

God level 601

Chapter 601: Compensation of Ninth Heaven

Star used teleportation all the way back to Radiant City.

At this moment, singing once again echoed over Radiant City. Indeed, Heliana was quite dedicated, but listening to this song made him sleepy. However, Star couldn't afford to sleep! In short, it wasn't convenient to disturb her, and he had to set aside her matters for now as nothing was more pressing than the Eight-Headed Snake.

Star and his party headed straight to the docked Flying. The military advisor stepped forward to report, "Lord City Lord, Vice City Lord, during your absence, we have refilled all ten Magic Charging Crystals and loaded the 500 units of food and beverages ordered by the Vice City Lord onto the ship. You can set sail at any time."

Anlicia said with satisfaction, "Very well, thank you for your hard work, Advisor."

"No problem, it's my duty."

Indeed, having NPC officials was truly convenient. Giving an order and having it executed seamlessly was the joy of being a Lord.

Star remembered something and handed the Mysterious Core, obtained from slaying the Electric Eel, to the military advisor. "Give this to Isaac for research. I suspect it's a Basic Godhood."

The military advisor received the Crystal Core with surprise. "Understood, my Lord. By the way, Mr. Isaac's Super Slime Monster is about to debut. At that time, the pollution problem of the Pool of Radiance will be further resolved, which might allow the World Tree to awaken sooner."

Great, technology really was the primary productive force!

Now, with one less concern, everyone boarded the ship. With a flash of light, the scene shifted, and the submerged Flying appeared in the Blood Sea once again. The Spider Demons were still busy digging, but Star had lost interest in them by now.

With another scene shift, the Flying appeared in the Vine Demon Space. Welcomed by the Vine Demons, the Flying docked once again to unload. When the Vine Demons saw the large quantities of fresh, exquisite pastries and drinks, they cheered excitedly.

After all, meeting people's needs for food and drink was the simplest and most effective leadership approach.

At this moment, Tachiusu flew over to report, "Welcome, Lord. Now, Miss Tamilya has completed the transplantation of the Evil Branch Fortress, and the continuous absorption of Dark Energy by the Holy Vine has been focusing on the Ancient Tree Heart within the Evil Branch Fortress. We believe results will be seen in due time."

"In due time?" That was a race against the Eight-Headed Snake!

Star quickly said, "Very well, I need to go observe the situation with the Eight-Headed Snake."

Thus, Star and his team landed again, and Star checked the wooden message Tai Da sent yesterday:

"Lord, today is as peaceful as yesterday. But the steam eruption time of Mercury Lake was shorter than yesterday. At this rate, the steam from Mercury Lake might no longer erupt. This is good for our logging progress. Habbit Village Chief has also mobilized 200 villagers to assist us fully in logging. In short, we must race against time!"

Indeed, race against time! Though Star didn't know what plans Dragon Slayer had, as long as he could delay for another day, he could log for one more day!

Now, Star and his team again took the leaf boat to navigate into the Eight-Headed Snake's passage. Excellent, just as Star predicted, there were no mutations in the Eight-Headed Snake. It was the same as before, with four or five heads swaying back and forth. Star's small boat approached the Eight-Headed Snake again, testing its alert range. Its boundary had indeed shrunk a bit compared to yesterday.

Okay, now he wouldn't go anywhere. He'd watch it closely because he couldn't afford any mistakes in this battle.

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The time passed by slowly with boredom. It was now 5 a.m., and by this time, Star was undoubtedly the most exhausted after a day of high intensity and tension, even having spent all his energy. Watching the constantly swaying heads of the Eight-Headed Snake, Star's head also swayed involuntarily, his eyelids growing heavy as he drifted close to sleep. But he dared not sleep, fearing that once he closed his eyes, he might sleep like a pig, immune to ten alarms.

Star finally understood the opponent's misery, also deeply feeling the helplessness of being a solo player.

No, he had to ensure he slept to maintain his energy! The more crucial the battle, the more he had to be fully alert! He had to gamble that nothing would happen! Bet that if something did happen, he would be awakened by the alarm! After all, it still had three or four heads down, right?

Star adjusted the system prompt to alarm mode again, then closed his eyes, and the whole world became instantly blurred and quiet.

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"Hello, viewers! Welcome to the 'Hero News' morning broadcast. Today at 4 p.m., the much-anticipated Hero Tournament international elimination round will open. Players from different regions will be drawn randomly for battle, finally narrowing down to the top hundred and the world's number one. Among these 1,332 contestants are world-famous professional players and ordinary players who are masters in private. For this event, our live studio invited Shenlan, a professional player from the 'Ninth Heaven' Guild, to connect with our live studio, answering viewers' most concerning questions. Hello, Shenlan!"

Shenlan laughed heartily. "Hello, everyone, hello to the host. It's embarrassing to be on TV for two days straight. What's more embarrassing is me sitting here talking about martial arts even though I didn't make it through—I feel like despising myself."

The host laughed. "It doesn't matter. Many well-known professional players didn't even participate, let alone make it through. After all, this is a temporary international competition held to test the opening of

the international arena net, and it doesn't truly reflect players' strength. Once the ladder ranking system is fully implemented in the future, it'll be much fairer and more reasonable."

Shenlan shook his head sternly. "Sorry, I disagree with the host. I believe the more chaotic and imperfect the competition system, the more it reflects a player's strength. I make no secret of it—I was eliminated, and it's because I wasn't as skilled."

The host laughed. "But as I know, you and South Korea's number one, Lee Min-ho, were in the same venue."

Shenlan sighed with a smile. "But we both lost, and that's a fact. If, if I had three more days, perhaps I'd have a glimmer of hope. Three days later, I'm not the same as I was three days before."

The host laughed, "Indeed, three days might not seem much in reality, but for professional masters, it's a game month, capable of immense changes. During these three days, the qualifying players of all countries are intensifying their targeted development, which is what players are most concerned about. Shenlan, who do you think could surprise us after three days?"

Shenlan coughed dryly with a bitter smile. "This question... is indeed of most concern to players because the masters are secretly developing themselves, and everyone wants to know what they're up to. However, this is a master's secret. What I know cannot be said, and what can be said has already been eliminated. So, I'm really sorry, my apologies to the audience."

The host laughed. "Then why not tell about those who can be spoken of, the ones eliminated, since there'll be official competitions later. Their status is very noteworthy."

Shenlan laughed, "For example, the biggest news is what the host mentioned earlier, about South Korea's number one, Lee Min-ho. In these three days, he has been on fire! As mentioned in the interview yesterday, the Korea District is also imitating Japan by conducting faction cleansing, and the leader of Korea District is Lee Min-ho. He managed to capture a small Hell Race NPC town. Think about it, who in the world could achieve that? Although Japan started faction cleansing early, they still don't have the capability to capture an enemy NPC town. Of course, we can't rule out that Japan's strategy is to deplete the NPC's active forces, but even so, Japan can't conquer territory in three days."

The host nodded with realization, "This is indeed big news! I wouldn't have thought that the world's number one, Lee Min-ho, is leading South Korea's casual players. Does he have a Divine Artifact? How did he manage to do this?"

Shenlan stated seriously, "Whether he has a Divine Artifact is unknown. What's key is that Lee Min-ho's Hero Special Ability is Rapid Strikes, which increases the Attack Speed of all units by 50% in the first round of combat. Since this ability only affects the first move, it's not considered a God-level ability, but with his extreme attack speed and special high-speed units, he often strikes twice in the initial round, even three times, four times, directly knocking down enemy NPC heroes. A thousand troops and horses crumble without attack, and capturing an NPC town is not impossible. In short, to be worthy of spectators, I can reveal that something big is sure to happen in the Korea District soon. Everyone, stay tuned!"

The host was surprised, "It's unimaginable that Lee Min-ho, as South Korea's number one, would do something so amateur with casual players!"

Shenlan shook his head laughing, "In these past three days, despite South Korea revealing no professional player movements, the news can't be concealed. Everyone knows that on our battlefield, only Star made it through, and Lee Min-ho was directly defeated by Star. Although there was a plague factor, he lost and that was it. Clearly, he was provoked! If my source is accurate, Lee Min-ho might already have left the national team and focused solely on training."

The host was shocked, "It's Star again! Actually, early this morning, Star did something significant again!"

Shenlan shook his head with a bitter smile, "For this event, I make no comment. But regarding Star's capabilities—in these three days, his level could be described as skyrocketing, even when he has so many Vice Heroes sharing experience. You can imagine how strong Star's actual power is. Lee Min-ho didn't lose unfairly. Personally, I suggest that players from China Region unite to face the upcoming National War. For those ordinary players' losses this morning, I suggest that the involved Royal Guild should generously set an example and compensate. If that doesn't work, our Ninth Heaven is willing to compensate."

The host was surprised, "Your guild compensates?"

Shenlan sighed, "Indeed, seeing the unity of Korea District and Japan District deeply affected us. It's also our contribution as a large guild to the China Region..."

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"What a schemer!" Meanwhile, Eternal Star, lying in bed at the command center and watching the morning news, was simmering with anger. "Trying to please and win over Star while appealing to ordinary players, Little Huang's got plans spinning!"

Chapter 602: The Reappearance of the Sea Demon Demon Soul

Ninth Heaven's player compensation measures spread throughout the entire game overnight via news and gaming forums.

That night, all the players who had been victims, as well as those affected by yesterday's Electric Eel incident, logged onto the Ninth Guild's website to confirm the news and received affirmative responses. Of course, due to last night's Electric Eel incident, the Royal Guild was directly involved, and Ninth Heaven had to wait for the Royal Guild's reply. In any case, having the word of a large guild, all the aggrieved players were overjoyed, bursting with happiness, and unanimously praised Ninth Heaven for the magnanimity and righteousness shown by a large guild.

