

## God level 581

### Chapter 581: Divine Artifact to the Rescue

At the entrance of the Duke Mansion, players were crowded as usual, exchanging tasks. However, there were far more people than usual at this moment; the Bloodrose Guild's subsidiary gold farming studio and fan club quickly took their places.

Players who managed to catch the eye of Bloodrose's goddesses and were "appointed" as fan club members were, of course, quite skilled. Their ultimate dream was to join the goddesses' guild. But the standards for joining the goddess guild were indeed a headache for these fans. First, strength was a must; after that, it was probably a matter of character and real-life status?

Bloodrose Guild, upon its founding, recruited two male players, Rose Knight and Little Pig Run. The Rose Knight was self-explanatory—a top-tier elite—and was said to be a vice president of the Shennong Group. Little Pig Run, on the other hand, was the number one player in China Region and third in the World Level—making them unattainable standards for ordinary fans.

But just yesterday, the goddesses' guild made an exception by recruiting a low-level male player named Junxiang, who was not even level 10. Rumor had it, he was neither tall nor rich, nor handsome, and was particularly amateur. However, he appeared with a rare dual talent and completed a domain task. More importantly, it seemed his goal for joining wasn't to flirt.

In short, Junxiang's admission gave all the fan clubs a benchmark for comparison, and suddenly they felt joining was within reach. So, today's action was taken by fans as a test by the goddesses; without a second thought, they responded immediately.

At this moment, these people were wandering aimlessly outside the Duke Mansion like regular players, but all their attention was focused on the entrance. As soon as Da Fei appeared, their skilled manipulation speed could absolutely lock on the target in an instant and relentlessly attack! For the goddesses, for the justice of the China Region, they didn't care about turning red-named!

Meanwhile, in the Bloodrose Studio, the large screen on the wall was monitoring the Duke Mansion gate from multiple angles. All the women were calming down and patiently waiting for Da Fei's appearance. Yet, their foreheads and tips of their noses brimmed with beads of sweat due to the tense excitement.

Indeed, their target this time was Da Fei! The thought of striking a heavy blow to this number one enemy of the China Region made them uncontrollably excited.

Seconds ticked by, and neither the city channel nor the regional channel showed any abnormality. The entire studio was so tense and quiet that only the game's background sound effects could be heard.

— "He's out!!!" Someone shouted!

The anxious big sister Zhou Qing immediately ordered, "Target the Banshee!"

And in that instant, hundreds of experts wandering outside the Duke Mansion locked their eagle-eyed gazes like arrows on Da Fei, who had just exited. At the next moment, hundreds of hands raised crossbows—bang!!!

Hundreds of crossbows roared in unison, and sharp beams of light rushed in from all directions! -8! -7! -9! -6! -5... The crimson damage numbers burst forth like blood flowers! At that moment, the entrance to the Duke Mansion was a sea of red names, as if a hundred red flowers bloomed in an instant!

At that moment, the women in the studio let out long-suppressed screams!

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Meanwhile, at the moment Da Fei stepped out, with the scene just switching and before he could react, a barrage of dark spots came rushing toward him! Then came the explosion of red light, accompanied by a long stream of system messages!

—System Prompt: Warning! Player "Fantasy Killer" has launched a malicious attack on your Vice Hero. You can legitimately retaliate!

—System Prompt: Warning! Player "Gilgamesh" has launched a malicious attack on your Vice Hero. You can legitimately retaliate!

—System Prompt: Warning! Player "Wind Fragment" has launched a malicious attack on your Vice Hero. You can legitimately retaliate!

—System Prompt: Warning! Player "Red Face Drunk" has launched a malicious attack on your Vice Hero. You can legitimately retaliate!

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Assassinate Deirdre! At that moment, Da Fei was completely too stunned to react! And at that point,

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Deirdre used the Divine Artifact "Time Hourglass"! You are in a Time Slow domain...

A golden barrier exploded, enveloping the entire scene. At that moment, the world seemed to stand still! Only then did Da Fei see himself among a cluster of arrows, with the arrows forming a line in front of Deirdre, the blooming blood flowers silently blooming in front of her!

Time Freeze!

To hell with these dog...! In anger and frustration, Da Fei tried to move in front of Deirdre, but to Da Fei's horror, he found himself unable to move!

Yet Deirdre could move, she leapt into the air to avoid the "floating" arrows in a line before her! Only then did Da Fei let out a relieved curse, "Damn it!!!"

The domain of golden light faded as Deirdre soared into the sky. At this moment, a sharp alarm sounded at the entrance to the Duke Mansion; the guards at the entrance, along with patrolmen rushing from all around the streets, began slaughtering the hundreds of red-named players responsible.

Ordinary players on the scene gasped, "What just happened? I think I just lagged for a second?"

"What was that golden light just now? I really couldn't move!"

"They were PK'ing Da Fei!"

"Wow! Killing out in the city, that's amazing!"

"They failed to kill him, doesn't that make them idiots?"

"Da Fei's Vice Hero can fly!"

At this moment, looking at Deirdre high up with only a sliver of health left, Da Fei's pounding heart raced as though he'd narrowly escaped a calamity!

So close, so close! If it weren't for the artifact, Deirdre would be done for here! How careless of me! This is due to the Royal Family ambushing my Fishmen in Elorin yesterday; I should have been on alert! In my busyness today, I completely forgot! Not to mention that today another who-knows-who was PK'ing me in an instance; I have too many enemies now!

At that moment, Da Fei was filled with regret, anger, and immense relief! Anyway, it's fine as long as nothing happened. From today on, I've learned my lesson; I'll never do things that make my loved ones hurt and my enemies happy. I won't give you any more chances!

Ignoring those players disappearing under the patrolmen's chopping knives, Da Fei rushed to the Teleportation Array. This time, Da Fei was truly scared; to prevent opponents from figuring out his routine and planting a crazed ambush at the Elf Kingdom teleportation array, Da Fei randomly teleported to an inconspicuous inland city.

At this point, Deirdre was enveloped in the glow of Dark Healing Skill, her health gradually recovering.

Deirdre apologized, "I'm sorry, Master, I used the artifact just now to protect myself."

Da Fei hurriedly said, "No, no, no! Your life is the priority; you did well. It's good that nothing happened!"

Deirdre frowned and said, "The Duke said to use it sparingly earlier, and using it just now seems to have consumed a lot of Divine Power, which might affect the decisive battle."

Da Fei laughed, "It's fine, it's fine. We weren't planning on relying on the Duke anyway; it will still be an unexpected help even if its effect is greatly reduced. In the end, we still rely on ourselves."

Deirdre nodded, "Right, relying too much on external forces can't truly hone oneself. To make up for my mistake, I'll work hard on practicing magic to strive to master Master-level Dark Magic before the decisive battle."

Ah, honing my foot! My heart's already worn out. Da Fei checked Deirdre's Equipment Bar and indeed saw the Time Hourglass's golden glow dim as expected. Damn! This artifact is really not durable! How long did Deirdre just use it? Not even two seconds, I bet!

In the hands of high-end players, two seconds can save the world, but in the face of the powerful Eight-Headed Snake that claims to crush all tactics, two seconds is nothing! Anyway, we'll just have to rely on ourselves from now on. Although using the artifact means Deirdre won't level up for a long time, it's okay. I'll use God-level equipment and skill books to strengthen her, just like Elena—low-leveled but fully skilled and well-equipped, can still smash monsters without any problems. In short, from now on, I won't bring Deirdre to appear in front of ordinary players.

Let's head back. Da Fei remembered something and called out in the guild, "Anyone free? Go check the Teleportation Array in Farolan Square to see if there's any unusual activity." Alright, I'll admit I chickened out. It wasn't until now that I remembered the utility of the guild.

Da Bing immediately called out in the guild channel, "Brother Fei, I'll go check immediately. By the way, it seems there were reports of some idiots attacking Brother Fei in the city just now?"

Da Fei smirked proudly, "Idiots are just idiots; everyone saw their end."

One Sword Eastward immediately said, "Those Bloodrose bitches did it, no doubt! Next time I see them, I'll fight them for Brother Fei as revenge!"

Da Fei's heart sank. It was indeed Bloodrose! Otherwise, they wouldn't have targeted Deirdre specifically, and with such coordinated efforts. Damn, and to think my little account joined your guild and even helped your guild earn a domain; how can I possibly retaliate to let some of this anger out?

Da Bing asked again, "Brother Fei, there's news that you stomped on Dragon Slayer; is that true?"

Da Fei, having no mood for chit-chat, just replied lightly, "Low profile, low profile!"

Everyone chimed in, "Brother Fei, as expected of Brother Fei!"

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In the Bloodrose Studio, the sudden golden light plunged the entire studio into dead silence.

Bloodrose Qiqi exclaimed, "Everyone on the scene couldn't move just now, right? Is this the legendary Great Prophecy Skill?"

Bloodrose Holy Spear replied solemnly, "This is a Divine Art only the Pope can use; it's not within the realm of magic. How could a Banshee use it? It must be the artifact's effect."

The women were all abuzz, "This artifact is too high-end! Just how many artifacts does Da Fei have?"

Zhou Qing let out a long sigh, "Even with this, we still couldn't take him down. Our gap with him is growing; we seem to need to accelerate taking a high-end route."

Bloodrose Holy Sword said in a low voice, "Sister, the monastery's gatekeeper, the old nun, has an extraordinary background. Even the dean fears her somewhat. I suspect she's a female version of a Shaolin sweeping monk, and she might know Great Prophecy Skill too. Should we go after her?"

Zhou Qing snapped, "Fine, this task is on you."

Bloodrose Holy Sword coughed awkwardly, "Uh, can we have someone else do it? I think Qiqi would be perfect!"

Bloodrose Qiqi flatly refused, "No way! With everything going on, there's no time to go back to the Newbie Village and do tasks!"

Zhou Qing sighed, "Alright then, we'll leave the Newbie Village tasks to the new girls, like Blood Arrow Fragrance and the others."

"Yeah, yeah, that works well."

#### Chapter 582: New Developments in the Korea-Japan Region

—"Hello, viewers! Good midnight, it's time for the Hero News midnight broadcast again. Tonight, we received a special video message about the Dragon Slayer Guild and Star Guild clashing again at the Elf Kingdom Pool of Radiance, culminating in a complete defeat for Dragon Slayer Guild. Please watch the big screen video. Also, joining us tonight in the studio as a special guest is Shenlan, a famous player from Ninth Heaven. Hello, Shenlan!"

Shenlan: "Hello host, hello everyone, I'm really glad to see you all."

Host: "Shenlan, what are your thoughts on this great battle between Star and Dragon Slayer?"

Shenlan chuckled: "Host, my view is that this doesn't really concern our Ninth Heaven, right? You should have invited representatives from the battling sides to appear in the studio. But I wouldn't miss the chance to be on TV."

The host chuckled: "For various reasons, both sides couldn't attend our studio. We believe that your guild, as a bystander, can make an objective assessment?"

Shenlan sighed: "I understand their feelings. In fact, even though it was Dragon Slayer and Star fighting, the real leading role was taken by Da Fei! It's hard to imagine that while we were all leveling up and completing quests, Da Fei had quietly become the city lord of the Pool of Radiance. Judging from the status of Radiant City, Da Fei might already be far ahead, perhaps even the world's number one city lord by now, as we haven't received any news about players from any other country owning a territory."

