Fei waited in a relaxed and unhurried manner for the scene to refresh. After an exhilarating battle, the dwarves also stretched their limbs in the woods. Even the trembling old Mage guys were starting to regain their spirits.

Da Fei wasn't idle either. He first added Elena's attribute points. She leveled up all the way to 12 in one go, adding 12 points to Magic Power, and there were 12 free attribute points as well. There wasn't much to say, for her with two sets of Divine Equipment, Mana Value wasn't an issue at all, so he poured it all into Magic Power to maximize the force of her Spells.

Then he had a little chat with all the elderly Mages to increase the Lord's rapport with the people. These old guys were senior talents after all, maybe they still could be high-end combat power if they could recover. And when the public test came around, Lord Players had summed up a lot of experience, the higher-grade the NPC, the better the goods they had and the more likely they were to assign quests to the Lord Players or trigger some plot or another. With high-grade NPCs around, Lord Players always had endless things to do.

Da Fei greeted one of the old guys: "About this escape, do you guys have any other thoughts? Like, wanting to return to your homeland or something?"

The old man was startled, then suddenly realized, "Oh! I've been so busy running for my life, I've never thought about that—" Then his nose twitched as tears and snot poured out: "I miss my homeland so much, I miss Teresa of my hometown. I really want to go back and take a look, it's been 100 years, is she still alright?"

Go back and have a look? Da Fei was suddenly startled! Damn it! I shouldn't have asked that morale-sapping silly question! Isn't this like having the enemy on all sides?

At this moment, the surrounding old guys burst out: "So you had a wife! Now we, Elena's Bishop Group, formally expel you!"

What? Elena's Bishop Group? Is this some religious group or a fan club?

The old man frantically waved his hands: "No no! Teresa is a Demon Pet I raised! Look at me, do I look like someone who could have a wife?"

The old men then stroked their beards, satisfied: "That's more like it, we'll take you back into the group!"

That old man immediately raised his arm and shouted: "Elena, you are the light in the darkness! You are the hope in despair! You are the most beautiful Goddess on earth!"

All the old guys also raised their arms and shouted in unison: "We love you! We adore you! We want to kneel at your feet and kiss your beautiful soles! Oh my~~~"

Da Fei felt a chill down his spine! This is nuts! Definitely something wrong! Mages are usually a little off to begin with, and a bunch who've been locked up for decades indulging in fantasies about a beauty are even more deranged! Forget it, forget it, I don't want to interact with these unreliable NPCs anymore, they are fugitives with no choice, even if they trigger some dubious plot, I've got a ton of stuff to do, no time to pander to their whims.

Just as Da Fei was about to turn around and leave, one of the old men suddenly said, "My lord, have you considered where you plan to settle us? Although we are fugitives of the Alliance, we are actually innocent. I cannot accept my reputation being smeared and framed, nor can I accept self-exiling in some place no one can find! That's not really any different from being in prison, with the only difference being the size of the cage."

All the old guys immediately became somber: "Indeed! We are noble Mages, we have the dignity of Mages, even if we have to die, we want to die innocent. We don't want to live a life of disgrace just struggling to survive!"

Da Fei was suddenly stunned! Damn it, one moment they're crazy, now why so serious? What are you trying to do? Seek revenge on the Prince? Or you don't want to go to the Eastern World? Holy crap! Elena, your Bishop, mobilized you before, and you all agreed to her, don't be a pain, I'm building a city in the Eastern World and I urgently need top-notch talent to make my mark!

Da Fei frowned deeply for a moment.

It seems that what the Lord Players in the public test said was right, the more senior the talent, the harder they are to win over. Even if they have no choice but to follow me to New Oriental, if they aren't fully committed in their hearts, they might not give it their all. What difference would there be between such high-level talent and an ordinary one?

Alright! People need hope to live, I can understand their feelings, so I'll give them hope!

Da Fei then turned around and sat down in front of them, pulling out the map from the Second Prince earnestly: "Honorable Mages, this is the detailed blueprint of the fifth floor of the dungeon!"