That's right, Ninth Heaven, which had been silent in the China Region, finally made its move! Ninth Heaven's aim was to extend an olive branch to Da Fei under the guise of unity, especially when he was being isolated, while also looking after the emotions of the ordinary players. And what they saw as even more cunning was that Ninth Heaven had put the Royal Guild under the spotlight!

Naturally, the overlord of the Royal Guild was spitting mad upon hearing the news: "Why the hell should I respond to you? Why should we pay?"

Indeed, logically speaking, the Royal Guild could certainly refuse to pay since it was Da Fei who caused the harm, and the Royal Guild was also a victim of Da Fei; there was no reason for them to foot his bill. However, if the Royal Guild didn't pay and instead, Ninth Heaven, which had nothing to do with the matter, did, the reputation of the Royal Guild would be tarnished, making them look stingy and fake tycoons.

But even if they paid, so what? Although their reputation was kept, the common players would only be grateful to Ninth Heaven; it was after Ninth Heaven spoke out that their interests could be protected. In

other words, Ninth Heaven could easily garner fame with just words, while they would have to be the ones paying without gaining any goodwill!

"Huang Zhen! Well done!" The Royal Guild's overlord clenched his teeth in fury!

To pay or not to pay, neither option was desirable, but they could only blame themselves for being a step slower than Ninth Heaven and getting played. No choice, of the two evils, they chose the lesser; they'd pay up, at least they could preserve their reputation of being generous.

After all, it was all about reputation. The overlord of the Royal Guild felt a tinge of envy towards Da Fei. Everyone knew Da Fei was dirt and would never pay up, so he was able to stay out of it. Is there no justice in this world? Unity? Unify my ass; it is precisely because of such trash in the China Region that unity is impossible, damn it!

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But justice must prevail and Da Fei's responsibility must not be overlooked because he's trash. Moreover, Ninth Heaven's attempt to please both sides, especially their move to draw Da Fei in, immediately riled up Star. As a member of the Human Race, if Da Fei were to receive support from Ninth Heaven and be able to fully develop within the Human Race camp, that would be unacceptable! Naturally, Star wouldn't let Ninth Heaven get what they wanted.

Thus, under the covert encouragement of Eternal Star, the well-known dwarf player Skyshattering Thunder posted an illustrated post on the forum titled "The One Who Should Really Compensate is Da Fei, he owes at least 70 million Gold Coins!", where Skyshattering Thunder vehemently condemned Da Fei's heinous actions of not compensating despite his wealth, branding him the shame of the China Region and a disgrace among Chinese people.

Indeed, Skyshattering Thunder shared the details of his auction house duel with Da Fei with video screenshots.

Instantly, the forum erupted! The wealth of Da Fei and Skyshattering Thunder shocked the entire forum and the nearly ten million online players in the China Region! It was common to see evil in the penniless, but for the rich to still do evil was intolerable, not to mention that Da Fei had sold a Divine Artifact for twenty million in cash and climbed the ranks of the rich in real life, why was he still so vicious?

Some extremely angry players and Star's navy on the forum joined forces in support of the Royal Guild, vowing to hunt down Da Fei and reduce him to ashes. Aggressively violent comments began to flood the forum, and moderators were busy deleting and locking threads and issuing management warnings.

As he watched the forum outcry for Da Fei's downfall, Skyshattering Thunder felt his resentment satisfyingly ebbing away, like relieving a piss he had been holding for hours, feeling extremely pleased and comfortable! This was Skyshattering Thunder's goal, not only to suppress Da Fei and vent his anger but also to subtly showcase his wealth and power to all the players in the China Region, laying the groundwork for future fundraising efforts. This was also Star's goal, to completely isolate Da Fei and prevent Ninth Heaven from daring to have any outreach or contact with Da Fei.

In just one morning, the situation escalated beyond Ninth Heaven's expectations. In short, it was hard to say who had the advantage in this public opinion battle, but one thing was certain, Da Fei's reputation got even worse!

As for the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce players like Da Bing who faced the wrath of numerous gamers and the threat of being doxxed, they too fell silent like cicadas in winter, not daring to return to the city immediately. Even One Sword Eastward, who enjoyed this turn of events the most, got scared witless and dared not post and argue back. If the opponent managed to bribe the moderators and tracked down his forum IP for a real-life PK, that would be no laughing matter.

In any case, the guild members could only lay low, waiting for something else, like the international competition in the afternoon, to divert everyone's attention before they could sneak back.

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And as a storm raged on the forums, Da Fei was snoring soundly, sleeping like a log.

Who knows how long it had been, but a series of System Prompt tones rang out like an alarm, waking Da Fei who was afk.

— Guild Notification: Warm welcome! The fisherman Kandasiro has joined the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce.

— Guild Notification: Warm welcome! The fisherman Ikada has joined the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce.

——Guild Information: Warm welcome...

——Guild Information [Vice President Coltner]: Welcome new members to join the illustrious and legendary Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce. In order to expand our business more effectively, the Guild has started to undertake terrestrial trade. We have now established trade connections with 5 small towns under the jurisdiction of Elorin City. All members, please work together for the development of our Guild...

Seeing the dozens of sudden Guild messages, the Guild channel was filled with surprise!

"Brother Fei! Brother Fei is recruiting people!"

"It's another NPC! Brother Fei recruits all NPCs, he's too awesome! I haven't heard of any other Guild in any country recruiting NPCs!"

"Wow haha, NPCs are great, they won't share the rewards from Brother Hao with us!"

Da Fei rubbed his bleary eyes, forced himself to be alert, and checked the messages; the fisherman's membership and land transportation matters were finally settled. But of course, Da Fei's first reaction wasn't to care about such trivial matters. First, he checked the current time; it was 8 A.M., and he had slept through almost a day in the game. Then he immediately rowed to the channel to check on the condition of the Eight-Headed Snake, which also had not changed much. Good!

And it was at this moment that Da Fei noticed a message left for him. He looked and saw it was from Brother Hao!

Brother Hao: "Brother Fei, some people are rallying a Navy on the forums to exaggerate public hatred against you, and there are even those who want to doxx you. Beware the wicked, Brother Fei—don't post anything on the website forums that might reveal your personal information, prevent doxxing!"

What the heck! Da Fei was jolted awake by this! Damn it, wasn't there a time when someone threatened to doxx me as well? Do they really think that even the National Security Bureau can do anything to me?

Da Fei immediately replied: "I've seen this kind of thing a lot, just consider it a fart, thanks for the concern, Brother Hao!"

Brother Hao laughed: "Good, worthy of Brother Fei, just treat them like a fart! But I've still mentioned it to the brothers in the Guild to be a bit more vigilant."

Da Fei laughed heartily: "Truly worthy of Brother Hao, you're online so early?"

"I basically didn't log off at all, okay! Brother Fei, didn't you stay online all night as well?"

What the heck! When even a Tycoon is working so hard, how can I not feel the sentiment? Da Fei then replied: "Brother Hao, you really have to take care of that dragon body of yours."

"Mutual care, mutual care. Brother Fei must have been AFK and just woke up, make sure to eat and rest well, haha!"

"Definitely, definitely!"

After ending the conversation with Brother Hao, Da Fei suddenly felt heartwarming; indeed, he felt quite hungry. Who would have thought, apart from their insane tipping, Tycoons also care about these little things? And at this moment, Da Fei felt that Brother Hao was actually a normal person too, and a rather good one at that. Anyway, it was really nice to meet someone like Brother Hao.

Da Fei gathered himself, took care of his hygiene, and walked downstairs to the noodle shop to have a bowl of beef noodles. After returning to his computer, he suddenly noticed two more messages from the system:

——System Prompt: Your Divine Artifact Equipment, the Sea Soul Staff, has absorbed and fused with the souls of 565 fallen Banshees, obtaining Low-level Sea Demon Demon Soul +11, Sea Soul Staff gains special skill: Demon Soul Sea Demon Rebirth, Banshee Demon Soul Fusion.

——Demon Soul Sea Demon Rebirth: The Banshees of the Hell Race are very pure Spiritual Bodies, and the Sea Soul Staff can absorb and convert the spiritual bodies of deceased Banshees into Demon Soul Sea Demons.

——Banshee Demon Soul Fusion: Some of the lower-level Banshees of the Hell Race lack independent consciousness and cannot be converted into independent Sea Demon Demon Souls. The Sea Soul Staff can fuse the souls of a large number of low-level Banshees to obtain a brand new Sea Demon Demon Soul.

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched; after such a long wait, what was expected had finally arrived! This was a special skill developed when all the Banshee Army fell during the competition—a single Elite Cannon Emperor or 50 regular Banshees could be fused by the Sea Soul Staff into one Sea Demon Demon Soul.

As for what the Sea Demon Demon Soul is for? Definitely not for making Ghost Ships, otherwise, there would be no need for the Sea Soul Staff to develop two special skills just for it. At that time, Da Fei thought it was very likely a new type of troop being developed! At the very least, it's a backup plan in case something unexpected happens to the Charming Emperor Cannon Emperor, and this backup is very important in the upcoming battle with the Eight-Headed Snake.

Nothing more to say, while the Eight-Headed Snake is still causing trouble, it's time to study how to use this Sea Demon Demon Soul. As for the researcher, of course, it's Deirdre, she understands Banshees better than anyone.

Chapter 603: Amphibious Forces of Sea, Land, and Air

Da Fei immediately rowed back to the waiting Flying on the shore.