Host: "Just two days ago, Dragon Slayer Guild had created a server-wide boom in buying stone, and triggered a worldwide trend among large professional guilds in resource buying. Everyone thought Dragon Slayer was preparing to enter the New World. But now the answer is clear; Dragon Slayer used the stone for a super project like sieging Pool of Radiance, meaning Dragon Slayer's pace into the New World will slow down. How much will this affect China Region's future national wars?"

Shenlan chuckled: "For Dragon Slayer, it's a sad story indeed, entering the New World will definitely be greatly impacted, they surely cannot stabilize their footing in New World immediately. However, Dragon Slayer's style has always been 'if I'm having a tough time, you guys are not going to have it easy either.' So when the time comes, they might adopt sneaky harassing tactics, making others' city building miserable."

The host awkwardly said: "Shenlan, that's how you view Dragon Slayer?"

Shenlan laughed heartily: "However, for the China Region, it might not necessarily be a bad thing. According to the territorial rules, Dragon Slayer building such a big wall for Da Fei's city means a super city is born. With Da Fei's current strength, given time, the whole world will tremble."

Host smiled: "Although Da Fei, as a player, is constantly controversial, his strength is indeed visible to all. I also believe many players sincerely hope he will soon join the battlefield of national wars, and I wish Dragon Slayer Guild quick recovery from the setbacks in this battle."

Shenlan chuckled: "Right, right, let's hope Da Fei steps out of the country and 'harms' the world sooner. That's what everyone means, right?"

Host gave a dry laugh: "Well, speaking of national wars, let's now look at the world player rankings. There have been recent changes on the world level list. Just tonight, Bapulov of the Russian War Angel Team, a Siege Master, reached level 48, overtaking Natasha, the Vampire Princess of the French Triumph Arch Team, who's at level 47, becoming the number one person on the world level list. Meanwhile, the Swedish Ghost King, Big V, long dormant in the European Zone, has rocketed to level 47, ranking third. While our China Region's Little Pig Run from the Griffin Breeders is ranked fourth. Many players who focus on Crossbow Cannons might be interested in how Bapulov managed to surpass the Vampire Princess and claim the top spot. Could you explain that, Shenlan?"

Shenlan shook his head and chuckled: "Because of the strong attack and defense of the Crossbow Cannons, as well as its reputation as a boss killer, it has become a favorite among many rookie players. However, the movement speed and deployment time of the Crossbow Cannons further restrict the leveling speed of players. But it's different for a Siege Master, whose specialty increases the attack and defense of the Crossbow Cannons by one point every two levels. But that's not the main reason. Main reason appears that Russia has been dedicating national efforts to train Bapulov, and it's quite simple: they have people set up a Crossbow Cannon and various troops in advance at each wild BOSS respawn spot, Bapulov only has to go there empty-handed to take over and start the battle."

Host smiled: "I see. It's really unimaginable. If it was in the China Region, with so many players, such 'exclusive' behavior by a large guild would definitely be intolerable, right?"

Shenlan sternly said: "The Russian Zone, focusing on dwarves, is united and determined to demonstrate their fighting spirit in national wars. Though their performance has not been as high-profile as South Korea and Japan, their strength is absolutely world-class."

Host: "Speaking of unity, we must mention South Korea and Japan. The recent moves in these two zones are also very intriguing. Japan Zone, focusing on the Hell Race, is currently overwhelmingly attacking the Bright Alliance in their zone. All players in the Japan Zone who joined the Bright Alliance are actually insiders; they will deliberately use obstacles to block the NPC army's advance and even risk almost ruining their accounts by burning down the city granaries and killing important NPCs of their own faction to clear the way for their National Team, the Hell Race."

"Similarly, the Korea District, which mainly focuses on the Elf Clan, seems to have been influenced by Japan, with numerous Korean civil groups spontaneously launching fierce attacks on the Hell Race in that district, and they even successfully captured a small Hell City, causing a significant uproar recently. What consequences will this kind of all-out civil mobilization in unilateral faction warfare cause?"

Shenlan shook his head: "This is no longer just playing a game; it is pursuing victory by any means necessary. As a player, I personally strongly disapprove of this approach. The host should be aware that the war's toll has prevented any player from Japan from entering the top hundred of the World Level List. Perhaps they think they are invincible with aligned allies. As for the Korea District, it's relatively restrained, with only some top civilian players mimicking Japan's actions, and Korea District has 17 people in the top 100 of the Level List, completely capable of entering the New World at any time."

The host nodded: "Indeed, the approach of Japan is too extreme, but if they really succeed, Hero Continent of Japan will theoretically become a massive Hell Camp, and countless troops will flood into the New World like a tidal wave, dominating the National War Zone is not impossible."

Shenlan laughed: "Believe me, Japan will definitely not succeed—if I say this, do they necessarily have to succeed to prove us wrong? In any case, to encourage them to go further down the wrong path, I still give them 32 likes."

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At this moment, Brother Hao, Ono Shinichiro, sneered as he turned off the live TV broadcast. He had spent the last few days gathering important videos and articles from forums, which he thoroughly organized and sent to the headquarters of the Japan Mitsubishi Team.

Regarding the statements in the live broadcast, Ono Shinichiro indeed scoffed at them. Yes, for Japan, which has a strong ally like the United States, Japan can act recklessly without concerns, and it doesn't matter whether or not there are any Japanese players among the top 100 in the level rankings. But the China Region lacks allies and unity while continuously infighting among its lower-quality populace, which is truly sad! What's even more pathetic is that such a nation still stands as a formidable force alongside the United States, and this bothers many Japanese.

Just then, Ono Shinichiro's chat notification sounded; it was Igarashi.

Igarashi solemnly said: "Ono-kun, I have good news. The Divine Artifact you purchased can soon be transported back to the country!"

Ono replied joyfully: "As expected of our braves from the Great Japan!"

Igarashi proudly smiled: "We instigated the Koreans to follow our steps, and the foolish Koreans did not disappoint us. The entire Korean nation mobilized and found a way to invade the Hell Sacred Land, Holy Demon Flame Prison. Our undercover Hell Race members in Korea are vigorously pushing forward the Epic Level storyline. In essence, the second National War is about to arrive, and Hell Race players from all districts will gather in Korea District as they did last time in China Region, so you need to buy a Hell Race account with enough Merit in China Region, transfer the Divine Artifact to that account, then participate in the National War to trade it to our team members!"

Ono excitedly said: "These three days of purchasing the Divine Artifact felt like three years. Thinking about the Divine Artifact being delayed another day on me torments me about delaying my nation's progress!"

Igarashi laughed: "Just you watch, our Japan will definitely shock the entire world before the National War. By the way, how is Da Fei these past two days?"

Ono smiled: "Amazing, he built a city quietly, and in these two days he continuously thwarted several large guilds' attempts to kill him, even the Dragon Slayer Guild was defeated by him. As long as we continue to post some sarcastic and provocative posts on forums to incite, China Region's large guilds will definitely see Da Fei as their sworn enemy, and China Region will indeed exhaust its strength in internal strife!"

Igarashi nodded with satisfaction: "Yoishi! Maybe, a strong Da Fei could even steer his warship to cause some trouble for our American friends, that's what I'd like to see the most."

Ono said with a laugh: "Right, neither a strong China nor America is what Great Japan wants to see. It's just a pity it's only a game."

Igarashi laughed loudly: "We're not just playing a game, but playing for our nation's confidence and future!"

### Chapter 583: Another Giant Electric Eel

Radiant City.

Mr. Da Fei returned to find that the Sea God Priest's song had ended. The construction workers were back in their places, resuming work, while the consultants with building skills were directing the Flower Demons to repair the Durability of the buildings damaged in the recent war. Next to the destroyed clinic at the City Hall, a new construction site was breaking ground.

Needless to say, this must be the tavern blueprint sent over by the Prince. For Radiant City, which already has a hospital, there was no need to rebuild such a small facility as the clinic.

At this moment, the Flower Demons at the docks were busy recharging Magic Crystals with Mana and unloading timber from the Flying. The entire city was bustling with activity.

Mr. Da Fei hastily asked a consultant who was directing the repairs, "Where are the guests?"

The consultant chuckled, "Reporting to Lord City Lord, since our tavern has only just begun construction, Consultant Arong has temporarily arranged for the guests to stay in the school."

Damn! This Cultural Consultant is something else! Before I had the chance to formally invite her to teach, she's already stuffing people into the school, huh? Fine by me! As long as she's staying in the school and sees how many students there are compared to the insufficient number of teachers, she'll definitely take pity on me and decide to roll up her sleeves and teach. Hahaha!

There's not much else to be said at the moment. I'd better take this opportunity to move the timber away.

Players can carry 10 units of resources themselves. With 1500 units of timber, Mr. Da Fei would need to make 150 trips, and the Elorin Shipyard is a bit far from the Elorin Teleportation Array, which is quite the pain! If it were a large guild, they could just call a bunch of people to make a few trips back and forth and get it all done easily, but the problem is—

Mr. Da Fei opened the city control panel's transportation management tab to check and, sure enough, the Teleportation Array in Radiant City was once again closed to the public! The battle was over, the Prince had even spoken, what more is there to say?

Just then, there was a stir in the Guild: "Brother Fei! Brother Fei, you're on TV!"

Da Bing exclaimed excitedly, "Brother Fei, you've built a city already? So it was on your turf that Star and Dragon Slayer had their battle today?"

Da Wei also said, "I saw the Sea Monster in the video. The scale of this battle must be massive!"

Da Meng B said eagerly, "Now that the Dragon Slayer Guild has built a huge city wall for Brother Fei, his city must be the number one city in the world. I bet even the NPC's Main City isn't as large as Brother Fei's city!"

Brother Hao laughed, "People say that Brother Fei is ostentatious, but when he quietly makes big moves, we're all in the dark. We didn't even know Brother Fei was building a city!"

Mr. Da Fei's eyebrows twitched. He was on TV! He hadn't even had a chance to watch it himself. But, by keeping the city construction a secret from everyone, wasn't he showing that he didn't trust his brothers? Alas, even as a leader, one shouldn't be so obvious, especially to seem lacking in Brother Hao's eyes.

Mr. Da Fei defended himself, "This city is a joint venture with the Kingdom, nothing to brag about. Plus, it's very dangerous, and it could be destroyed by enemies at any time, which would be a real loss of face. There was no need to announce it; better to let it survive or perish naturally. But then again, I managed to hold it together."

The Guild erupted in praise: "Brother Fei is so incredibly badass!"

Brother Hao laughed, "Truly Brother Fei, handling things with such composure!"

One Sword Eastward added excitedly, "Brother Fei, if there's anything we can do to help with your city, just let us brothers know. We might not be as good as Star, but we're reliable!"

Da Bing was also eager, "Exactly! We may not be the best at making things happen, but we definitely won't let Brother Fei down. Even if it's running errands and doing odd jobs, we're on it!"

"Exactly!"

Ah, this vibe is clearly that they feel like I've kept them at a distance, isn't it? This isn't right, not right at all. In the end, it's time for me to rely on the masses. Otherwise, if that gang of idiots thinks I'm a loner, they'll unscrupulously try to take me down all the time, and it makes me lose face. They may not care, but I have to!

Mr. Da Fei then laughed, "Want to do odd jobs, huh? Fine, come to the Farolan Square Teleportation Array line up. Help me transport the goods to the Elorin Guild warehouse. Each person gets a 30,000 teleportation fee upfront!"