All the old guys craned their necks to take a look and instantly burst into laughter: "Eh, I found my cage!" "Haha, mine is here!" "This one's mine!" "This is our Goddess Elena's!" "Haha! I've been beside the Goddess for 100 years, I can smell the Goddess's sweetest scent every day, I'm the Goddess's protector! Worship me!"

Damn it! There goes the atmosphere I was brewing; I'm talking about serious stuff here!

Da Fei took out a key: "This is the key that can open all the locks in the dungeon!"

The old guys then came back to their senses, nodding, "My lord, what are you trying to say?"

Da Fei said seriously, "Because of my unusual origin, this map and key are not something just anyone can get their hands on!"

The old men scoffed: "Lord, just spit it out, you are someone sent by the Second Prince, we understand!"

—Achoo! Da Fei sprayed out a mouthful of water. Damn it! They've seen through my identity in an instant! These old guys might act nutty but their minds are as clear as mirrors, huh?

And then, one of the old men asked in a deep voice, "My lord, are you saying the Second Prince sent you to rescue us, and once he becomes King he will clear our names?"

Holy crap! You guessed what I was about to say? Are you a telepath inside my chest? Although not quite right, but also not too far off, huh? Wait a minute! Da Fei suddenly started, these old men's intelligence was truly frightening! They don't seem like any Magic Gods, nor any high officials, is it really necessary for the system to use so much resource to create such high intelligence? Then the most likely possibility is that it's time to trigger a plot!

Fine! If I want to regain 100% of the people's hearts, I'll take your questions seriously!

Da Fei shook his head earnestly, "No, the Prince came to save Elena, he might not even know of your existence. It was I who rescued you all along the way!"

Listen well, it was I who saved you, not the Prince! Don't get wrong who you're supposed to be grateful to!

The old men understood and smiled knowingly, "That's more like it, what do we ordinary Mages count for in the eyes of the Prince?"

That old man's eyes gleamed, and he asked with a sly smile, "So you mean, my lord, you want us to unite and assist you in supporting the Second Prince to the throne?"

Holy crap! Da Fei couldn't help but slap the table in admiration; talking with smart people is truly effortless! It seems you guys were already prepared.

Da Fei laughed heartily, about to admit when he suddenly realized that while the old man seemed to be joking, his gaze was actually very deep and profound!

Holy moly! If I acknowledged it, might it trigger an "Assist the Second Prince in Ascending to the Throne" Epic Quest right away? Honestly, I'd planned to freeload off of him without really intending to assist! Although the most likely scenario would be the quest being given by the Second Prince himself, I can't rule out the chance of other NPCs issuing it! Once an Epic Quest kicks in, the plot advances! Right now, I'm up to my neck in stuff to do, and boy, do I not need that kind of headache!

Da Fei quickly shook his head: "Now's not the time for that, our first priority is to find a safe place to settle down!"

The elders all laughed heartily: "The Lord is truly composed, admirable indeed, just the kind of material we need for handling big matters!"

That elder chuckled: "The Lord is right, of course, but that day will come eventually. We'll devote ourselves to preparing for it and first give our all to assist our Lord, shall we?"

Everyone laughed: "Exactly! As long as we old bones are still here, we won't make things easy for the Prince!"

Only then did Da Fei wipe the cold sweat off his brow and heave a long sigh of relief! Thank goodness, with their words, I've truly won over the hearts of the people. Loyalty must be skyrocketing, and I cleverly avoided triggering the quest. I'm freakin' amazing! Alright! As long as they're willing to work hard, why should I worry about not being able to establish myself in the Eastern World? Haha, muahaha!

...

Now, Da Fei set his sights on Skyshattering Thunder again, who was still relentlessly warring and conquering everywhere, blissfully unaware that the "pacified" ground he just left had a boss slowly rising again.

Da Fei snickered, with that kind of situation, there are plenty of chances to sneak up on him.

Shortly after, Da Fei's message alert went off, is it from the Goddess? Da Fei's heart skipped a beat; don't tell me there's a problem again?

Bu Feiyan spoke with a laugh: "Didn't disturb Brother Fei, did I? No particular reason, just cleaned up the streets and wanted to give Brother Fei a heads-up."