A group of people once again entered the long-missed Banshee Camp. A faint scent mingled with sulfur hit their faces. At this moment, Deirdre was in the camp, using Puppet Master Magic to control a group of banshees moving around, as she painstakingly practiced magic trying to reach the Grandmaster level.

Da Fei did not disturb her but watched how she controlled and practiced. After a while, the group of banshees finally lost control and stopped.

— System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Deirdre has obtained information on Grandmaster-level Dark Magic.

So there's information now!? It seems this is the advantage of having "Makar's Master Dark Magic Insights." As long as one continuously receives information, the elusive Grandmaster level, which could theoretically be likened to mining or forging lifestyle skills, can be achieved through relentless practice and proficiency improvement.

Now, Deirdre immediately came forward with a smile and said, "Master, I was just practicing, please forgive my inadequate reception!"

This is truly a wise and charming wife! Da Fei laughed heartily: "No need to be formal with me, I came to ask you to study this Sea Soul Staff and the Sea Demon Demon Souls inside it, to see if you could summon these Demon Souls?"

Selvia then handed over the Sea Soul Staff and explained: "A few days ago, the Sea Soul Staff absorbed the souls of over five hundred banshees from the enemy's city walls, and now it has fused 11 Sea Demon Demon Souls."

"Sea Demon Demon Souls?" Deirdre exclaimed in surprise as she took the Sea Soul Staff, suddenly startled: "It's unimaginable, the souls of my Banshee Race have transformed into this form! This is a refinement of souls, even purer than the usual Banshee Souls!"

There's hope! Da Fei excitedly said: "Can they be summoned?"

Deirdre nodded: "I can try the method used to summon ordinary banshees. My Banshee Race is different from other demons, banshees are Spiritual Bodies, summoning them to the material world requires the Summoner to expend a lot of Mana for their materialization, and because banshees are Spiritual Bodies, they possess the ability to change their form. Although I don't have enough Mana to summon such pure Demon Souls, the Sea Soul Staff has stored a large amount of Mana, so this summoning must utilize the Mana from the Sea Soul Staff."

Da Fei joyfully said: "No problem! Just use it, the Sea Soul Staff has more Mana than it can handle anyway!"

Deirdre solemnly said: "Alright Master, I will give it my all!"

Having said this, Deirdre stood in the center of the room's Summoning Array holding the Sea Soul Staff and started to activate the Array, the Array's red light grew intense, and the Sea Soul Staff flashed blue. Soon after, a pink mist slowly drifted out from the Sea Soul Staff, then gradually gathered together, becoming denser.

Da Fei suddenly felt elated! There's hope! Isn't this just like the scene where Bloodrose Rosa and the other ladies summoned Deirdre in the Monastery? I remember back then those ladies ran out of Mana halfway through the summoning, and it was Selvia who helped out, causing a big blunder.

Now, under Deirdre's continuous spellcasting, the dense mist gradually gathered and transformed into a liquid state, then condensed into a transparent humanoid shape, and continued to solidify until finally, the Sea Soul Staff shone a bright blue light, and a naked Banshee with silver hair, blue eyes, and light blue skin with transparent wings on her back made a dazzling entrance!

——System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Deirdre has successfully summoned a low-level Demon Soul Sea Demon by using 1000 Mana from the Sea Soul Staff.

Success! The crowd cheered! Overjoyed, Da Fei immediately checked the attributes of the Sea Demon:

——Demon Soul Sea Demon: Small-sized Spiritual Creature, Attack 40, Defense 35, Damage 35-60, Health 480, Attack Speed 13, Magic Resistance 50%, Mana Value 100, Command Value 15, Special Skill: Flying Creature, Ocean Creatures, Charming Technique, Chain Shooting.

Da Fei was taken aback, so this is a Demon Soul Sea Demon? Attributes of level 7 troops, with both Flying Creature and Ocean Creature characteristics, this is truly a amphibious troop type for air, sea, and land! Damn, I'm not lacking an Air Force or an Army, but I really need a Navy!

At this time, Deirdre smiled and said, "Master, I have accomplished my mission and successfully summoned this Banshee Race that I have never seen before."

Da Fei excitedly asked, "How would you evaluate this new race?"

As Deirdre was stroking the smooth skin of the Demon Soul Sea Demon, she couldn't stop praising, "I heard that Ocean Creatures have far superior attack, defense, and health advantages over land and flying creatures. This is clearly reflected in the attributes of this Sea Demon, and this is just a low-level Sea Demon, but its attributes have already surpassed when I was at Leader-level Banshee, incredible! She completely compensates for the inherent weaknesses of the Banshee Race, a true product of merging 50 ordinary Banshee souls!"

Da Fei, nodding repeatedly in excitement, suddenly remembered that this Sea Demon required 50 ordinary Banshees to merge? My goodness, this cost-effectiveness is really low, in terms of combat power, 50 ordinary Banshees would totally outperform one Demon Soul Sea Demon.

That is to say, if his ordinary Banshee troops die, should he use Dark Resurrection Skill to revive them? Or use the Sea Soul Staff to absorb them? This really is a dilemma. Of course, there's no dilemma if he absorbs the Banshees of fallen enemies. Damn! No need to hesitate, Banshees can be replaced by Secret Archers, but no one can replace the aquatic war creatures! No more words needed, whenever my ordinary Banshees die, transform all into Sea Demons!

Wait! It seems that for every Cannon Emperor that dies, one could become a Sea Demon, but the attributes of the Sea Demon are much higher than those of the Cannon Emperor, it makes more sense to convert Cannon Emperors into Sea Demons! The question is, does the Cannon Emperor still retain its cannon skills after becoming a Sea Demon?

The key is, looking at this silly and dumb Sea Demon, indistinguishable from ordinary troop types, Da Fei couldn't help but feel a chill! How could I bear to turn my lively, lovely, sexy, flirtatious, intelligent elite Cannon Emperors raised from scratch into this? Absolutely not, even if the Cannon Emperors face an irresistible devastating blow, I'd rather choose to resurrect them! Even if I'm not satisfied with the attributes of the Cannon Emperors, I'll just train them over time.

Just then, Deirdre suddenly spoke seriously: "I'm so envious, I wonder how much improvement I would gain if I transformed into this form."

Damn! What a topic to bring up, Da Fei was taken aback, "That's impossible, you are a hero!"

Deirdre shook her head and smiled, "Sorry to worry you, Master. However, Master, I can't determine if this Sea Demon is in its final state, maybe Master's Master-level Special Soldier Training Skill can train them?"

Da Fei's brow jumped, that's right, my Master-level Special Soldier Training Skill that's been idle for years, since it's idle, let's give it a try. But still the same old training routine as before, summon more and have them stand in a row for rotational training, this way we can effectively utilize their stamina!

Chapter 604: Deirdre's Determination

Now, Deirdre presides over the Array and continues to summon Demon Soul Sea Demons. As for Da Fei, he started using the long-unused Master-level Special Soldier Training Skill.

——System Prompt: You used the Master-level Special Soldier Training Skill "Banshee Artillery Training" on Demon Soul Sea Demon, training failed!

——System Prompt: ...Training failed!

Failure, failure, failure time and again! By the time Deirdre had summoned all 11 Demon Soul Sea Demons, Da Fei was still experiencing ceaseless failures.

Now, Da Fei was out of Stamina again and could only sit down helplessly to eat and drink to recover his Stamina.

Deirdre approached and said: "Master, perhaps these kinds of Sea Demons are just the final form of ordinary Banshee Demon Souls fused together. And the more they are final forms, the harder they are to train successfully."

Da Fei could only shake his head with a wry smile: "That's right, even training a normal adult Banshee is extremely difficult with my Master-level Special Soldier Training, not to mention these Sea Demons that have reached the standard of Level 7 soldiers."

Deirdre said solemnly: "Master, these Sea Demons may not be suitable because they are formed by fusing the Demon Souls of ordinary Banshees without intelligence, but Master's Charming Emperor and Artillery Emperor are fundamentally different from ordinary Banshees, as they have grown from a juvenile state to what they are now. They have intelligence far surpassing that of ordinary Banshees. If it's them, there indeed lies infinite possibilities!"

—Agh! Da Fei spurted out a mouthful of old blood! Why are her thoughts the same as what I just had! This is the option that I adamantly rejected! If they turn into Sea Demons and end up being such dull and stupid Sea Demons, being obliterated of intelligence, what pleasure would there be?

Da Fei hastily shook his head: "No, no! Absolutely not!"

Deirdre spoke firmly: "Master, I have said before that for the Demon Race, forsaking the opportunity to become stronger and just barely surviving is completely a path leading to death. Both Master's Charming Emperor and Artillery Emperor possess this innate realization and are willing to resort to fratricide for it. Do you still remember when Artillery Emperor fought and bit each other when they were young to compete for the limited cannon spots? Yes, that's the Demon Race!"

Da Fei trembled all over! He suddenly recalled that cute yet frightening scene from the children's early days.

Deirdre continued: "Similarly, I undertake this key action in attacking the Eight-Headed Snake with the resolution to die! Moreover, the closer my action is to the Eight-Headed Snake's casting, the more likely it is to succeed, which also means immense danger. I will not evade death, but also cannot easily disgrace the mission. Therefore, at that time, both Charming Emperor and Artillery Emperor must join me and share the damage, distract attention, and sacrifice for me—so, Master must also be prepared to make sacrifices! Everything is for the ultimate victory, as long as we achieve it in the end, please choose to evolve us into Demon Soul Sea Demons instead of Resurrection! Also, I am not a true hero, so if I fall in battle, I will also be absorbed by this Sea Soul Staff!"