The Guild was exhilarated: "Here it comes!"

Da Fei laughed heartily: "Then I'll have to trouble the brothers for a bit. Once the city is officially established, we'll form a trade relationship with our Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce. Then the brothers can come visit my city. We'll make money together and get rich together!"

"Oh yeah! Let's follow Brother Fei!"

Soon, more than a dozen members of the Guild had gathered. After just a day, the levels of the newcomers had increased by 4 or 5. Not bad at all. Although it was far from Brother's progress of making rapid strides every day, it was great as long as everyone was working hard.

With everyone's help, things were much easier. Da Fei only needed to handle the transportation of goods up and down for them, no need to travel such long distances. Even so, after dozens of trips, Da Fei began to feel dizzy.

Ah, dammit, thank goodness I didn't deliver the goods myself, or I'd have turned into a fool.

While everyone was busy, Brother Hao suddenly asked with a laugh: "Brother Fei, you said we have a bank for transporting resources, don't you? Does Brother Fei's timber have anything special about it?"

Oh? Isn't it just like Brother Hao to ask such a question? But well, my style is to be so composed that I only speak about things that are set in stone. I'll keep things that are still in the works to myself, otherwise if word gets out, it might scare gamers around the world, and that wouldn't be good.

Da Fei smiled and said: "Indeed, it's special. It's spoils of war from the last battle, to be precise. Anyway, it needs to be taken back for research."

Brother Hao laughed: "That's our Brother Fei, always taking the high-end route."

The members of the Guild laughed: "Following Brother Fei, we're all moving up in life!"

"Exactly!"

As they chatted and joked, about an hour passed, and all the timber was finally about to be moved. At this moment, a System Prompt appeared:

—System Prompt: Attention! Your appointment with the Dwarf Prince Alberon for the three-day auction is due. Please make sure to head to the Moradin Auction House this morning in-game time.

Holy cow! Time has passed so... so slowly! How much have I done in these three days! Alright, lucky I got lots of help to take care of the timber.

Now, Da Fei had to personally transport the last batch of timber, since it was necessary for the guild leader to hand over the timber from the Guild's warehouse to the Elorin Shipyard.

A flash of light, and Da Fei, with the last batch of timber, returned to Elorin.

And at that moment, the guard at the Teleportation Array spoke: "Is this Mr. Da Fei? The leader of the Fishing Guild, Mr. Savaran, has some very important urgent matters to discuss with you. Please make sure to meet with him."

Da Fei was taken aback. The Fishing Guild's leader? He's probably got only one thing to talk to me about, right? Damn, I'm busy right now, can you not be annoying?

With no choice, Da Fei went to the long-unvisited Fishing Guild after completing the transfer of the goods from the warehouse.

Upon entering, the white-bearded guild leader cut to the chase: "Guild leader, you've finally arrived! You have been assigned an important commission related to hunting Sea Monsters!"

Just as expected! Da Fei frustratingly asked: "What kind of Sea Monster?"

Savaran frowned and said: "Recently, there's been a giant Electric Eel roaming the waters near Elorin, posing threats to passing ships. As the Ultimate Sea Monster Hunter endorsed by our guild, you must take action!"

A giant Electric Eel! Damn it! Da Fei's jaw dropped in astonishment!

#### Chapter 584: Sniper at the Auction

Giant Electric Eel! Just the thought of the electric eel and its near-futuristic plasma cannon sent chills down Da Fei's spine! Da Fei couldn't answer whether he feared the Eight-Headed Snake or the electric eel more. The key issue was that he was in the crucial stage of preparing to kill the Eight-Headed Snake; where could he find the time to catch this electric eel now?

Savaran continued, "Mr. President, this electric eel is exceptionally strong, and it's indeed somewhat challenging for you to deal with it in your current state. However, there's no choice. As the Ultimate Sea Monster Hunter, you must take the lead, and you must succeed. Otherwise, both you and our guild will suffer a significant decrease in reputation, perhaps even becoming a laughingstock of deceit. But, Mr. President, do not worry. You are not fighting alone. Our guild will also do everything possible to assist you!"

— System Prompt: You have received the urgent Sea Monster Hunter quest "Kill the Giant Electric Eel."

— Task Hint: The Giant Electric Eel frequently appears near the waters of Elorin, in the Andria Sea, posing a severe threat to maritime safety. You must kill or drive it away, or you will face serious reputation penalties.

Good grief! In the end, the mess I made has to be cleaned up by myself?

Da Fei said frustratingly, "So, Mr. President, when should this mission be completed?"

Savaran said solemnly, "The sooner, the better! You must act quickly before the victims' anger targets you. When the situation becomes so serious that maritime activities have to be halted, our time will become even tighter!"

At this point, Savaran said excitedly, "Right, the three bundles of C-level strategic treasure golden spider silk you handed over to our guild last time have been successfully transformed and upgraded. This will undoubtedly be of great assistance in our hunt this time. Please see the attributes—"

After speaking, Savaran waved his hand, and the image of the Golden Spider Web appeared before Da Fei.

Da Fei was stunned! Oh my, this old man is quite impressive! Without thinking much, Da Fei hurriedly checked the equipment attributes:

— Golden Spider Web: B-level strategic treasure, fishing gear, hunting gear, ship auxiliary equipment. A very resilient fishing net with barbed sharp teeth. The barbs prevent prey from escaping easily while causing minor continuous damage to the prey and accelerating the prey's stamina consumption. Resilience value: can absorb damage of 10,000 points within 10 seconds.

It upgraded to B-level equipment! Da Fei exclaimed, "What does this resilience value of absorbing 10,000 points of damage in 10 seconds mean?"

Savaran marveled, "The net is different from usual equipment; it has resilience. If a sea monster trapped in the net cannot output 10,000 points of damage within 10 seconds, the sea monster cannot damage the net. Conversely, if the sea monster exceeds 10,000 points of damage within 10 seconds, the net will suffer damage. The resilience value of an ordinary shark-fishing net reaching even 10 seconds at 1,000 is already considered a top-notch conventional fishing gear, but this can't be compared to the Golden Spider Web, which is a treasure. If Mr. President can provide more sources of golden spider silk, this net will become our guild's signature specialty."

I see! The net doesn't have a durability value; either it takes no damage at all, or it's completely destroyed! However, for God-level sea monsters like Leviathan, which can one-shot BOSS in seconds, the resilience of 10,000 in 10 seconds does not seem sufficient!

Da Fei hurriedly asked, "If B-level has such attributes, what about A-level, S-level?"

Savaran shook his head and smiled, "If a fishing gear can be promoted to a strategic treasure, it is already extraordinary. Reaching B-level is something I rarely see. Ultimately, the net's utility limits its strategic value. I can't even imagine what A-level or even S-level would be like."

Da Fei realized. So, this fishing net is actually like my C-level Spiderman Cliff Walker Backpack, almost a divine artifact for solo use, but limited in strategic combat use. A climbing tool reaching C-level is already peak. Ultimately, this game evaluates treasures based on their wartime utility, and both tools and fishing gear are vastly inferior to war weapons in rank.

Da Fei said with sudden understanding, "So, this B-level net is the top tier in the current stage?"

Savaran nodded, "Yes! I guarantee with my lifetime's honor, at the current stage, there's nothing higher-end than this net!"

Oh, come on! Can't you stop guaranteeing with your so-called honor? If you didn't guarantee me as an Ultimate Hunter back then, I wouldn't have this headache now!

Savaran continued, "However, the best fishing gear requires corresponding skills, much like fishing itself. Even with the same resilient fishing line, some people can catch big fish, and others break the line. That's the difference in skill. Similarly, fishing with a net emphasizes skill, the bottom line is you must find a way to prevent the prey from causing 10,000 damage in 10 seconds, which means you need to master extremely high-level Control Net Skill!"

Oh my god! Another life skill? I don't know it, and I don't have time to learn it!

Da Fei was astonished, "But President, isn't time running out?"

Savaran nodded, "As I said earlier, this matter is significant. Our guild will help; leave the control netting to a Grandmaster like me! Moreover, we have three nets, so chances of success are great. The time urgency is high, so Mr. President, please hurry to prepare. At that time, just call to have me sail with you."

Da Fei sighed with relief, as long as there were NPCs to help, it was manageable! Up to now, Da Fei had never failed with NPC assistance.

Da Fei joyfully exclaimed, "Thank you, President! I'll prepare immediately!"

"Hurry up!"

Da Fei left the Fishing Guild, rushing to the Teleportation Array to prepare. What to prepare? Of course, wrap up the auction house and deal with all the unrelated things in Radiant City regarding sea monster hunting!

Da Fei betted that during the time he hunted the electric eel, the Eight-Headed Snake wouldn't wake up! After all, it still had half of its heads sleeping, right?

...

With a flash of light from the Teleportation Array, Da Fei returned to the Dwarf Capital Moradin. There was nothing much to say; he headed straight to the auction house.

The auction house only exists in large cities with high prosperity and culture levels. Of course, in Elorin, known as the first harbor city of the Elf Kingdom, there is no auction house. Naturally, if players invested so much that the city's development level grew higher, all kinds of high-end buildings would appear within the city.

But not just any player could enter the auction house. Only players with very high city reputation or Alliance reputation, or those with special status, were qualified to participate. As for Da Fei receiving a prince's entry ticket, of course, he could make an exception to enter.

As for what was being auctioned in the auction house, Da Fei, who hadn't even participated in public beta tests, knew very little, just knowing that it must be very high-end. Naturally, Da Fei, feeling very urgent right now, also had no interest or spare money to mess around in the auction house.

As a well-known player, Da Fei was a dazzling presence in the China Region no matter where he appeared.

Thus, there was quite a spectacle of exclamations:

"Da Fei has appeared!" "Da Fei is here again!" "Did you hear? Just now, over there in the human region, hundreds of people tried and failed to kill Da Fei!" "Whoa, Da Fei can actually enter the auction house!" "Really, Da Fei can enter the auction house!" "What's all the fuss? He's someone who can even enter the Royal Palace; what's an auction house to him?"

Amidst the amazed voices of the players around him, Da Fei expressionlessly handed his entrance ticket to the NPC gatekeeper and entered the venue.

Sigh, whatever Da Fei did was always under the watchful eyes of players; wasn't there any privacy left? If they hadn't known Da Fei entered the Duke Mansion, how would they have surrounded and attacked him when he stepped out? Just the thought made Da Fei even more irritable.

At this moment, the auction had not yet started, but the entire auction hall was arranged like a luxurious cocktail party, with elegantly dressed dwarf, elf, and human NPCs toasting and greeting each other.

An attendant approached Da Fei with a tray of wine cups: "Sir, please enjoy!"

Da Fei picked up a glass of red wine and looked around.

Just then, a sharply dressed human gentleman suddenly met eyes with Da Fei. He immediately smiled and walked up to Da Fei, raising his glass, "Haha! Look here, isn't this our human hero, the pride of the Alliance, the one who thwarted a lord of a hundred thousand Demon Race at the Pool of Radiance, Mr. Da Fei?"

Oh! Who is this guy? He knows me? Da Fei's record at the Pool of Radiance is known throughout the Alliance? But without thinking much, Da Fei also raised his glass, smiling courteously, "You flatter me, sir!"