Oh! It's just a safety check-in? What's with this feeling of having a Little Honey? Da Fei hurriedly laughed: "Thanks! Thank you, Goddess!"

Bu Feiyan smiled: "So Brother Fei, keep busy with peace of mind! I'll continue updating you later."

Da Fei replied excitedly: "Thanks! Thanks a lot! I feel relieved!"

Ah! People do feel elated during happy times, plus now I have a Goddess as Little Honey! That's really reassuring! Muahaha!

Time flies when you're calm and collected. The scene outside the forest became blurry again; it was time for the scene to refresh! Da Fei was filled with anticipation!

The blurry scene soon came into focus, and before Da Fei was a golden vista, a desert! Could it be?

Little Fei soared high into the sky for a better view, and sure enough! Desert, volcano, this was exactly where the Sand Scorpion had just been slain, my domain is at last bordering Skyshattering Thunder's!

Haha! Wow, when things go my way, they really go my way! Skyshattering Thunder, here I come!

Da Fei woke up the snoozing Hangeval: "Brother, brother wake up, it's time to make a move!"

Hangeval sat up startled: "I've been looking forward to this moment even in my dreams!" Then he waved his hand and shouted: "Brothers, get ready to set off!"

A crowd of dwarves shouted: "Big bro, we're all set!"

The elders also said in turn: "It's our sworn duty!"

Great! Da Fei was also ready: "Brother, I can't fight directly, but I will leave my troops in your charge!"

Hangeval was taken aback: "Me leading troops?" He then shook his head and laughed: "No way, I'm too weak right now, not enough Command Power to lead so many troops, and any casualties would be hard to account for!"

Da Fei pulled out several accessories that increased Command Power like "Governor's Badge" and "Supervisor Whip," and spoke earnestly: "I've seen brother's capability in trapping the big guy, I believe in your command abilities! And for Command Power, this should solve the problem, right?"

Hangeval's eyebrows twitched, he took the Governor's Badge and was shocked: "This, isn't this something that only high-ranking members of the Demon Race have?"

Da Fei chuckled: "I got it after killing them!"

Hangeval's eyes widened in astonishment, and then he roared with laughter: "Brother, you're amazing! Alright, leave it to me! Brother, would you like to follow behind and watch? I will show you how we hunt!"

Da Fei laughed: "Certainly, but now's not the time to move. Otherwise, we'd collide with their main forces!"

Right then, in Little Fei's field of vision, Skyshattering Thunder was on a volcano peak healing the Magma Dragon. He stood high enough to see far, once we enter the desert with no cover, he's bound to see us, and that would spoil the fun.

Hangeval laughed heartily: "Alright, I'll warm up first, ready to move whenever brother says!"

Da Fei smirked: "Leave it to me!" Hmph, Skyshattering Thunder, no matter how skillfully you operate, do you know I've recruited hundreds of sneaky elites capable of using poison and sleep magic? I can always see you, but can you see me?

Finally, after a long wait, Skyshattering Thunder on the volcano top obviously noticed no unusual activity, then descended the mountain with the Magma Dragon and his troops to fight in the wilderness.

Now's a good time. Time to receive the caravan!

Chapter 540: Luring and Killing the Skyshattering Thunder

The Blood Eagle flew over Forest Lake, circling low to conduct careful reconnaissance. Da Fei had determined that all the hundreds of prison guards were gathered and resting at the convoy by the lake. However, not a single sentry was posted outside the forest, something that surprised Da Fei greatly.

Da Fei relayed the reconnaissance findings to Hangeval, who responded with a cold smile, "Brother, don't underestimate the dwarves' little tricks. However, they're just leftovers from my childhood games, watch me handle them!"

Da Fei was clueless and just nodded, "Alright!"

The troops advanced swiftly across the desert, reaching the edge of the forest in no time. Hangeval waved his hand, and the team immediately halted.

Hangeval chuckled to Da Fei, "Are you interested in checking the forest with me?"

Oh man! I'm a prime suspect here! Da Fei could only laugh awkwardly, "Sure!"

Hangeval nodded, "Then follow me closely, don't wander!"

Were there landmines here? Da Fei activated his Stealth, following Hangeval and a few officers into the forest. The rest of the troops and the other dwarves awaited orders outside the forest.