Da Fei was stunned, mouth agape! Is this the resolve of an NPC? Isn't this also the most pragmatic thought for a player! If they were not the Banshees that Da Ge is fondly attached to and reluctant to see harmed but rather ordinary and dumb brutes, Da Ge would have no reason to object, right? And the tone she exudes clearly shows she seeks death for evolution!

Da Fei exclaimed in shock: "If others die, you can summon them, but if you die in battle, who can summon you?!"

Deirdre said with a smile: "Of course it would be Lord Selvia, wasn't I initially summoned by her?"

Selvia was taken aback: "The situation is different, I do not know the spells required to summon you, I was only there to charge the Array."

Deirdre was astonished for a moment, then burst into laughter: "So that's how it is! It seems I chose the wrong master back then. Of course, I had no choice. As a high-level banshee in the present world, I must find a master capable of commanding me; otherwise, the nuns will quickly discover me."

Da Fei was astonished on the spot! Indeed, no matter what kind of monster it is, once it becomes a hero's soldier, no one will pursue it. It's like human players can freely walk around human territories with undead soldiers. But let's not bring up the past, you're already my vice hero, after all. You followed Selvia at first, and then Selvia followed me, so you can only make the best of a bad job!

Sure enough, Deirdre continued: "But it's fine. Now that you're my master, if I die in battle, the master needs to find the summoning scroll that signed my soul contract. However, master, I won't easily rush to my death and trouble you. I will definitely survive, just like how I've survived many brutal battles before."

Fuck me! So the way to resurrect you is through the summoning scroll held by those Bloodrose ladies? Are you kidding me, they wish for my downfall, and once you're gone, they'll definitely not hand the scroll over to me!

Wait a second, yesterday I took Deirdre to find Makar, and as soon as we came out, we were ambushed by Bloodrose's people who focused on killing Deirdre, which means that this is not just simple revenge, but Bloodrose knew that as soon as Deirdre dies, they could immediately reclaim what was originally theirs? If that's the case, then they're even less likely to give the book to me!

Da Fei exclaimed in surprise: "You mean to say, you can only get rid of that contract book by becoming a true hero?"

Deirdre smiled and said: "Of course. Hundreds of years ago when I was captured by a nun and was about to be thoroughly purified, I begged for mercy and was forced to sign a soul contract to become the nun's bored-time slave. Even the death of the nun wouldn't free me, and only by becoming a true hero could I

get rid of that contract book. This is also one of the reasons I pursue the path of a hero. In any case, I understand how you feel now, master. But do you still remember the teachings of Lady Anwen from before?"

Da Fei paused for a moment, "Lady Anwen?"

Anlicia was also surprised: "My grandma?"

At this point, Deirdre's expression darkened: "Lady Anwen once said, as a commander, you should be even more ruthless! So please, master, don't dwell on my life and death, and definitely don't let my situation shake the tactics you've already planned. Everything is for victory, for becoming stronger, then moving from one victory to another!"

Da Fei was speechless on the spot!

Anlicia also couldn't help but shake her head and sigh: "Lord City Lord, just do as Miss Deirdre asks. As long as Miss Deirdre is fine, as long as we win in the end, any losses are acceptable."

It just comes down to hoping that Deirdre will be alright. After all, we have so many "cannon fodders" and the Time Freeze divine artifact, right? Oh, and on the day of the operation, all these flying sea demons will be added to her team as cannon fodder.

Da Fei could only give a bitter smile: "Alright then, continue your training. We won't disturb you."

"With respect, my lord!"

Da Fei left the Flying with tangled feelings and continued on the greenleaf boat towards the Eight-Headed Snake's channel for surveillance.

Time passed minute by minute, and Da Fei watched in listless boredom. For Da Fei, who had become accustomed to the fast-paced bustle of the past three days, suddenly having nothing to do made it hard for him to adapt.

Should we just wait? Why not take advantage of the free time to do something else? Like teleporting the Flying Ship to the Demon Race's rear camp and destroy the whole camp!

No, no! What if the Demon Race's rear camp also has powerhouses guarding it, and the Flying Ship gets severely damaged? That'd be troublesome. Even if my time is precious, I can't afford to take that risk. Better to sleep and recharge.

Right, sleep! I've only slept an hour tonight, I must catch up on some shut-eye. So, Da Fei once again set the system prompt's alarm, wrapped his head in the helmet, and fell back into a deep sleep.

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Meanwhile, in the men's dormitory at Shenjiang Normal University, where Da Bing and Da Wei lived, the place was a mess of beer bottles and takeaway boxes. After an all-nighter, the dorm mates were each wrapped in headsets, snoring away.

Da Wei finished washing up in the bathroom, then slightly tidied up the trash in the room, and shouted at his sleeping roommates: "Hey!!! It's 9 o'clock! It's time for class, the first day of school! We've got roll call, you know!"

Da Bing mumbled in a daze, "Help, present!"

The other roommates also mumbled groggily, "Help, present!"

Da Wei said annoyedly, "Fine! I'll mark attendance for all 7 of you!"

There was no time for breakfast. Da Wei pulled himself together and headed to the teaching building. Of course, he had to muster some energy, because today he would see Little Li again! And what's more important is that I've started to have money now. I have the confidence to see her. These past few days alone, just from the tycoon's tips I've gotten 80,000! 80,000! As long as I keep hanging out with this tycoon, Little Li's brother's requirement of earning 300,000 by graduation is just a piece of cake. I'm finally no longer the clueless unemployed youth I was before the winter break!

Just as Da Wei was strutting down the campus avenue, a female classmate behind him shouted hoarsely, "Excuse me, the Political Commissar of the esports team, please wait!"

Da Wei was taken aback. Is she talking to me!? The title 'Political Commissar of the esports team' is embarrassingly cringeworthy! In a flurry of shame, Da Wei turned around to see, wasn't it the student council president of Little Li's college, Miss Tang Yan? Regarding the one who called out, it was the unknown beautiful companion who was with Tang Yan yesterday.

At this moment, Tang Yan was frowning and hitting her chatty companion. The companion, regardless, waved and smiled at Da Wei: "Political Commissar, please wait, I want to talk to you!"

Da Wei was overjoyed and hurriedly approached with a smile: "You're willing to join our guild?"

The companion smirked, "What do you think?"

Da Wei was delighted, "We'd warmly welcome you! By the way, how may I address you?"

The companion snorted coldly with a change in expression!

Tang Yan couldn't help but chuckle: "Is there really a fellow student who doesn't know Yang Qian?"

Da Wei was suddenly taken aback, "Sorry, sorry, I generally only know those from our class, I know few from other colleges."

Yang Qian sneered, "Political Commissar classmate, your guild's boss sure has a reputation, he even made the news yesterday. You really dare to invite us to join such a guild?"

Da Wei quickly sighed with disappointment: "I apologize, I retract my invitation."

Yang Qian laughed loudly: "Oh? You give up just like that? How can you get anything done this way?"

Tang Yan said irritably, "Alright, enough! Liu Dawei has class now, don't be late!"

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Meanwhile, further down the campus avenue, Little Fang with dark circles under her eyes, tugged at equally sleep-deprived Little Li and sneered, "Yo! Our Economic College's two rich and beautiful goddesses, Tang Yan and Yang Qian, I wonder with which department's handsome guy they seem so delighted in chatting with?"

Little Li's expression darkened, "I'm not going to class, going back to sleep!"

Little Fang was surprised, "Hey hey hey, missing class is one thing, but losing a boyfriend is a big deal!"

Little Li snorted, "Can you stop the rain if it wants to fall?"

Little Fang laughed loudly, "Ah, right, give him a chance to be tested, haha!"

Chapter 605: Nasir's Evil Branch Ancient Tree Resurrection

Dragon Slayer Guild Command Center.

While the forums in the China Region were still ablaze with the Da Fei incident, Dragon Slayer had already set their calm sights on the strangely active Korea District. The big screen in the command room was live broadcasting an attack on the Hell Race in Korea, targeting a site known as "Holy Demon Flame Prison," capable of producing special Grade 8 troops.

Even though Dragon Slayer suffered a crushing defeat in the China Region, they were still a world-class large guild, at least in terms of numbers, so their target remained the international powerhouses. In fact, Star and Ninth Heaven, as well as various major teams around the world, were also collecting intelligence on the Korea District. After all, South Korea, at least in the esports realm, as the "Cosmic Center," has the ability to shock the world.

The campaign to cleanse the Hell Race faction in Korea had begun when Japan began their own cleansing campaign, given the long-standing public animosity between Japan and South Korea, with

Koreans often subconsciously countering the Japanese. However, the scale of the Korean cleansing was not as large as in Japan, with only some civilian expert players participating spontaneously, which did not initially attract the attention of international teams.

It was only two days ago that international teams began to take notice, when the faction cleansing in Korea suddenly made a breakthrough. A small Elf Army from Korea entered Hell, and at the same time, all of Korea's professional teams and civilian players united unprecedentedly, adopting the cleansing model of Japan. All Hell Race players were treated as internal saboteurs, blocking roads and doors, creating landslides, and stopping the Hell Race NPC armies' encirclement, allowing Korea to successfully conquer a small Hell Race town.

It wasn't until yesterday that Lee Min-ho, the leading figure in the Korean cleansing, finally moved into the spotlight, and the world was shaken!

The significant victory in Korea allowed the Elf Clan's NPCs to be rallied, and their powerful NPCs finally entered the battle. Now, Korea, united from top to bottom and inside out, is using the conquered town as bait for encirclement and support, with batches of Hell Army forces falling into ambushes set by Korean players, becoming their Merit and Experience.

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At this moment, watching the organized and precise actions of the Korean players on the big screen, the entire Dragon Slayer Command Center was silent, with Ma Yinglong's expression especially grave.