The gentleman immediately pulled out a business card and handed it over with a smile, "I am Johnny, the Deputy General Manager of the Saint Sword City Mining Company in the Lionheart Empire. It is a pleasure to meet Mr. Da Fei here. If Mr. Da Fei ever has any business to do with minerals, feel free to find me in Saint Sword City!"

Da Fei took the business card and suddenly understood. The benefit of this auction house was that you could meet some bosses and expand business opportunities! Although this Saint Sword City seems to be an inland city, utterly far from Da Fei, a good businessperson never misses a chance to hand out a flyer.

Da Fei happily laughed, "Good! I'll certainly get in touch with you if there's a chance!"

Then a elven gentleman, stirred by the human gentleman's call, came to greet, "Ah, it's the young hero who's been very prominent within the Alliance recently; thank you for your contributions to the Elf Kingdom. To show my respect, cheers!"

Da Fei smiled, "Everything for the Alliance, it's what I should do!"

The elven gentleman also presented a business card, "I am the Procurement Manager of Morning Light Malt Beer Company in Sumilon City, New World. If Mr. Da Fei is interested in purchasing fine wines, please contact our company!"

Da Fei promptly replied, "I will certainly do so if given the chance!"

Then several other individuals came in pairs or small groups to offer toasts and hand out various offbeat, unrelated business cards. Da Fei's mood suddenly lifted. Wow haha! The auction house isn't just a place to buy and sell things; it seems like you could hit a manager just by tossing a brick here. This place must be high society, an excellent place for networking and doing business. No wonder Coltner loves attending parties; it's definitely more than just playing around with girls. By the way, speaking of Coltner, the matter of him getting his grandfather to join the guild is still unresolved?

While Da Fei was happily collecting business cards, more guests entered the venue with a flash of light.

Da Fei couldn't help turning his head to look, and he was stunned! Damn, who did Da Fei see? Skyshattering Thunder!

Damn! How can a fool like him enter such a high-class place?

At this moment, Skyshattering Thunder gave Da Fei a cold smile, "Fun, isn't it? First time, right? Never been here before, right?"

Da Fei's heart sank, is this guy here to make trouble?

With Skyshattering Thunder's entry, a group of NPCs who had been ignoring Da Fei suddenly smiled warmly and raised glasses, "Oh, it's Mr. Skyshattering Thunder, nice to see you again, welcome!"

Oh, come on! What's with the nice to see you again? Does that mean this guy's a regular here? He mixes this well?

Skyshattering Thunder, while raising his glass to the NPC toasting, turned to Da Fei and gave a cold smile.

He clearly came with ill intentions! This fool must be here to hike up the prices against Da Fei, given his vast network of business acquaintances, he must be extremely wealthy, this is trouble!

Indeed! Just now, as the city channel was buzzing to "welcome" Da Fei's appearance, Skyshattering Thunder couldn't sit still and immediately headed to the auction house. Being the owner of the city's renowned weapon shop, he had long qualified to enter the auction house, but it wasn't for messing around in auctions, it was for networking.

And today, hearing that a human named Da Fei could enter this city's auction house could not possibly have been a normal entry, it must have been mission-related! Skyshattering Thunder couldn't swallow his pride, tonight Skyshattering Thunder was going to clash with Da Fei! If he couldn't beat Da Fei in other places, could he not outbid him financially?

#### Chapter 585: Auction at the Restaurant

As the sound of a hammer rang out, all the lights at the party came on, and the curtain of the dance floor was drawn back, revealing an auction stage inlaid with gold and jade. A dwarven host, dressed in flamboyant attire, shouted from the stage, "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Moladin Auction House, held on the 3rd, 6th, and 9th of every month here in Moradin! At Moladin Auction House, credibility is supreme, quality is guaranteed! There are no fakes among the items auctioned here!"

Applause filled the venue.

Da Fei and Skyshattering Thunder, after staring at each other for a long time, turned their eyes to the stage. I don't believe it, with one billion Gold Coins in hand, how can Skyshattering Thunder compete with me? I just don't believe that a broke fool who's been selling Divine Artifacts to pit me could earn one billion in three days. If it keeps up like this, everyone will be trillionaire Gold Coin tycoons after playing for just six months. What's the point then?

Calm down! They must be deliberately raising the price to annoy me. But the auction rules say that you can only bid as high as the amount of money you have, and the Prince has already borrowed 30 million Gold Coins from me, meaning that he believes the restaurant can be sold for at most 30 million. If Skyshattering Thunder wants to outbid me, he also needs 30 million Gold Coins. But does he have 30 million Gold Coins?

No matter how well-connected he is, his production capacity can't keep up; he can't possibly have that much money! Right, my opponent is an NPC. How could a fool possibly understand my level? But what if he was instructed by the Prince? Also unlikely! My identity hasn't been exposed, and it seems the Second Prince selling the restaurant is also a secret... In short, it seems the Prince is not wealthy. What does the Prince have to compete with the Second Prince?

At this time, the host got straight to the point, "The first item up for auction today is the masterpiece 'Queen's Jewelry Box,' contributed by the grand jeweler Pierre during the human Falcon Dynasty to the Queen. The starting bid is one million Gold Coins!"

As a female attendant presented a glittering jewelry box, exclamations filled the air. Immediately, an NPC raised a paddle, "Add 100,000!"

The host shouted enthusiastically, "Number 24 adds 100,000! 1.1 million!"

Then someone else raised a paddle, "Add 100,000!"

"Number 17 adds 100,000, 1.2 million!"

Oh, come on! What good is an antique? Get the main items up so I can crush this fool Skyshattering Thunder and leave! Just as Da Fei was getting impatient, the jewelry box gleamed brightly, and a golden flash appeared on Da Fei's radar!

—System Prompt: You've had the privilege of admiring a rare treasure and received Expert Level Treasure Appraiser information!

Damn! Da Fei's eyebrows twitched—he actually received Treasure Appraiser information!

Well, yeah, under normal circumstances, a Treasure Appraiser learns from books in a library, watching diagrams and studying history to gain information, but now an actual antique is right here in front of me. This is way better than reading in a library! So, attending auctions has this benefit? Ha-ha, ha-ha-ha!

All right, I want to see what level the treasures here can upgrade me to!

Now, the host excitedly and slowly announced, "1.5 million once, 1.5 million twice... 1.5 million! Third! Sold! Congratulations to Number 11 for acquiring the 'Queen's Jewelry Box'!"

As the hammer fell, applause resounded throughout the venue.

The host continued to shout excitedly, "Next, we auction the second treasure, the Frost Coral Tree from the Ice Ocean Deep Sea. Even placed in the hottest forge workshops, it will make you feel a touch of incomparably cool chill. It is an essential treasure for master forgers of divine weapons who must maintain focus and concentration next to blazing fires!"

Meanwhile, several dwarves clad in thick winter clothes hauled in a large basin containing a Frost Coral Tree, and a sudden chill spread throughout the auction venue!

An uproar erupted throughout the hall! A block of golden light flashed wildly on Da Fei's radar!

—System Prompt: You've had the privilege of admiring a rare treasure and received Expert Level Treasure Appraiser information!

Sure enough, more information has appeared! Da Fei's jaw dropped in surprise. So, there really are all sorts of strange treasures in the game, other than just weapons and equipment?

The host proclaimed, "Starting bid at one million Gold Coins!"

In no time, everyone began raising their paddles!

The host, waving the hammer excitedly, shouted, "1.1 million! 1.2 million! 1.4 million! 1.7 million! 1.8 million! 1.9 million! 2 million! Number 44, 2 million! Anyone want to continue bidding? 2 million once—Number 34, 2.1 million! Number 44, 2.2 million!"

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched. This freezing thing seemed to be an air conditioner for blacksmiths. Was it really reliable? The key was, could players use it? When I repair Titan's Grasp in the future, can the God-level blacksmith use it?

Damn it! Speaking of Titan's Grasp, I just remembered I haven't asked Elena about it since I rescued her! I'm such a goner for beauties that I completely forgot about Titan's Grasp! All right, it's not too late to think about it now.

Da Fei glanced sideways at Skyshattering Thunder, who was standing expressionless, seemingly not affected by the auction atmosphere.

Fine, let's see if you outbid me. If you don't, I'll take it; after all, it's just over two million. The money I use to gift my subordinates is about the same. If you bid, I'll let you; let's see how much money you've got to burn against me!

Da Fei also raised a paddle!

The host was overjoyed and announced, "Gentleman from Number 78, 2.5 million! 2.5 million once! Anyone else want to increase the bid? 2.5 million twice!"

No way? No one else is bidding? Not outbidding me? Da Fei looked at Skyshattering Thunder in shock, only to see him give a cold smile and say, "2.5!"

Damn!

The host hammered down, "2.5 million, third time! Sold, congratulations to the gentleman from Number 78 on winning the Frost Coral Tree!"

—System Prompt: You won the Frost Coral Tree at auction for 2.5 million Gold Coins, and you've gained 2,500 reputation in Moladin City.

Oh, come on! Smiling like a watermelon, I came to the auction to buy things just to enjoy it! What? It seems he also knows this isn't the main event. Fine, I'll play the main event with you! Let's see how you outbid me!

What Da Fei didn't know, however, was that Skyshattering Thunder was video broadcasting live to Star's Eternal Star. Since Star agreed to collaborate with Skyshattering Thunder on the city-building project, Skyshattering Thunder finally became friends with Eternal Star, one of the three chairpersons of the China Region.

Indeed, Skyshattering Thunder didn't have that much money, but Star did! There wasn't much to the live stream; it was just for Star to enjoy the show. If something piqued Star's interest, they might outbid Da Fei from the shadows, or even directly sabotage his efforts.

...

Now, the auction continued item by item, and Da Fei feasted his eyes, gaining expert information with each bizarre item that appeared.

Finally, the host spoke again, "Ladies and gentlemen, the next thing up for auction is the Red Ruby Restaurant, located at the intersection of 23 Commercial Street in Moradin City, complete with business and property certificates, starting at 30 million Gold Coins!"

The whole place was abuzz!

Da Fei's jaw dropped further! Damn it, so 30 million was the starting price! Prince, you sly bastard!

Meanwhile, Skyshattering Thunder and Star's Eternal Star, who was watching from the shadows, were stunned as well! No wonder Da Fei could enter this auction; all the skulduggery beforehand had to do with this restaurant!

#### Chapter 586: You're Awesome, I'm Not Buying It Anymore!

As the auctioneer announced the starting bid, the whole place erupted into a clamor!

At the same time, Skyshattering Thunder, who was at the venue, and Eternal Star, who was watching the drama unfold from behind the scenes, were both shocked! As the owner of a weapon shop in the Royal Capital, Skyshattering Thunder certainly knew it wasn't hard to build a tavern if you had the blueprints. The difficulty lay in securing a business license in a bustling place like the Royal Capital! Otherwise, why not simply build a tavern in the countryside of Newbie Village? The village head would even beg you on his knees to build one. The question was, how would you get any business?

Getting a business license wasn't as simple as just paying money for it; you had to complete quests and grind for reputation! Skyshattering Thunder still couldn't forget how over a hundred of his brothers had pulled all-nighters for days on end to grind reputation for him! But all the hard work was worth it, as Skyshattering Thunder, who was already profiting from his weapon shop, knew full well what owning a tavern meant, especially what it meant in the Dwarf Kingdom, a nation obsessed with drinking!