Now, Da Fei had penetrated deep into the forest, when Hangeval motioned with his hand, "Stop!"

Da Fei stopped immediately, then Hangeval pointed to the ground, then to the trees, "Do you see it?"

Da Fei looked around bewildered, and eventually spotted a tree branch bent by a rope, with a hint of a trip cord visible in the underbrush. Oh man, are there actually landmines?

Hangeval chuckled, "This whole area is filled with such little tricks. If our troops rashly entered the forest and accidentally triggered the ropes on the ground, the branches would bounce and shake, making any noise noticed by the prison guards by the lake. They would either rush over in a swarm or sound alarms so loud that every bird in the forest would be startled, bringing the full force of the pursuing army right back!"

Da Fei blinked in shock, "So there are these kinds of traps after all!"

Hangeval shook his head, "These aren't traps. Such little tricks lack lethality, defensive power, or magic power. Anyone, even animals, can discover and dismantle them. They don't even qualify as traps, so they're outside the range of Reconnaissance Skill. Similar tricks include precarious boulders on high slopes, threatening river levees, and rotten bridge piers over large rivers, phenomena that lie between half-manmade and half-natural. They aren't within the scope of Reconnaissance Skill detection, but when utilized properly, their lethality is astonishing—"

At this point, Hangeval solemnly stated, "So, my friend, I know your Reconnaissance Skill and even similar auxiliary professions are surprisingly high, but you're not invincible. You could very easily fall for some simple little trick, just like numerous smug master thieves have been tripped up by these cops' childish pranks—like placing a toppled wine bottle on a table edge or behind a door. Or tracking a thief easily by painting half-dry paint on the floor to catch their footprints, or by smearing honey on walls to use the movement of bees or ants to follow them, et cetera. These aren't things you can handle just by relying on so-called God-level Skills. Your only option is to be meticulous, observe, and analyze!"

Oh man! Even in games, there's so much to learn about catching thieves! Just having high skills isn't enough! In that instant, Da Fei thought back to when Anlicia used the bees to break through God-level magic illusions.

Da Fei bowed in gratitude, "Thanks for the guidance, brother!"

Hangeval chuckled, "Only then can I confidently entrust my brothers to you, alright, now that their tricks are exposed, let's show them our advanced technology!"

Da Fei couldn't help but feel stunned, entrust them to me confidently? How many times had he said this? Why did it sound like a will? Does it mean his passing of the Inheritance Power and skills to me is a sign of his impending death?

Was he going to die? In that moment, Da Fei remembered the old grandmother in Heaven, and an unspeakable feeling surged to his heart. Well, I have no feelings for male heroes, especially bearded dwarf male heroes. You can go in peace after passing on your skills and experience, I'll remember you.

...

Now, aside from the Earth Element, the group stealthily entered the forest, ambushing outside the opponent's "defense line." As for Da Fei, none of this concerned him now. To avoid getting caught up, he kept a distance, watching the live broadcast through Little Fei.

Then, the Forest Demons silently vanished among the trees, and the Flower Demons' Poison Fog eagerly awaited, ready to bring the show to life!

First, a faint fresh breath, unnoticed by anyone, slowly spread toward the lakeshore. At this point, the Forest Demons were now weaker than when they first surrendered, so their sleep-inducing mist was even harder to detect.

Under the slow invasion of their mist, the prison guards, already bored out of their minds, couldn't help but yawn incessantly. As for those already asleep, it was needless to say; their snores echoed like thunder.

Then, the Flower Demons made their move, gently releasing their pollen-laden Poison Fog into the forest, until the entire lake was enveloped in a faint mist.

Oh yeah! They had to get caught in this one!

With the timing just right, Hangeval waved his hand, and the dwarves sprang into action. They tiptoed over the trip cords and slowly advanced toward the lakeside. These dwarves, usually boisterous, now moved with the stealth and alertness of tigers and leopards hunting in the forest, completely overturning Da Fei's previous understanding of dwarves. Honestly, such an operation could only be

pulled off by highly intelligent NPCs; if it were the players' regular troops, they'd be completely oblivious, walking right into traps for the players to see.