This is the real opponent, this is the real strength! Compared to Star's Elf Clan, Korea's players are clearly a notch higher overall. This cleansing campaign, without delving into the details, just the war experience gained could result in Korea's professional players being one or two levels above players from other countries, which means that the first batch of professional players from Korea entering the New World will be much higher than those from other countries. This is like rubbing salt into the wounds for Dragon Slayer, which has already fallen behind due to defeats.

Just then, Ma Yinglong's phone rang, with a long-missed international call coming through! Damn!

Ma Yinglong immediately left the command room and went into his office to answer the call: "Hello?"

On the other end of the phone: "Moshi moshi?"

Fuck your moshi! Ma Yinglong replied irritably, "Mr. Igarashi?"

Igarashi laughed heartily: "Mr. Ma, hello, hello, it's been a long time since I've contacted an old friend. I have missed you!"

Definitely nothing good coming. Ma Yinglong sighed, "Mr. Igarashi is flourishing and climbing the ladder of success, while your old friend here is tremendously down and out, which fills me with remorse. May I ask Mr. Igarashi if you have any advice to share?"

Igarashi laughed: "Mr. Ma is too modest. How could a mere bit of bricks and wood shake the foundation of Dragon Slayer? Are you aware of the developments in the Korea District?"

Ma Yinglong sighed: "I have my own problems to worry about; how can I care about others?"

Igarashi laughed: "Mr. Ma, you have quite a sense of humor. Well, the reason for my call is to inform Mr. Ma that Korea is making some major moves. Unfortunately for them, they've chosen the wrong opponent. They're not facing the Undead Race nor the Beastman District, but rather the Hell Race with its global connection capabilities. If I am not mistaken, this afternoon, from 1 PM to 3 PM Beijing Time, a National War is about to erupt in the Korea District. That is to say, the Hell Race in Korea will call for aid from Hell Races all over the world, and the second National War will break out in Korea."

Ma Yinglong was shocked, even though he knew Korea was making major moves, he didn't expect it to be this significant. How could this Japanese know so clearly and certainly? Triggering a National War suggests that Korea's offensive threatened the core interests of the Hell Race in Korea! How high-end is this Holy Demon Flame Prison really?

Ma Yinglong spoke gravely: "Is Mr. Igarashi implying that you want our Dragon Slayer Guild to assist you by sending troops?"

Igarashi spoke earnestly: "Exactly, it's time to weaken the momentum of Korea. If they gain huge benefits from the faction war, it will not be good for us, especially not for Mr. Ma."

I think it's time to weaken the momentum of your Japan instead. Ma Yinglong chuckled, "Although our guild's Hell Power is not top-tier, I thank Mr. Igarashi for the honor despite past differences. Then let us go and have some fun."

Igarashi laughed: "Mr. Ma, you are too modest. I am very pleased that you're willing to cooperate so readily!"

Ma Yinglong laughed: "It's just a game after all, no need to think too much."

"That's exactly it!"

After ending his conversation with Igarashi, Ma Yinglong immediately started preparing for the expedition to the Korea District. For Dragon Slayer, this indeed presented a perfect opportunity to reverse the guild's declining trend. Facing the international climate, Chinese players have already tired of the muddled civil war in China—dog-eat-dog, and who wins is irrelevant. Only by going abroad to demonstrate our nation's prestige, and especially by campaigning against the arrogant Koreans, can they excite the players.

Chinese gamers absolutely love this kind of thing! So for this expedition, we must not only prepare our equipment and troops but also nail the media campaign! And we should seize this opportunity to pull in a few advertising sponsors. In short, everything must be ready by 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, at the Mitsubishi Command Center in Tokyo Akihabara.

After a call with a circle of international friends, Mr. Igarashi, parched and tongue-tied from excitement, took a sip of water.

Team captain Tsukamoto asked, "We're already overwhelmed with domestic camp wars, are we really going out to compete in the Korea District?"

Mr. Igarashi laughed heartily, "We just need to send some regular gamers over there to make an appearance. Our friends from India are eager to challenge the esports Overlord and prove themselves. Let's leave the spotlight to them. As for our so-called down-and-out friends from China, it seems they

don't have much choice. Anyway, let's have them drag down the Koreans for us. Our most important mission is to welcome the Divine Artifact back home."

"Hey, that's why you're the manager!"

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Da Fei was jolted awake again at 10 o'clock in the morning. This time, it wasn't a System Prompt that awoke him but the rumbling sound of an earthquake.

Da Fei hurriedly looked towards the source of the vibration and saw a huge ancient tree on the shore of the Evil Branch river marching forward with a rumble!

It was resurrected! The Evil Branch Ancient Tree Fortress had finally come back to life!

The moment Da Fei broke free from AFK mode, Tachiusu immediately flew over joyfully to report: "Lord City Lord, thanks to Miss Tamilya's efforts, the Evil Branch Ancient Tree Fortress has been resurrected! Not only that, but it seems to also possess a certain degree of intelligence!"

Da Fei was delighted, "Good, lead me to see this!"

After catching up on two hours of sleep, Da Fei had pretty much recovered his vitality. This timely resurrection of the ancient tree was just perfect for a big fight!

Now, Da Fei and his party arrived in front of the giant ancient tree that was as tall as seven or eight floors and covered in vines. Everyone was amazed, and Da Fei couldn't wait to inspect its attributes:

— Evil Tree Spirit Fortress: Unit building, massive Spiritual Creature. Attack 200, Defense 644, Durability 64369, Damage 800-1000, Attack Speed 1, Move Speed 0.4, Command Value 1000 (red), Special Skills: Evil Tree Spirit production, Evil Beetle production, Elite Training, Leader Training, Base Movement, Trample Attack, Holy Vine Entanglement (temporary special skill added after transplanting).

Current Evil Tree Spirit production: 0. Current Evil Beetle production: 0.

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Da Fei was dumbfounded by the attributes of the resurrected fortress! It truly was a combination of a building and a creature! That 800-1000 damage was practically the same as a ship's ramming damage! With over six hundred Defense and sixty thousand Durability, it really deserved to be called a moving building!

It's possible! If it were to serve as the tank against the Eight-Headed Snake, it would surely work! Moreover, its Command Value just meets the requirements to enter the ship's hold—wait a second, the Command Value is red, and exactly 1000! What a coincidence?

Da Fei had only encountered a red Command Value with the Fishman Gulu Gulu before; that meant a lack of discipline! Da Fei quickly looked up the Command Value explanation:

— Warning: This creature is bound and entwined by the Holy Vine, in a suppressed state!

Suppressed? What was going on here? This was supposed to be the system reward for pacifying the Evil Branch Tribe, right? Could it be planning a rebellion?

At that moment, the Evil Branch Ancient Tree let out a huge, muffled roar, "Nasir is very thirsty! Nasir needs vengeance! Nasir wants to devour Demon flesh!"

Everyone was shocked and Da Fei was even more taken aback! Goddamn it, it actually remembered its name was Nasir! Truly worthy of being grafted from the Ancient Tree Heart!

Just then, Tamilia flew out from the Ancient Tree Fortress, looking grave, "Lord City Lord, this Evil Branch Ancient Tree's Life Core has a powerful self-awareness. By the time I realized this, it was too late; it had already revived, and it's extremely ferocious. I had no choice but to use 20 Holy Vines transplanted onto it to bind its power in order to control it, and to just meet the requirements for it to enter the ship's hold. However, I don't know how to deal with its current state; it's up to you, my Lord to decide!"

Da Fei was taken aback, "I decide? You mean, if I don't satisfy its needs, it will rebel?"

Tamilia shook her head solemnly, "I don't know! This is a will twisted by hatred, I cannot communicate with it. But if left alone, I believe its strength won't last long, and it would calm down by itself."

Chapter 606: The Awesome Wisdom Ancient Tree

Intelligent creatures had benefits and drawbacks. The good thing was, intelligent creatures were definitely powerful. The downside was, with intelligence came personality, which could be a pain for players, like a certain creature named Anlicia.

So when faced with Nasir's request, Da Fei's first reaction was, of course, to satisfy it! The Emperor did not starve his soldiers, especially not in wartime! But the trouble was, how could he find time to find food during this critical period?

Da Fei went once more to the Eight-Headed Snake Space to check on the situation. At this time, the Eight-Headed Snake finally had a new development, it had raised six heads high!

Six heads! From five heads shaking all night long to six heads now, how many hours had passed? Even if the last two heads awakened faster, it would still take several hours, right?

Oh man, so it turned out that time was on Da Fei's side all along; he had been scaring himself the whole day yesterday! Damn, all right, Da Fei didn't want to wait idly in pain. He decided to seize the moment and set out, just like he seized the opportunity to go to sea and hunt Sea Monsters last night.

As for the target, of course, it would be the Demon Race rear base on the map. Da Fei would teleport the big ship over, then disembark the Tree Tank and let it go wild, eat and drink its fill.

However, better safe than sorry, what if the Eight-Headed Snake defied logic and suddenly awakened? Damn! If it did, that would solve Da Fei's dilemma over Deirdre's safety.

Suddenly, Da Fei realized why people got so troubled, not because they were egg-headed, but because they cared too much! Just like last night when Da Fei was at his wits' end, he only wanted to lie down and sleep. Sometimes people's desires were that simple.

Decided! Set out, quick action, hit-and-run.

But since it was a quick operation—Da Fei remembered something, then found Tachiusu, "I want to take this fortress and go demon hunting, will you assist?"

Tachiusu quickly responded, "Our Lumang Tribe has agreed with Lord City Lord to oppose Demons together in a military alliance, so as long as Lord City Lord's target is Demons, we will fight!"