Likewise, as the leader of a professional guild, Eternal Star was certainly aware of the significance of a tavern! And the fact that a tavern could be bought directly with Gold Coins clearly indicated something fishy was going on. Even if one used their backside to think, they would know what was up. That's exactly why Da Fei was here!

Skyshattering Thunder immediately shouted to Eternal Star through the video link, "Guild Leader! This Red Ruby Restaurant belongs to the Second Prince of the Dwarf Kingdom, and it's absolutely not normal for it to be sold off so casually. It must be a disguised reward given to Da Fei! The location of this tavern is so much better than my weapon shop. The neighbors are all filthy rich in the Dwarf Kingdom, and a single meal can cost close to ten thousand Gold Coins. In-game, it's normal to make over a hundred thousand Gold Coins in a day, and during banquets, it's outrageous! The key point is that running a tavern has low costs, unlike my weapon shop where I have to exhaustingly ask my brothers to work all night to produce and craft. It's so much easier!"

Eternal Star's eyebrows twitched continuously, "Are you thinking about getting it?"

Skyshattering Thunder quickly replied, "Guild Leader, it's us who will get it! I only have 20 million Gold Coins, and it's all pooled from my brothers to prepare for building a city! But as long as the Guild Leader is willing to help, money is definitely not a problem! Even if I buy it on behalf of the Guild Leader, that would be fine, anyway I just can't swallow my pride, why should I lose to this trash in everything?"

I can't swallow my pride either! Eternal Star said with a heavy voice, "Alright, I'll transfer the money to your account immediately!"

Skyshattering Thunder was overjoyed, "Thank you, Guild Leader! Rest assured, I will not take a share of the profits, I'll just consider it as buying it for the Guild Leader!"

Eternal Star couldn't help but smile contentedly, "Let's still split the profits proportionally. You won't be at any loss by following us. And, even if we don't get it, it's no big deal. Just give him a hard pushback!"

Skyshattering Thunder said excitedly, "Understood, Guild Leader! I'll push back hard!"

Eternal Star felt even more satisfied. Both were just ordinary players, but why was there such a huge difference in how Da Fei and Skyshattering Thunder conducted themselves? If Da Fei had shown a lower profile and proactively sought to ingratiate himself with Star, I definitely wouldn't have made things difficult for him.

.....

At this moment, the bidding at the auction had already begun, and a fat dwarf preemptively raised his bid, shouting, "35 million!"

The auctioneer joyfully announced, "35 million! Bid no. 67 offers 35 million!"

"36 million!"

The auctioneer loudly called, "Bid no. 88 offers 36 million!"

"37 million!"

"Bid no. 24 offers 37 million!"

Holy crap! All my competitors are NPCs! But then, the Prince said that as long as I'm in the top ten, he could manipulate the results! Alright, as long as I have his word, am I really afraid that NPCs could beat me?

Now Da Fei didn't have the luxury of contemplation; if he let those NPCs drive up the price, the cost for him to make it into the top 10 would skyrocket!

Da Fei immediately raised his bid, "38 million!"

The auctioneer excitedly announced, "Mister no. 78 offers 38 million!"

Having made his bid, Da Fei coldly glanced at Skyshattering Thunder. He had the power to manipulate the results under the table, you fool, what can you do to fight me? Skyshattering Thunder just happened to meet Da Fei's glance, and he too smirked coldly and raised his bid, "40 million!"

The auctioneer yelled fervently, "Guest no. 90 offers 40 million! 40 million!!"

Damn it! This guy actually has 40 million? At this point, Da Fei really had to look at him in a new light! This guy, with his strong operation skills and money, he's not doing too well, is he? Hmph, fool, no matter how well you do, you're still going to be flipped by my underhanded tactics!

"41 million!"

"41 million! Bid no. 88 offers 41 million!"

"42 million!"

"Bid no. 67 offers 42 million!"

"43 million!"

"Bid no. 55 offers 43 million!"

Damn it! Even though Da Fei was no longer intimidated by Skyshattering Thunder's threat, he couldn't help but feel his heart race as he suddenly saw his rank drop to sixth!

Just then, Skyshattering Thunder raised his bid again, "45 million!"

The auctioneer roared with excitement: "45 million! Bidder number 90 has raised the bid again, 45 million! Is there anyone else following up?"

Da Fei was stunned in an instant; this dude can't just be a show-off, right? He really wants it, doesn't he? Holy shit! With that move, I've dropped to 7th place!

The chubby dwarf raised his sign again: "50 million!"

The auctioneer screamed: "50 million!!! Bidder number 67 is relentlessly pursuing, bidding 50 million! Will bidder number 90 give up?"

Da Fei felt like his eggs were shattered, damn it, a raise of the hand and it's up by 5 million, now I'm in 8th place!

Skyshattering Thunder coldly smiled and raised his sign again: "51 million!"

The whole venue exploded! Damn it! Down to 9th place!

The big fat dwarf shouted: "55 million!"

— Ah, spit! 10th place now! Da Fei spewed a mouthful of blood! I mean, Prince, are you making a mistake? You only lent me 30 million Gold Coins, are you sure I can handle this restaurant?

And just then, Skyshattering Thunder unhesitatingly raised his sign again: "60 million!"

The whole venue exploded! Da Fei spurted out another mouthful of blood! I've fallen out of the top 10! So, to win, I have to bid higher than 60 million? But the thing is, although I have 100 million in cash, I owe the Prince 30 million, Shenlan 20 million, and Dragon Slayer 10 million; I don't actually have much money, honestly can't mess around, I must head to the Eastern World immediately after dealing with Radiant City, I can't possibly go there naked, right?

As Da Fei spewed blood, an attendant suddenly approached Da Fei with a glass of wine and whispered, "Sir, please continue to enjoy your meal!"

Holy crap! You waiter, don't block my way, okay? Wait a minute! In an instant, Da Fei noticed what seemed to be a slip of paper in the hand of the attendant delivering the wine!

Holy shit! That's deep! Without a second thought, Da Fei hurriedly grabbed the glass along with the note to read it, and on it was a line of small text: "Improvise on the fly."

— Ah, spit! Da Fei spewed out a mouthful of old wine again! Battling to the end and you give me "improvise on the fly"? What the heck, you should be giving me money to secure the deal, right? Unexpectedly, oh unexpectedly, you're such a Prince conducting business so unpredictably!

What to do? What does "improvise on the fly" mean? Does it mean it doesn't matter if I can't buy it? That's right, damn it, the auction has at least doubled in profit, even if you were my real brother, you probably wouldn't want to engage in shady deals, right?

At this moment, the auctioneer's voice was filled with excitement and resounded through the venue: "60 million for the first time! 60 million for the second time! 60 million—"

At this, the entire room fell silent, the auctioneer raised the hammer high!

And at this moment, Skyshattering Thunder was staring blankly at the auction stage, not provoking Da Fei with his gaze! He really wants it, doesn't he? Maybe he's not provoking me because he's afraid to anger me?

In this split second, Da Fei gritted his teeth, made up his mind, and thought, you think it's easy to get a restaurant with a capital operation license? Skyshattering Thunder, you are too naive! Even if I don't compete with you, wouldn't NPCs want to?

I was too naive! The so-called top 10 behind-the-scenes manipulation is just a system to fool the players! With so many wealthy NPCs around, is there really a big difference whether I'm in the top 10 or not?

Alright, the Prince wants me to "improvise on the fly" does he? I'll just show him an improvisation! If it works, I'll take it as spending a little more to give him a big gift.

If it fails, then I'll just piss off Skyshattering Thunder and then get out of this mess immediately without any hard feelings. After all, it's not like I don't have a restaurant; the one under construction in Radiant City is mine, although it's just slightly worse in terms of location. And it's not like I don't know other Princes; the one from Radiant City, although seems to be a bit of a pain. I'm a busy man; having secured the Female Hero and not caring about the Divine Artifact Titan's Grip, I don't need your restaurant, I just won't hassle myself with the Prince's crap; that's what I call stepping back for a broader sky!

Da Fei immediately raised his sign: "70 million!"

million, I'll just not repay Shenlan and Dragon Slayer for now, I still have 30 million! Let's see what you'll do, Skyshattering Thunder.

The venue exploded once again, and the auctioneer screamed again! Da Fei coldly locked eyes with Skyshattering Thunder! Little guy, can you top this? I won't let you have it so easily.

At this moment, Da Fei's wealth shocked Eternal Star behind the scenes.

Skyshattering Thunder exclaimed: "Guild leader, what should we do? This price is a bit of a loss! It'll take quite some time to recoup the costs! It will affect our city building! Where did Da Fei get so much money?"

Eternal Star solemnly paused a moment before chuckling: "Right, where did you get so much money?"

Skyshattering Thunder laughed: "Of course, it's because I'm loyal, have a good reputation, and have many good brothers who will lend me money to manage the business."

Eternal Star laughed: "That's it, our Star guild has good credit and reputation. Surely, there must be many ordinary players willing to lend us money to manage our turnover. So, problems that can be solved with money are never a problem!"

"I get it now!" With no more doubts, Skyshattering Thunder raised his sign high: "80 million!"

Silence fell over the whole venue!

Da Fei sighed deeply, and his heart, tangled for so long, let go in a flash! Fine, you Skyshattering Thunder are impressive, you are someone noteworthy! I won't buy it anymore! I won't trouble myself with the Prince's crap and will be out of sight and out of mind.

#### Chapter 587: Obtaining Tavern Compensation

Da Fei gave up, but that didn't mean Skyshattering Thunder immediately won. Just as the host was about to slam down the hammer, an NPC resolutely raised a card: "85 million!"

Ah pu! Da Fei burst into laughter! I told you so, even if I'm not competing with you, how could the NPC tycoon let you off easily? Push you to your limits, man!

And Skyshattering Thunder, poised as if the Taishan Mountain was collapsing without changing his expression, raised the card again: "90 million!"

Da Fei was struck dumb on the spot! This is crazy, I'm convinced! Damn it, so rich. Can someone tell me, how did this goofball, who was bargaining with me for a crappy divine artifact just a few days ago, suddenly come up with so much money? Could it be that in this world I'm not the only one who can advance rapidly overnight? Thinking about his tactical performance in the Divine Domain Space, and now seeing his financial power displayed, Da Fei really felt an uncomfortable sharpness on his back.

At this moment, the host's voice was already hoarse: "Ladies and gentlemen, the competition has already reached its climax, will guest number 90 finally win? Let us wait and see! 90 million, first call! 90 million, second call!!"

At that moment, Da Fei's eyes met with the mocking gaze of Skyshattering Thunder again. At that instant, Da Fei felt extremely annoyed, suddenly having a strong impulse to top him! But on second thought, this guy hid his capabilities deeply and didn't appear as superficial as he looked. Da Fei couldn't fall for his tricks and ultimately held back.

Tch, consider it letting you off!

—BANG!!! A hammer strike!

"Congratulations to guest number 90 for winning the bid for the restaurant! Ladies and gentlemen, this auction is officially over, welcome back on the 3rd, 6th, and 9th of each month!"

The venue erupted with applause. At this time, a group of various NPCs approached Skyshattering Thunder to toast and congratulate him, then Skyshattering Thunder gave Da Fei a smug cold smile.

Damn! You're awesome, you have the money, alright already?

Da Fei, feeling annoyed, turned and walked out the door. Just then, an attendant at the door bowed and said, "Thank you, sir, for your patronage this time, here is a complimentary admission ticket for you, and we welcome you to come again."

Da Fei was surprised, an admission ticket? Damn! So does it mean as long as I win a bid on an expensive item or topple someone satisfactorily at the auction house, I can get one? Alright, I'll come again next time, my expert-level treasure appraiser is counting on the next upgrade!

Da Fei took the admission ticket and was suddenly startled. Damn, there was a small note inside the admission ticket! Only a few words were written on the small note: "Meet at the usual place."

What the heck, Second Prince, Second Prince, you really have something to say! Yeah, I've faced sea monsters and Eight-Headed Snakes and New Oriental, if you had nothing to say, I was almost ready to give up on you.

But, where's the usual place? It must be that Iron Helmet Tavern's private room again, right? Okay, let's see how the Prince arranges the contact point, it can't always be about someone handing over a note.

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At this time, having finally won the auction for the Red Ruby Restaurant, Skyshattering Thunder and Eternal Star breathed a sigh of relief.

Eternal Star smiled contentedly: "Although the price was a bit expensive, it's still within the range Star can afford."

Skyshattering Thunder proudly said: "The key is, this is an indirect reward given to Da Fei by the Second Prince, under normal circumstances, such good things are impossible. Da Fei finally took a fall this time!"

Eternal Star lightly smiled: "It's not really a fall, just that he didn't profit. Anyway, there's no need to let others know about this, you can consider it a secret ace for us at Star, I have high hopes for you."

Skyshattering Thunder excitedly said: "Please rest assured, President, I will manage the restaurant well and aim to recoup the costs in one month!"

Eternal Star laughed: "Yes, manage it well. The Dwarf Kingdom matters depend on you. But don't rush for quick success; money isn't an issue, we at Star also need to learn from you and start borrowing money everywhere."

Skyshattering Thunder joined in with a laugh: "That's called private financing! As long as we at Star start this trend, it will definitely lead the world."

Eternal Star laughingly sighed: "What I hate the most is when foreigners start copying us! After all, countries like South Korea and Japan are more united than us, which is a bit troublesome."

Skyshattering Thunder hurriedly said: "Please rest assured, President, let me carry the flag for Star's dwarf power in the China Region and lighten your worries."

Eternal Star laughed heartily: "Good, work hard!"

.....

Da Fei once again came to the Black Crystal Stone private room on the second floor of the Iron Helmet Tavern, where food and drinks had already been prepared. But Da Fei felt a sense of loss, completely out of the mood for conversation.

The room was filled with thick smoke, and the mysterious man in black reappeared: "Mr. Da Fei, the auction just now was quite spectacular."

Oh my goodness! Was it spectacular because it made a killing?! Da Fei shook his head and sighed, "I'm ashamed, I've disappointed Your Highness."

The man in black stated seriously, "It was our oversight, we didn't expect the Prince's men to also be at the venue, which made it inconvenient for you to act; otherwise, the Prince would have accused you of disturbing the order of the auction."

Da Fei's heart sank, so it was Skyshattering Thunder who messed everything up!

The man in black continued, "However, His Highness is very satisfied with the final auction price, and very pleased with your performance. To compensate you, how about we transfer the ownership of this tavern to you?"

Da Fei got a sudden surprise: "This tavern? Iron Helmet Tavern? Selling it to me?" Holy shit, so this tavern is also one of Second Prince's properties?

The man in black nodded, "Although it's not as good as the Red Ruby Restaurant, I think a low-key tavern is actually more convenient as a contact point. So, I have always been using this place as a contact point."

Da Fei rejoiced, "You should have said so earlier, why bother creating such a grand scene with the auction?"

The man in black was surprised, "Wasn't it you who wanted a luxury restaurant? Such big properties worth tens of millions must be bid for publicly according to the kingdom's rules."

Oh my goodness! So it was me who slipped up! Thinking about how his rightful benefits were snatched by others, Da Fei felt even more upset, finally understanding how Furious Sea Waves must have felt.

Thus, he sighed, "It's a pity that such a good restaurant was acquired by the Prince's men, it's my fault."

The man in black casually said, "No need for regrets. There's a problem with the kingdom: the tycoons' extravagant wastefulness sets a bad example for the military and the public, so His Highness will discuss this issue with the king to rectify the catering industry."

Rectifying? Da Fei was speechless! Oh my goodness, this Second Prince really is something! But I like it, hahaha! In a flash, Da Fei felt enlightened.

The man in black added, "But such small taverns are no problem. Now, I must excuse myself. The tavern owner Malikim will soon assign you a property transfer task. Once you complete the task, you will own this tavern."

Da Fei was surprised, "I have to do a task?"

The man in black said coldly, "Of course, even a small tavern must follow the kingdom's rules. But don't worry, you can choose the task yourself, and Malikim will assist you fully. As for the money the prince

lent you, just slowly pay it back using the tavern's earnings. If there's anything you need, come here and find Malikim. Goodbye!"

After speaking, he vanished into thin smoke again.

Oh my goodness! I made a killing at the auction for him, and he still insists on repayment? But well, it's also good, even a small pot is made of iron; I now own a business that can automatically make money for me.

Just then, there was a knock on the door: "Sir, I'm Malikim, I have something important to ask you!"

Just in time, I'm also short on time.

Da Fei opened the door, and a bald dwarf, with a pleasant smile, holding a booklet, entered and got straight to the point: "Sir, the transfer of the tavern is for those capable. There are various types of transfer tasks: increasing revenue, developing new recipes, upgrading the tavern scale, enhancing reputation, please choose one."

Da Fei took the booklet and immediately asked, "Developing new recipes? Does developing a new type of drink count?"

The bald dwarf laughed, "Of course."

Da Fei nodded, "Great, I have 500 units of Forest Spring in the barracks, a top-quality ingredient for making medicine and brewing alcohol. Can you help develop a new type of drink?"

The bald dwarf was suddenly surprised, "Forest Spring? 500 units! No problem, absolutely no problem!"

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Good, I await your good news!"

—System Prompt: You have accepted the Iron Helmet Tavern's transfer task "Developing a New Type of Drink"!

## Chapter 588: Developing Chimera Forest

Da Fei went to the barracks and sent all 500 units of Forest Spring from the transport vehicle to the Iron Helmet Tavern. However, just thinking about the arrangement for his over 200 elite Forest Demons and Flower Demons, Da Fei felt quite troubled.

Using the System's station function to transport the troops back to Radiant City? But the problem is that this is the Dwarf Capital. Transporting them back involves long and difficult roads; it would take almost one month in game time and more than three days in reality. Moreover, now that there are no battles to fight, what use would they be after returning? They'd still be idle, right?

Forces with special production skills obviously shouldn't be left idle. They should be stationed in the Vine Demon Space's forest to collect Forest Spring and pollen. But the problem is, I suspect that in three days' time, I will have already departed for the Eastern World. Where would I find the time to arrange that? I would have to wait until I return from the Eastern World to tackle it, but who knows when I'll be able to return from there? Ultimately, they would still end up idling.

No, I absolutely cannot let them remain idle. Now that I already have properties in the Dwarf Kingdom, I want to find a way to station them in the Dwarf Kingdom to promote the industry and achieve a one-stop service from raw materials to goods to market nearby.

With a plan in mind, Da Fei hurriedly rushed back to the Iron Helmet Tavern.

At this moment, Malikim, who was receiving the Forest Spring, saw Da Fei return and couldn't help cheering excitedly: "Sir! This Forest Spring is truly top-notch! As long as this spring water is used for brewing, it is bound to produce top-notch fine liquor. With the same ingredients and the same technique, the price could even multiply by five or six times, even ten times!"

Hahaha! This Forest Spring is the result gathered by the Forest Demons in the Divine Domain Space for hundreds of years, the raw material that I've brought back after traveling thousands of miles. Just five or six times? It must be at least ten times!

Da Fei earnestly asked, "Do you see a good market future for this Forest Spring?"

Malikim slapped his thigh with unwavering conviction: "Even a blind dwarf could sniff out its market value!"

Da Fei nodded, "Great, but I only have 500 units right now, so it's hard to say how much liquor can be mass-produced. However, I have specialized Forest Demon workers for collecting Forest Spring, but I don't have a forest. Could you think of a way? The bigger the forest and the safer, the better!"

Malikim frowned for a moment, "Forest Demon workers? Forest?" Then he nodded and immediately said, "Please wait a moment, sir. I'll take a sample and report to the boss!"

That's exactly the words I was waiting for! Da Fei of course knew who he referred to as the boss, and thus chuckled: "Make it quick, time is pressing!"

"Rest assured, sir!" Saying so, Malikim hurried out the door.

While Da Fei quietly sat back down in the Black Crystal Stone private room waiting for good news. He believed that although the Dwarf Kingdom is mainly composed of snow mountains and canyons, there are still forests, and dwarves primarily focus on mining. They do not utilize forests to the extent of the Elves, generally treating them more like logging sites. Disputes over interests should not be too intense, so it shouldn't be very hard to ask the Prince for a forest to set up operations.

While contemplating, the room was suddenly filled with black smoke and fog, and the mysterious man in black appeared again.

Haha, very efficient work—I like it! Da Fei quickly stood up and laughed, "Welcome, sir! Sorry to trouble you to come again."

The man in black praised, "Truly Mr. Da Fei. Just having taken over the tavern and you've already managed to instigate such a long-term influential move. His Highness highly appreciates it and also sees great potential in the Forest Spring brewing market. However—"

However? Da Fei's smile froze slightly, I'm pressed for time! Please, don't give me trouble!

Here, the man in black spoke solemnly: "For certain reasons, His Highness cannot publicly support you on this matter. Thus, you can only station your worker troops in Chimera Canyon Forest under the guise

of assisting with law enforcement. It's a very dangerous area that hasn't been developed by the Kingdom, would you take it?"

Oh geez! Three-headed Chimera flying creatures? I've already said I didn't want dangerous forests, could you not give me trouble? I need an explanation!

Da Fei bitterly said, "If the Prince can sell off a tavern and a restaurant, why can't he cooperate a bit on the forest?"

The man in black replied sternly, "Because once a tavern and a restaurant are sold, they have nothing to do with the Prince. But it's different with a forest; he can't sell it. Once the Prince permits you to develop a forest under his jurisdiction, it would appear as if he's fostering a faction for personal gain. Do you understand? Thus, the Prince can only find a forest not actually under the Kingdom's control, and use such justification to allow your stay. Overall, the Prince believes in your capabilities to handle the local dangers effectively!"

—System Prompt: Prince Alberon has issued you a quest "Security Defense of Chimera Canyon Forest." Do you accept?

—Task Hint: The Chimera Canyon Forest located in the Northern Mountains of Kledin Town in the Dwarf Kingdom has been dominated by powerful Chimera populations for thousands of years. These powerful creatures sometimes appear in nearby residential areas, posing a threat to the local residents. Your task is to eliminate or reduce the number of Chimeras to prevent them from threatening the surrounding residents.

Damn it! Da Fei is utterly crushed!

If I personally lead the team, of course I'd wipe out all enemies, but I'm about to go fight Sea Monsters and Eight-Headed Snakes, so who has the time for such triviality? Letting Forest Demons and Flower Demons without hero leadership settle in, what difference does it make from fighting with wild creatures?