Oh yeah! That's the word I was waiting for. Da Fei rejoiced, "Great, let's quickly make preparations to set out!"

Tachiusu added, "Lord City Lord, you have 31 Vine Demon recruitment slots in the Lumang Ancient Tree Fortress, should we proceed with recruitment?"

slots? After fertilizing the Ancient Tree that day, there was a burst that allowed recruitment of 10, then considering the current time, it meant the Vine Demon production rate was about one per game day? All right, that's sufficient.

Da Fei said, "Recruit them!"

—System Prompt: 31 Forest Vine Demon units have joined your army.

This was the long-lost Vine Demon Army. Da Fei, filled with emotion, checked the Vine Demon attributes once more:

—Forest Vine Demon: small-sized Spiritual Creature, Attack 11, Defense 7, Damage 6-11, Health 40, Mana 40, Attack Speed 12, Command Value 2 (Green), Magic Resistance 55%, Stamina 120, Special Skill: Flying Creature, Production and Transport, Vine Armor, Vine Control, Advanced Healing Technique.

Green Command Value 2! Nice, this was the benefit of my revered Vine Demon race reputation. Reverence reduced the Command Value of troops, allowing me to carry more soldiers. The purpose of

bringing Vine Demons on this expedition was for their Production and Transport skill, especially since I was attacking a Demon Race rear base which must have plenty of supplies. No point in not looting.

Now, Tamilia was trying to load the Nasir Ancient Tree Fortress onto the ship. Normally, no matter how big the ship or what type it was, it could never transport the huge structure that was the Ancient Tree Fortress. But Flying was different, Flying had the Divine Domain of a Holy Vine Space!

Under Tamilia's intense spellcasting, a huge shimmering Space Gate appeared by Flying's dockside. Nasir Ancient Tree's enormous body waded into the river, moving toward the Space Gate. Even though the tree's lower half was submerged, it was still nearly as tall as Flying. But the problem was, the Space Gate was clearly not as big as the tree. Could it fit?

Da Fei watched with bated breath!

Closer, closer, the tree reached the Space Gate and stretched its huge hand through, the arm went in. However, the tree's sizable trunk did not go through with it, meanwhile, the Space Gate began to emit highly unstable fluctuations!

Tamilia shouted, "No! The Space Gate is very unstable, it's about to forcibly close! The current Holy Vine Space can't accommodate the entry and exit of such a large creature!"

Da Fei's jaw hit the ground! Damn, could you not sound so tragic, like being unable to give birth? At such a crucial moment, getting stuck at the door, wasn't this a deliberate test of patience? If it was like this, how could Da Fei ambush the Eight-Headed Snake? His original plan was to load the Ancient Tree onto Flying, sneak up to the Eight-Headed Snake, and then let the tree entangle the Snake. If he couldn't be loaded onto the ship, should he let the tree wade step by step to duel the Snake head-on? That's nonsense!

In fact, thinking back, when the manager of the Seven Cities Alliance personally came to Radiant City to collect the Demon Eye Skin, it was also through several giant mechanical arms poking through a Space Gate to retrieve the goods, meaning large objects really couldn't enter ordinary small Space Gates?

Now, Tamilia canceled the Space Gate and flew in front of Da Fei, apologetically saying, "Lord City Lord... it can't enter! The current Holy Vine Space's specifications are too low."

Damn! Isn't this just like moving a cabinet through a doorway? Can't go in vertically, should I try laying it horizontally?

Da Fei hurriedly said, "Let the Ancient Tree wade deeper, let it float up and float through the door! It can float, right? It's wood, isn't it?"

Tamilia hesitated, "This..."

At that moment, a low voice sounded, "The current Nasir is neither a ship nor an aquatic creature, nor is it just a simple tree. Tell me, what exactly do you want?"

Da Fei was startled, the ancient tree spoke again? But you are the Wisdom Ancient Tree; you must have a way, right?

Da Fei quickly said, "I want to put you into the Otherworld space on the ship, so I can take you to the region where Demons are, and let you have your revenge and eat to your heart's content!"

The ancient tree replied in a deep voice, "But do you think I can enter through this tiny Space Gate?"

Damn! You're the legendary Wisdom Ancient Tree that answers every question, and yet you're questioning me? Da Fei, frustrated, asked, "So do you have a way?"

The ancient tree angrily responded, "You idiot! Have you ever seen a tree chasing demons everywhere? Of course, you should capture the demons and bring them to me as fertilizer!"

—Ugh! Da Fei spat out a mouthful of blood! As a soldier under my command, how dare you call me an idiot? Why are you so arrogant? But, wasn't this indeed the normal way to do it? Da Fei truly was an idiot! But if the door problem isn't solved, what use are you to me?

The ancient tree then spoke in a low voice, "This ship is cursed by a Fire Demon; only by lifting the curse can it further grow. I also once suffered from a similar curse, and might know how to lift it, but I've lost too much wisdom and memory, so I must grow strong to recall. Do you know what to do?"

—System Prompt: You have received Nasir's quest "Collect Demon Fertilizer." Would you like to accept?

Da Fei twitched an eyebrow in astonishment! Damn, impressive! A soldier is giving a quest to their commander? Why did this give him a sense of being unable to control it?

Fine! As long as you are a soldier under my command, even with Master-level Leadership Skill, I'm not afraid you'll turn the tables! Accepted!

The ancient tree spoke again in a deep voice, "Very well, let me use my last bit of knowledge and power to teach you a skill!"

A golden glow flashed above Da Fei's head!

—System Prompt: You have accepted Nasir's quest "Collect Demon Fertilizer," and gained the Undead Witchcraft skill "Corpse Transport" taught by Nasir.

—Corpse Transport: An Undead Wizard Professional Skill, allowing you to transport enemy corpses as spoils of war.

Ugh! Da Fei spat out a mouthful of saliva! Damn, cross-profession skill teaching! As the legendary Wisdom Ancient Tree, anyone who visited it could learn something. This was truly a God-level Mentor, incredibly amazing!

With the skill teaching complete, the ancient tree's figure paused, and all its vines stopped moving, rooted quietly in the water.

Tamilia quickly said, "Lord, the ancient tree has exhausted all its power and entered a dormant state."

Da Fei nodded, "Okay, then let's set out quickly!"

Chapter 607: The Mercenary Tavern in the Demon Race's Garrison

Tachiusu left 20 Vine Demons behind to continue salvaging timber, then led her tribe of 150 aboard the Flying. Compared to the first mission against the Evil Branch Tribe when her tribe had just over 100 Vine Demons, the Vine Demon Tribe had clearly increased their forces by a substantial amount.

The Flying then silently submerged into the Blood Sea once again.

Da Fei took out the Space Marker Divine Artifact, into which Makar had input the map of the Demon Race's rear base, and began to select a target for the attack.

There were more than twenty maps, each with different topographies and possibly not in the same space, including ten with lakes. Da Fei picked a large lake that was most suitable for the Flying to navigate and a base on the lakeshore that was relatively large in scale.

After all, a surprise attack often yields the most accessible bounty on the first try, so such a precious opportunity shouldn't be wasted on minor territories. If one is to act, it should be a grand slam from the get-go.

Then, with a flash of light and a shift in scenery, the Flying appeared in a dim underground lake space. This transport instantly consumed 30,000 Mana from three Magic Charging Crystals!

Damn! How far did we just travel? Da Fei was secretly alarmed and felt that the 10 "backup batteries" were absolutely insufficient, barely enough for one round trip. And the less sufficient they were, the more he had to cherish this opportunity for a raid, to burn, kill, and plunder everything before the Demons had a chance to react!

At that moment, a Hell Race transfer station on the lakeshore was brightly lit, surrounded by a ring of apparently low-level walls and a few scattered watchtowers. For a transfer station, these specs almost matched those of a Human Race village.

Perfect, you're the exact type of village I aim to plunder! Da Fei immediately dispatched the Blood Eagle to scout the details.

At the time, the station was bustling with people, with a large number of workers moving supplies from the warehouse onto paddle boats at the lakeshore. Clearly, the war at the front lines must have failed,

prompting the rear bases to start evacuating assets. However, now that I'm here, don't even think about taking a single needle or thread!

Due to the poor lighting underground, Da Fei lowered Little Fei's altitude to scout what these supplies were, to decide whether to rob, smash, or burn them. It was then that Da Fei was shocked to discover that the workers moving the supplies were not only Demon Children from the Hell Race but also various other species that clearly weren't Demons!

There were dwarfs, Lizardmen, Kobolds, and so on! Among them, a particularly numerous species with big round heads and long tails were none other than the legendary underground species, the Cave People! Bloody hell, aren't these the Cave People slaves, the level 0 troops of the hidden Dark Elf force? This means that they are slaves captured by the Demon Race from their many conquests; every common intelligent being of the underground was here.

However, these underground slaves weren't specialized production troops of level 0 but rather ordinary NPCs! Of course, they had to be NPCs since typical troop types do not possess production capabilities—only NPCs can do that.

In that instant, Da Fei was moved. My Radiant City is in need of population, right? If I could integrate even the detested Fishmen, what's there I can't embrace? If even the Demons are gathering a grand assembly of the underground races, surely I can't be outdone by the Demons? Let's have a great unity of underground races!

Alright, let's see if we can succeed! Da Fei began to check the defensive forces.

On the station walls, hundreds of Three-headed Dogs, Banshees, and the Hell Horse Army were patrolling back and forth—it was the Hell Race's famous tactic of controlling the field with an assault combination of horses, chickens, and dogs. This number was more than enough for small troops, but appeared flimsy before Da Fei, not to mention being undirected units without a hero to lead them, no different from wild monsters. Next, there were a few tall Double-headed ogres supervising the work in the station, who seemed fierce but were still few in number.