Da Fei immediately opened the official website to check the detailed introduction of Chimera:

Chimera, a large outdoor Flying Creature, normally has two heads, while elites or BOSS have three heads. Its attack method is the infuriatingly far-ranged aerial acid spit ground attack.

Although Da Fei's Charming Emperor Cannon Emperor is a Flying Banshee, they can't shoot in the air and must land to shoot. But Chimera doesn't need to, it's basically a true bomber, dominating all close combat infantry, only remote troops or those truly capable of air combat can contend with it. But the real air combat troops, except for the Flower Demons who cannot be dispatched, are absent in all countries.

However, my Elite Flower Demon can be dispatched and can engage in air combat with it! If I could spare the time, it's not impossible to win, right?

Da Fei was checking the map of Dwarf Kingdom. Chimera Forest is located in the north of Kledin Town, and Kledin Town is at the very north of Dwarf Kingdom, almost close to the Arctic Circle! Damn, so it's a harsh frozen land where monsters are strong? And transporting troops from the capital Moradin to Kledin Town would also inevitably consume half a month in-game, which is more than a day in real time.

Damn it! It hurts whether I look at it one way or the other!

At that moment, the man in black asked again, "Has Mr. Da Fei decided? Although it's dangerous there, the more dangerous the place, the bigger the opportunity."

Da Fei sighed deeply, "Is there a time limit for this task? Any penalties for failure?"

The man in black shook his head and chuckled, "Chimera has been rampant in that area for hundreds of years, what's stopping it from continuing for another hundred years? Don't worry, there's no time limit or failure penalties for this task, but it's always better to complete it sooner."

Alright! Since transporting troops will take more than a day anyway, I'll settle the Sea Monster and stuff within a day, and before heading out to the Eastern World, I will also... not to say completely handle it, but at least take control of a small piece of territory, it should be doable given it's as big as the Divine Domain Space, right?

Da Fei nodded, "Alright, I'll take on this task!"

—System Prompt: You have accepted the task "Security Protection of Chimera Canyon Forest".

The man in black nodded, "Very well, you first transport your troops to Kledin Town and then go to the town to find the mayor, he will assist you as much as possible."

"Got it."

"Well then, I wish you continued success, goodbye!" After saying this, the man in black again turned into smoke and disappeared.

Da Fei shook his head and sighed inwardly. The more NPC assistance involved, the more troublesome the task! What am I even doing here? But it doesn't matter, the US Empire is deploying troops and building bases globally, I should also strategize globally and set up bases. With Teleportation Arrays, wherever I go, I'll have troops nearby that I can pull out for battle.

Then Da Fei found Malikim and instructed, "While I'm away, leave the wine development to you."

Malikim patted his chest and assured, "Don't worry sir, the boss has also instructed just now, such high-quality ingredients must be used to brew the highest quality wine, and the boss will also send a top brewmaster to assist."

"Good, very good!" Da Fei nodded satisfactorily. Having the NPCs giving me tasks help me complete tasks, only I can be so cool.

Now there's nothing more to say, Da Fei once again headed to the barracks, packaging and dispatching the Earth Element BOSS and over two hundred Elite Forest Demons and Flower Demons.

Then there wasn't anything for me to do here, I headed back to Radiant City to prepare for the Sea Monster battle.

Chapter 589: It Really Was Your People Hopping Around

A flash of light, and Da Fei returned to Radiant City. By this time, the building repairs in Radiant City had been completed, and the Flower Demons were concentrating all their efforts on replenishing Mana in the Magic Charging Crystals.

At this moment, Miss Anlicia was also back, and she stepped forward saying, "Lord City Lord, the 500 units of gifts prepared for the Tachiusu Tribe have been purchased and loaded on the ship, Miss Tamilia has also completed the transplantation of the Holy Vine, and we can set off now."

million Gold Coins for 500 units of goods? What exactly did you buy?

Da Fei nodded seriously and said, "Very good, but before we tackle the Eight-Headed Snake, we have a warm-up activity of hunting a Sea Monster, which is the giant Electric Eel you encountered outside Fog Reef Bay last time. It has already become a threat to the Kingdom, and we must eliminate it immediately."

Anlicia was taken aback, then chuckled dryly, "No problem, the more thrilling, the better!"

Da Fei nodded, "Then let's start by delivering goods to the Vine Demon Space, and then immediately return to go to Elorin."

The Flying now re-enters the diving state, the scene changes with a flash of light, and the Flying reappears in the Blood Sea.

Da Fei paused for a moment to observe the Spider Demons' activities. At this time, the Spider Demons were still enthusiastically digging and filling the island.

Da Fei couldn't help but frown. Although he reported to Makar and suggested incorporating them, what would Makar think? More importantly, what's the stance of these Spider Demons? If they neither can be incorporated nor defeated after digging in, how should these two mines be dealt with in the future? And what about the Demigod Turtle?

Da Fei thought so hard, an Eight-Headed Snake and an Electric Eel were already enough for him to handle, Brother really didn't want to keep bashing his head against things like Demigods in the Demigod Space.

Once the scene changed, the Flying once again arrived in the Vine Demon Jungle, and was once again greeted by Lady Tachiusu and a crowd of Flower Demons.

Anlicia waved and smiled, "Lady Tachiusu, we've brought a lot of gifts this time, a full set of crystal tableware, gemstone seat clocks, framed crystal artwork, crystal dressing mirrors, silver windchimes, silkworm silk bedspreads, silkworm silk curtains, velvet feather coats, velvet carpets, oak precision wooden desks and chairs..."

Wow!!! For a moment, Lady Tachiusu exclaimed in surprise, and Da Fei, listening to her list them off nonstop like announcing dishes, was even more dumbfounded!

What are these? Commodities from the exchange? Or items from NPC shops? Turns out there's so much stuff in the game that Brother doesn't even know about! But they sound very high-end and classy, right?

Sure enough, Lady Tachiusu came back to her senses and joyfully said, "Not even the living furnishings of princes and nobles could be better than this, right?"

Anlicia snapped her fingers proudly, "Ice Fruit! This is indeed outfitted according to noble living standards! You've endured such hardships here all these years—ah, right, due to the heavy usage of Radiant City's Teleportation Array, we could only bring some household goods this time. Next time, we'll bring food and drink as well, also of noble standards!"

Lady Tachiusu gleefully said, "Thank you, Lord City Lord, thank you, Miss Anlicia!"

Da Fei laughed dryly, "It's nothing, nothing! Everyone has helped so much, I must not let everyone down!"

Anlicia smiled, "People's sense of happiness and security directly comes from their own homestead. Improving the home environment directly boosts people's Morale, and with high Morale, whether working, studying, or fighting, everyone is full of energy! Another indirect impact of improving the home environment is that there's a certain chance to enhance people's taste. Not everyone can elevate their taste through high-class living, but once their taste is elevated, it signifies their advancement, and they might advance or learn new skills!"

Lady Tachiusu joyfully said, "Miss Deputy City Lord is absolutely right! Elevating taste is very beneficial for our tribe's development!"

Da Fei suddenly realized, that means only by raising the overall standard of living of the city population, is there a bigger possibility of cultivating advanced talents!

Da Fei asked hurriedly, "The progress of our school in training the Flower Demons is slow, is this also related to the harsh living conditions of the Flower Demons?"

Anlicia chuckled, then her face became stern, "The main reason is the lack of teaching strength in the school! The training of talents should first address the issue of teaching resources. Improving the living standard of people is costly and is the last consideration! Under the premise of ensuring people's basic needs for food and warmth, maintaining a certain proportion of poor population is also necessary. This way, the lower-level citizens have the motivation to learn and strive towards the higher-level citizens, and the higher-level citizens will feel a sense of superiority in life, and have the motivation to strive further to prevent being surpassed!"

Lady Tachiusu chuckled, "Miss Deputy City Lord makes sense!"

Holy crap! Speaking so eloquently, becoming a Deputy City Lord for a few days is really something, eh? Anyway, this served as a reminder for Da Fei, all sorts of various furniture and utensils in the game are very useful, their value can't be measured by normal panel data.

Anyway, no more talk, once there's more money later, just go ahead and improve the standard of living, Brother wants his Radiant City to live up to its status as a super city!

Now, the Flying docks again, the Vine Demons cheer and leap towards the Flying's deck to unload, continuing to transport the timber piled up in the lumber yard onto the ship.

Miss Tamilia appeared again, "Lord, I will now fully assist Lady Tachiusu in grafting and cultivating the Evil Branch Ancient Tree Fortress. During my absence from the ship, the Holy Vine Space will be unavailable for use, I hope this will not inconvenience Lord."

Holy crap, that directly reduces the transport capacity by a thousand units, this inconvenience is huge!

Da Fei chuckled, "No worries, there wasn't much to transport anyway."

Tachiusu hurriedly said, "Lord, time is pressing, so I will take Miss Tamilia to cultivate the ancient tree."

Da Fei nodded, "Alright, I'll leave it to you!"

Now, taking advantage of the interval between loading and unloading, Da Fei once again rode the leaf boat to dive into the Eight-Headed Snake space channel. At this moment, the four or five heads of the Eight-Headed Snake were still sleepwalking in a chaotic dance, which was good since it left plenty of time for work.

Elena affirmed, "Master, the energy within its body is more rampant than yesterday. I'd like to get closer to see if its alert range has changed. Normally, when a creature is extremely fatigued, its alert range should decrease."

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat, "Right! The smaller its alert range, the more advantageous for our attack!"

Thus, the boat continued to slowly approach, getting closer and closer, reaching yesterday's alarm trigger point, but no alarm!

Da Fei felt overjoyed and proceeded further; soon, a red light burst out! Alarm!

Da Fei immediately retreated! So, that's how it is!

Elena excitedly stated, "Master, we can deduce that as the wooden disturbances continue, its alert range will keep reducing. Eventually, master's big ship might approach it for battle quietly without alerting it!"

That's exactly the effect Da Fei wanted, and he couldn't help but burst into laughter! After all, brother's forward-thinking work with wooden disruptions was a stroke of genius. It managed to control all unfavorable situations to the lowest level, not to mention the Divine Artifact brother got from Makar!

In any case, in this battle, Da Fei felt incredibly confident. With such firm confidence, Da Fei had no worries about fighting the Sea Monster.

The boat returned to the shore of the Vine Demon Jungle. Da Fei started checking the logs sent from Tai Da upstream.

"Reporting to Lord City Lord, no movements in any of the spaces today, the only anomaly is that the mercury vapor eruptions are getting shorter, suggesting aggressive movements in the Lava Space by the invaders from the Demon Race."

Da Fei was alarmed, these demons move fast! Considering their pace, would brother make it in time to rescue through the Eight-Headed Snake?

It was at this moment that Da Fei suddenly remembered something—was this invader from the Demon Race a player or an NPC? If it's a player, then could it be Dragon Slayer? Does this mean that brother will have to clash with them again eventually?

Ah, this is somewhat troublesome! Brother has already taken over the walls of Dragon Slayer, occupied such a big advantage, and they didn't turn on brother but even conspired to stage a play. If brother backstabs them, turning it into a real fight, that would be too awkward! Is brother that kind of person?

Of course, brother is that kind of person! But it also depends on the person, right? For the likes of Blood Sea Wave and Skyshattering Thunder, stepping on them a few more times wouldn't be too much. But for someone as powerful, timely, and willing to lend money like Hemorrhoid Ointment, brother should stick with him through thick and thin, right? How could brother keep doing things that let him down?