Good, all in all, the total number of enemy forces wouldn't exceed a thousand, which was a decent level of force for a rear base.

Next was to check the facilities within the station. The station had altogether six warehouses with a capacity of about 1000 units each, then there were some living quarters, and even a large tavern, but there was no administrative hall.

The simplest way to determine if a group of buildings is a village is to see if there is an administrative hall. Without an administrative hall, it is not considered a territory, lacking all territorial indicators, and NPCs wouldn't automatically appear; naturally, upgrading territory would be impossible. And the only way to obtain an administrative hall was through a Sealing Order.

In fact, as long as there was a blueprint and building materials, one could construct buildings anywhere. For example, when Da Fei first planted the construction of Anemone King on a small island in the Nether Sea, the system also prompted him: This was not within the territory of the Alliance he belonged to and could be occupied or destroyed by enemies. Similarly, those Demon Race Factories, camps, and walls by the Pool of Radiance were considered invasive constructions.

For players, the greatest tactical value of invasive constructions was to build Arrow Towers within the territory of hostile nations or at long-term leveling spots in the wilderness—that's the so-called Arrow Tower tactic. Therefore, the blueprint for the Arrow Tower was quite expensive in the player market. But for an official territory, the Arrow Tower is included in the list of Basic Defense facilities in town construction and can be built within the town's territory without needing a blueprint.

In short, Da Fei had already scoped out the rough strength of this group of wild buildings—it would be a piece of cake to capture them.

Now, under the faint coverage of the mist, the Flying silently approached the dock like a lurking invisible giant crocodile; all the ships and workers on the dock fell within the range of the Flying's starboard Crossbow Cannons.

But it wasn't enough; they needed to get closer. My goal is not to slaughter indiscriminately but to kill selectively, with precision. I want to capture them alive!

We're getting closer, closer and closer. All the workers on the dock are now within the firing range of the Jungle Hunters on the deck of the Flying.

There's nothing to say now, take action! Da Fei waved his hand grandly: "Prioritize bombarding the Demons and Arrow Towers!"

—Boom Pah Pah!!! With a shudder of the Flying, the gun doors of the starboard Gun Cabin opened in unison, and two rows of Crossbow Arrows whooshed out, blasting toward the Watchtowers on the city wall! At the same time, hundreds of densely packed Jungle Hunter Units on the deck, temporarily assigned by Anlicia from the Kingdom, simultaneously drew their bows, unleashing a volley of arrows with a whoosh!

In that instant, the hundreds of Demon Children toiling at the dock screamed as they fell, and the Watchtowers were engulfed in clouds of dust!

The gigantic bulk of the Flying also revealed itself from the void!

The other workers of various races on the dock immediately screamed, dropping their cargo and scattering in all directions. The entire garrison was instantly filled with the piercing alarm. It was at this point that Da Fei noticed that these supplies were things like "Mysterious Ore"—to loot or not to loot?

As the alarm sounded, a crowd rushed out from the tavern, and looking at the colorful auras beneath their feet, Da Fei's jaw dropped to the ground! Heroes! All heroes! Kobold heroes, Cave People heroes, Lizardman heroes—it was a complete set of heroes from various underground races! The most conspicuous among them was actually a fatty Ogre Hero!

Holy moly! Da Fei's jaw dropped in shock! He thought there were no heroes leading troops in this area, but now it seemed not only were there heroes, there were frighteningly many! What the heck is this place? A gathering of great heroes!

Could it be? Da Fei zoomed in with Little Fei again to check the signboard of the tavern and finally realized—this tavern was no ordinary tavern, it was the legendary special neutral facility, the Wandering Mercenary Tavern!

—Wandering Mercenary Tavern: A neutral facility where players can encounter some very rare heroes and powerful troop types in the tavern. Players can pay a high price to have them fight for you for a period of time.

Neutral facilities, as mentioned before, are the same type of entity as the Lighthouse and the War Academy that increase player Attack and Defense. But of course, this Mercenary Tavern is not a typical tavern for hiring Vice Heroes in towns. The mercenary heroes here are powerful, and their troops come with strong elites and even boss-level units. As long as players can afford it, they will fight for the player, but will never join the player's team as a Vice Hero.

Sometimes, when players encounter particularly tough battles, being fortunate enough to encounter such a tavern in the wilderness is undoubtedly a good way to solve problems.

However, under normal circumstances, such facilities, like the Lighthouse and War Academy, are publicly open to all players. For this tavern to be surrounded by the Demon Race's station was quite abnormal! This was just like some unscrupulous players during the open beta who monopolized facilities and charged admission fees, right?

At this moment, there was no time for further thought. With the appearance of these heroes, the tavern seemed to pour out a large number of various underground creatures like beans, instantly filling the streets! Especially those dozen or so Double-headed Cannibal Magicians as tall as small houses, downright boss-level!

My freakin' goodness! Now, the total troop count and combat power of the opponents were not only no less than my own but even more formidable! The possibility of capturing slaves alive for persuasion was impossible!

Then, well, no choice, fight! My huge advantage is having the water fortress-like Flying—it's an unstoppable presence no matter how many troops you have!

Da Fei gave another grand wave: "Blow up the paddle boats on the dock!"

—Boom Pah!!! Another volley of Crossbow Cannons fired, and paddle boats on the dock were blasted into splinters amidst the spraying water!

Wahahaha! I'll make you stare in vain!

Sure enough, these Underground Heroes quickly assessed the situation; not only did they not foolhardily rush to the dock to exchange fire with the Flying, they promptly pulled back their forces beyond the range of the Garrison's Crossbow Cannons.

Now it was Da Fei who was left staring in vain, damn it! If you guys don't charge, it's going to be very troubling for me!

Da Fei couldn't help but sigh to himself, it's pitiful, loathsome, lamentable—if I could bring up the Ancient Tree Fortress, I could land-tank them just the same!

At this moment, Elena came up to Da Fei with a smile and asked, "Master, shall I set it on fire with a single blast?"

Da Fei helplessly waved his hand: "Burn it down!"

Damn it, this trip I met my match, and not to mention recruiting slaves, even sending Vine Demons ashore to grab some corpses comes with huge risks.

Chapter 608: Elena's Goal

Now, the forces at the Demon Race's base were completely suppressed beyond the crossbow cannon's range, leaving them at a loss, while those slave workers had long disappeared into the dark corners outside the station.

The Underground World was dim and narrow, emphasizing close combat with blades. It was unbelievable that a ship like the Flying, with such fierce firepower, appeared here, completely exceeding the garrison's ability to respond. This was both the pity of the garrison and Da Fei's helplessness at finding no opponent.

Elena stood at the bow of the ship and began to cast a spell. As her hands moved, a huge fiery magic array covered most of the Demon Race's base.

Meteor Shower! A Master-level Destruction Magic that could be learned to inflict area damage, with Grandmaster-level damage = $100 + 25 \times \text{Magic Power}$.

For Da Fei, who was accustomed to the Flame Demon God-level Meteor Shower, although Elena's spell lacked some momentum, it was obviously a deadly deterrent for the Demon Race, who were completely suppressed by the ship and unable to fight back. The Demon Race forces crouching in the corner immediately abandoned their confrontation, fleeing cleanly through the back gate of the wall.

It must be said, this was also the frustrating part of Meteor Shower, which was the long casting time. In actual combat, it could easily be interrupted by heroes who had learned the sub-skill of Meditation Skill, "Magic Counter." If the casting was interrupted, the Mana Value would be consumed in vain, and the spell would enter a cooldown period longer than the normal time. In short, this kind of large, fancy magic was not necessarily practical in combat.

But now, no hero dared to rush into the range of the crossbow cannon to interrupt Elena's spellcasting. Hence, a huge blaze illuminated the underground, as burning meteors whistled out of the array one after another, crashing onto the Demon Race's base. For Elena, with two sets of Divine Equipment and a terrifying 200 points of Magic Power, each meteor caused damage of up to 5000, which was more than this simple base could bear, turning the entire base into an instant sea of fire.

Elena laughed heartily, still not satisfied: "The best magic for burning houses is still the Fire Wall Skill!" As she spoke, she swung her hand suddenly, and a blazing wall of fire traversed the base.

In the sea of fire, warehouses, dormitories, and even the possibly only Level 1 low-grade city wall began to collapse one after another. In the end, only the mercenary tavern, as a system function building, remained standing in the sea of fire, alongside the garrison forces far away in the dark corner, unsure whether to fight or flee.

Da Fei shook his head helplessly and sighed inwardly. It seemed he hadn't gained anything from this battle. Never mind, just think of it as removing a threat to the Pool of Radiance. However, if the other bases are like this, running away from me, and I'm afraid to go ashore, how can I snatch the corpses? Am I supposed to bring back the thousands of surrendering Demon Children guarding the walls and deliver them to the ancient tree?

Damn, that's actually an idea, huh? The number of Demon Children even surpassed my Flower Demons by twice. This would definitely drag the morale of my garrison forces to a huge negative! As long as I'm around, maybe Master-level Leadership Skill can suppress it, but if I'm not, that would be a problem! Well, I won't worry about it then, after all, I don't count on these Demon Children for great combat power, they're easy to come by and not a pity to lose.

But still, this is like eating my own resources, so uncomfortable!

And at that moment, something strange happened, as the wandering mercenary tavern suddenly collapsed halfway!

Da Fei was stunned, dropping his jaw. No way, right? This is a system function building! It's invincible, just like those outdoor lighthouses, war academies, and Underground World teleportation gates, which are impossible to be destroyed by players! What on earth is going on?