After some deep contemplation, Da Fei finally figured out a way that involved initial courtesy followed by surprise, deceiving without worrying about losing face from both sides.

Da Fei then opened his friend list to send a message to Ma Yinglong, "Boss Ma, still up so late?"

Soon, Ma Yinglong replied, "Brother Fei, how could I sleep?"

Da Fei sighed, "It's my brother's fault, but there's something I must report to Boss Ma. Isn't there a group of your guys causing a stir in a Lava Space inside the World Tree? The Elf Kingdom is preparing to make a move!"

Ma Yinglong exclaimed in shock, "What? This is new?"

Damn, "What? This is new?" That's profound! Are you denying there's anyone in the Lava Space or confirming the Elf Kingdom's action?

Da Fei continued, "Boss Ma, no kidding, the Kingdom is just waiting for you guys to clear that Demigod Crow blocking the path to move against you immediately!"

Ma Yinglong exclaimed, "Demigod Crow? What's that?"

Damn! Are you really unaware or pretending? Actually, I also don't know what that is.

Da Fei sighed, "I don't know either; I only heard it in an NPC meeting, and I know nothing about that space either. Anyway, I guess NPCs are just waiting for that crow to die to assign me the task. It would be awkward to encounter your guys there."

After a long pause, Ma Yinglong finally burst out, "Brother Fei, is there room for negotiation?"

Da Fei couldn't help but burst out laughing! So indeed, it's your people hopping around in there. Of course, we can negotiate; just keep it down for a bit. Except for the Mercury Mine, everything else is negotiable!

Chapter 590: Bluffing a Bunch of Traitors

Nothing is non-negotiable, so Da Fei immediately replied, "Boss Ma, I'm just a player who takes on missions for kicks, even if I don't accept this mission, won't the NPCs take action on their own? It's just that I feel guilty, so I wanted to give Boss Ma a heads-up in advance. The key is how Boss Ma plans to respond."

Ma Yinglong laughed, "Many thanks for the heads-up, Brother Fei. Actually, we've already lost the main battlefield, and that small squad isn't going to stir up much trouble. Anyway, we'll make some adjustments to our activities, so we won't make things difficult for Brother Fei."

Da Fei hurriedly said, "No, no, no, Boss Ma, please don't stand on ceremony with me, I feel terribly guilty for pestering you again and again!"

Ma Yinglong laughed, "It's nothing, it's nothing! We are the ones who wronged Brother Fei in the first place, I'm the one who should feel guilty."

After ending the conversation with Da Fei, Ma Yinglong was furious, cursing, "Damn it, he's stepped over my head time and time again, does he really think the reputation I gained as Little Ma was for nothing?"

What now? After the main battlefield was lost, was the small squad behind enemy lines doomed too? At this point, Ma Yinglong also had to abandon his last hope.

In truth, with the main battlefield collapsed, Ma Yinglong genuinely lacked the interest to keep struggling in the World Tree. A target the Demon King disdains is naturally disdained by Ma Yinglong as well. Ma Yinglong's plan to meet with Lei Ren was to reorganize the development path for the Hell Race. That is, let unrelated members take over the Lei Huolong account and continue messing around in Lava Space, and then arrange for Lei Ren to take over another account with high fame and merit, Hell Number.

But the moment Lei Ren heard about an account transfer, he thought he was being stripped of his position. Coupled with his recent fatigue, he became so anxious that he collapsed and had to be taken to the hospital for an IV drip.

Ah, so young and yet so mentally frail, how is he to be a professional player?

Every time Ma Yinglong recalled Lei Ren's recent behavior, he couldn't help but shake his head. He hadn't intended to replace him, but after his collapse, Ma Yinglong was compelled to change his mind. However, the Dragon Slayer Guild didn't plan to rely on the Hell Race as the main force, so there was no rush to decide on a replacement. After all, when a position opens up, many eyes are watching, so it's a matter of seeing who performs well.

The Lei Huolong account would temporarily be held by one of the studio's members. Bored, Ma Yinglong decided to log onto Lei Huolong's account personally to see what the NPC named Siriel thought.

Honestly, after observing the plot for a while, Ma Yinglong found that Siriel seemed obsessed only with the enhancement of personal power. Well, that's understandable. Siriel was once powerful, but in the last National War at the Pool of Radiance, he went all-in, crippling himself, no longer even a hero — that was the price he paid for pursuing merits.

Yet, being a member of the Demon Race, he seems to have made a fundamental mistake. What use is high merit for a Demon that has lost its power? How to command respect? Fortunately, it seemed he realized his mistake. Indeed, an interesting NPC.

Now, Ma Yinglong logged in using the Lei Huolong account to initiate a conversation, "Lord Siriel, we have new intelligence; the Elf Kingdom seems to have discovered us in Lava Space and is preparing to launch an attack on us."

Siriel's flames flickered, "They've found us so soon?"

Ma Yinglong continued to ask, "Lord, what should we do?"

Siriel sneered, "What do you think we should do?"

Ma Yinglong was at a loss for words and just said, "It seems the Elves intend to attack us right after we kill some Demigod Crow."

Siriel was sharply taken aback, "Demigod Crow? I see! No wonder I felt a familiar, powerful force emanating from Mercury Lake. This crow must be the Demigod Ann Su that fell a thousand years ago during the Solar Eclipse War, struck down by a Demon God's incarnation. The mythic messenger of gods, the Druids' mentor. He was but one step away from godhood, but now has turned into an Undead."

Ma Yinglong was caught off guard, "Aren't gods capable of resurrection? Can a god also become an Undead?"

Siriel sneered, "Mortals cannot kill a god; only a god can kill a god. And yet, gods do not so easily perish completely. As long as a sliver of consciousness or divine thoughts remains, they can still resurrect through a common method, by becoming an Undead, which every Mortal knows."

Ma Yinglong was not interested in the lecture, so he simply asked, "Since the Elf Kingdom wants to wait for us to kill the crow before attacking, should we just not kill this crow and continue our recovery here?"

Siriel responded coldly, "Wait for us to kill the crow? Are you sure your intelligence is reliable? If the Elves knew their Demigod Crow had fallen here, they would have tried to revive it, to worship it anew. How could it have become an Undead?"

Ma Yinglong's heart sank. Was Da Fei's intelligence reliable? But he knows about Lava Space, he knows about the Crow Demigod! Players can't deceive the system!

Siriel scoffed, "Alright, let's not rule out the possibility that they discovered it too late. So, does this mean that this space has been under the Elves' surveillance all along and that our mission was doomed from the start?"

Ma Yinglong casually said, "I think it would be good for the Lord to train here a little longer. What do you think, my Lord?"

Siriel burst into laughter, "Of course, I've told you before, haven't I? Places of pure Flame like this are monopolized by High-level Demons in Hell; I had no chance of getting in. Now that I've found a domain where I can grow stronger, I will stay here at any cost. I don't want to live a powerless life full of humiliation ever again!"

Ma Yinglong uttered an "Oh?", "At any cost means?"

Siriel sneered, "You have two choices, one, go back and tell the Demon King I won't return for a while; you can even say I've betrayed him—that's fine too—"

Ma Yinglong was shocked to his core—he was going to betray!

Then he heard Siriel continue: "Second, follow me. Although I can't possibly be as strong as the Demon King, nor can I offer you as much benefit as him. But, the Demon King has too many underlings, and the resources available for you are limited, so think it over yourself."

Ma Yinglong was dumbfounded on the spot!

Siriel snorted coldly: "Of course, there's a third option—you can try to kill me, the traitor, right now!"

—System Prompt: Siriel has issued you the task ["The Betrayer's Decision"]!

—Task Hint: You have three choices to choose from, once you decide to follow the betrayer, you will receive a huge faction penalty. Please consider carefully.

—System Prompt: Your task ["Infiltrating the World Tree Space"] has failed.

In just a moment, the studio team members exclaimed in surprise: "President, our mission has failed, and a new task has popped up!"

Such a turn of events also shocked Ma Yinglong on the spot! For a moment, the think tank at headquarters also began to discuss animatedly: "President, be careful! Once you betray, the Hell Race hero's Professional Skill, Hell Gate, might not be usable because the principle of Hell Gate is for the Demon Hero to summon troops from hell, but why would hell send troops to a traitor!"

After being stunned for quite a while, Ma Yinglong suddenly came back to his senses. Interesting! Really interesting, even as a professional gamer like him, he's never heard of a Demon betraying the Demon King.

Ma Yinglong then continued to ask: "My lord, I have a few questions, do you mean, if the Elf army comes over, you will surrender?"

Siriel burst into wild laughter, his body's flames blazing even more vigorously: "That's right, surrender! The precondition is that I demand to stay here and help them guard and develop the Lava Space. Elves don't have the capability to develop Lava Space, so such a small request, they'll definitely agree, right?"

You've got to be kidding me, do you even resemble a Demon anymore? Ma Yinglong said with a mix of laughter and tears: "What if they don't agree and decide to slaughter everyone?"

Siriel smiled arrogantly: "We'll talk about it after they take care of the obstacle, the Demigod Crow! How about it? Have you made your choice?"

Ma Yinglong chuckled incredulously. If he stuck with him, Lei Huolong, the so-called number one of the Hell Race in the China Region, would certainly be done for. However, does this also signify the birth of a

new Hidden Profession? Interesting! The Dragon Slayer Guild had more than two hundred high-end accounts in the Hell Number, and it really didn't care about the dozen or so accounts on this mission.

Alright, it's not much fun for a professional player to constantly be calculating and counting beads like a miser. It's better to try your luck with ordinary players like Da Fei and enjoy the surprises of continuous serendipity.

Ma Yinglong had made up his mind and with a smile, asked the command center: "What do you guys say, shall we bet on a handful of Hidden Professions just for the fun of it?"

The command center erupted with laughter: "As long as the president is happy, why not have a bit of fun?"

Ma Yinglong laughed heartily: "Alright! It's been so many years since I've personally developed a Hidden Profession. I'm too happy! Let's all rebel, haha!"

—System Prompt: You have chosen to follow the betrayer Siriel. Your Merit and Reputation within the Hell Race have been reset to zero, your main Professional Skill, Hell Gate, and related sub-skills can no longer be used, and you get 10 returned Skill Points.

Ma Yinglong chuckled incredulously! His main profession was really ruined! Reputation and Merit reset to zero, I'm no different from a newbie now!

Siriel laughed heartily: "You've got guts! From now on, our faction is officially established. We'll call it ['Flame Sect'], and I formally accept you all as my disciples. I will develop new professions and teach

them to you in the future! As for now, follow me in training within the lava. Once you've gained the Flame Body, I can start teaching you skills!"

The entire command center burst into laughter.

Ma Yinglong's jaw dropped. Flame Sect? Sounds like a cult, right? Even if it's a cult, that's fine, but the sect's founder and Hierarch seem too weak, right? Hold on, there's another key question—where will we resurrect now if we die?

But there was no time to think more about it, Ma Yinglong immediately led the cheer: "Long live the Sect Hierarch, a bucket of paste!" He then turned to the command center with a laugh: "Do I look like an idiot?"

The other team members held back their laughter and also shouted: "A bucket of paste! A bunch of idiots!"

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At this moment, unbeknownst to Da Fei, who had just conning a bunch of traitors, the journey of returning to the city to hunt Sea Monsters had already begun with the ship fully loaded.