There was only one answer, this mercenary tavern was not a normal mercenary tavern! Well, no kidding, being in a Demon Race camp was strange enough in itself.

And at that moment, Elena spoke up: "Master, I think I've met an acquaintance!"

Da Fei was startled: "Acquaintance? You mean those wandering mercenary heroes?"

Elena nodded solemnly: "Yes! So, Master, I wish to meet them and have a chat! I believe they have also felt my fiery greetings!"

Da Fei suddenly realized that as an Epic Hero, Elena had triggered a plot! Well, in the plot mode, nothing is indestructible, even if it's an NPC with tens of thousands of health, in a melodramatic plot mode it can still be instantly killed by a mindless poison arrow or something.

Da Fei quickly asked: "Are you on good terms with them?"

Elena shook her head with a smile: "Probably not, to be precise, several people I know were once slaves of my race."

Da Fei was shocked: "Then what if they attack?"

Elena laughed: "In the Underground World, force is the universal language of negotiation, so I leave it to you to decide!"

Seriously!? So, I still need to go ashore? The problem is—

Alright! I also feel uneasy about returning empty-handed, with an Attack and Defense over 200, and Elena's Magic Power over 200. This combination of Super Warrior Hero and Super Magic Hero, along with both of us having Master-level Leadership Skill and the profoundly mysterious Big Vine Skill from Tachiusu for control, I can't be cowardly!

Da Fei nodded: "Alright, then we'll go ashore!"

Da Fei then instructed Anlicia: "You and Catherine Dierdelie will stay behind, if any adverse events happen around, teleport back to the city and don't worry about us!"

Anlicia sighed and shook her head: "City Lord, can you tell me Miss Elena's true identity now? Don't worry, I won't leak it."

Da Fei was suddenly stunned, then looked at Elena in shock. No way, don't tell me this is another plot trigger, I don't want to be annoyed wave after wave!

Elena then bowed to Anlicia: "I am very sorry, actually, I am the eldest daughter of the Dark Elf Queen Tudehana. A hundred years ago, during the war with the Dwarf Kingdom, I was captured by the dwarves. It was the Lord who rescued me from the Dwarf Prison. Because I am a major enemy of the Alliance, and also a nemesis of the Elf Clan, it is inconvenient for me to appear within the Alliance, so I disguised myself."

Anlicia suddenly understood: "No wonder your magic is noticeably different from other Elf Mages. Since you are the Empress's eldest daughter, what is your goal?"

Elena sighed: "A hundred years ago was just when the gods opened the New World. After my Dark Elf Clan was defeated in the war, they all escaped to the unknown New World. My primary goal is, of course, to see my people. As for anything else, I haven't decided yet."

Da Fei couldn't help but be moved, so that's her goal! How simple and pure is that, simple enough not to seem like an Epic Hero! But then again, it isn't simple. The New World is so vast, who knows where those Dark Elves fled to?

Anlicia laughed heartily, stepping forward to affectionately pat Elena on the shoulder and said: "I've never seen a Dark Elf since I was a child, only heard adults say this and that about them, but rest assured, Miss Elena, my views are always different from theirs—I have an idea, you're the Empress's eldest daughter, right? Do you have a chance to inherit the throne? Even if you can't, it doesn't matter, as long as you find your people, you can take control of a region, and then your tribe could be friendly with us elves. At that time, I'd be willing to serve as a Goodwill Ambassador! That way, I would also be a great elf making history, what do you think?"

Da Fei's jaw dropped! Oh my God, this is the ethnic harmony that crosses the boundaries of the harem! I love this! It turns out that Anlicia's rebellious nature has its benefits!

Elena was overjoyed: "Thank you, Miss Deputy City Lord, for your support! If I can find my people and take control of a region, or even inherit the throne, I will definitely be amicable and friendly with the Elf Clan! In fact, the majority of reasons for the Dark Elves to start wars are completely due to harsh living conditions and a lack of resources. As long as there are enough resources, no ruler would engage in meaningless wars."

Da Fei smiled: "Good, good, now that's a lofty ambition!"

Anlicia smiled: "We will help you!"

Elena joyfully said: "Thank you, Master, thank you, Miss Deputy City Lord!"

Then she said solemnly: "Now, let me take the first step to ruling a region, I want to reincorporate these former subordinates under my control!"

Da Fei's heart leaped, recruiting so many powerful mercenary heroes! Wow, this plot trigger is thrilling, I love it!

Chapter 609: The Mysterious Mercenary Hero

The Flying approached the dock amidst the sea of flames, with hundreds of Kingdom Jungle Hunter Units disembarking, along with Da Fei's own 200 Forest Goddess Army, 50 Druid Army, and Tachiusu's 150 Vine Demon Army stepping ashore one after another.

The shortcoming of such an all-ranged unit is the lack of frontline meatshield soldiers. Once the enemy gets too close, the consequences would be unimaginable. However, Da Fei had confidence in his own attack and defense abilities, and in the strength of Elena's ability to take out minor bosses with one shot. As long as he could keep the enemy at bay, the absence of meatshield soldiers was inconsequential.

Now, as the fire at the garrison gradually died down to smolder, those hiding in the dark corners at a distance saw Da Fei's troops landing, they were suddenly invigorated, and immediately began to organize their formation to prepare for battle.

Little Fei, circling in the air, had a full view of the enemy's formation - the most eye-catching Ogre Hero, Ogg, obviously the leader of this group of heroes, commanding 15 towering Double-headed ogres. Then there was a Minotaur Hero wielding a giant axe, followed by his 30 tall and sturdy Minotaurs. Next was the Lizardman Hero, with 50 Lizardman archers at his command, their crossbows emitting a green fog that made it evident they were poisoned. There was also a Kobold Hero, his unit consisted of 50 Kobolds carrying baskets on their backs filled with bombs and other throwing items. Lastly, there was a diminutive Cave People Hero, commanding the largest troop of over 200 long-spear-armed Cave People.

Then there were nearly a thousand Hell Horses, Three-headed Dogs, Banshees, plus an unknown number of Demon Children from the Hell Race. These Hell Troops were stationed at the frontline of the battlefield. In a ground battle, the enemy had an absolute advantage in numbers.

Now Da Fei's troops stepped over the ruins, and the two armies were about to encounter each other in this rare open underground space.

Elena spoke in a deep voice, "Master, that Ogre Hero, Ogg, possesses a special ability that further increases the defense of his troops. The Minotaur Hero, Gengna, has a swift charging ability. The Cave People Hero, Shakert, is able to stealth his Cave People units after the battle begins, but it's unlikely they will use their own units for the first strike. They will surely command those Demon Troops for a probing attack, and we need to annihilate these demon forces with the least casualties and fastest speed possible, otherwise, it's going to be difficult to negotiate with them."

Da Fei nodded, "Okay!"

Holy crap! Stealth the Cave People units after the battle starts? Who would have thought the least conspicuous hero would be the most unpredictable! But no matter how sneaky you are, in front of Elena's Human Cannon, everything is just a cloud!

Now, as the battle was about to start, as soon as the System announces the combat, Da Fei's main force, the Jungle Hunters, could exert their high 13-point Attack Speed, coupled with the attack speed bonuses from Da Fei's equipment, they could take the initiative and Double Shot in the first round to cripple those front-line Hellhounds and Hell Horses. Once those charging close-combat troops are crippled, those rear ranks of Banshees pose no threat at all.

As the pride of the Elf Clan's long-range units, the Jungle Hunters are nearly flawless except for their low health and production!

— System Prompt: Enemy Heroic Legion has launched an attack against you; the battle begins!

Da Fei was taken aback. Why did the enemy get the first attack?

At this moment, a Kobold Hero among the enemy ranks cast an unknown spell on all the Banshee Troops, and those Banshee Troops immediately took action.

— System Prompt: Your Jungle Hunter Unit has been hit by the Charming Technique from the enemy Heroic Legion's Alkin Banshee Squad and is unable to act for a short time.

— System Prompt: Your Forest Goddess Army has been hit by the Charming Technique from the enemy Heroic Legion's Alkin Banshee Squad and is unable to act for a short time.

— System Prompt: Your Druid Army...

In an instant, all of Da Fei's troops were charmed by the enemy Banshee's Charming Technique and couldn't move a muscle! Da Fei was shocked and dumbfounded! Can there be any mistake? The Casting Speed and especially the range of these Banshees completely outdid my Jungle Hunters! What is the origin of this Kobold Hero?

There was no time for further thought. With Da Fei's entire force under control, the Minotaur Hero, and the Ogre Hero both let out a thunderous roar, white and blue halos enveloping the front ranks of Hellhound and Hell Horse Army, then the charging forces stepped forward with flame-igniting hooves, and a thunderous onslaught came crashing through like a tidal wave!

The sheer speed of the charge was beyond Da Fei's imagination! When Selvia's Tenacity Skill, the golden light, barely managed to touch the whole team's heads, the Hell Army had already crossed half the field! This speed was even more outrageous than the dwarfs' Charging Rune!

Had Da Fei's troops not been controlled, at best they would have only had one chance to strike, but now controlled, they could only watch wide-eyed as these beasts charged right in their faces?

Da Fei turned his head hurriedly to look at Elena, who was casting a spell. Now, the opportunity for a turnaround was Elena's Great Magic breaking the siege!

——BOOM!!! The entire Underground World flashed white as a flurry of lightning bolts struck down from the sky!

——System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Elena has cast a Grandmaster-level Destruction Skill, the group Attack Magic "Chain Lightning," breaking through the enemy's defense shield and causing an effect of paralysis with reduced speed!

Slowed down! Watching the enemy's charging momentum suddenly halter, and the white glow around them abruptly vanish, Da Fei couldn't help but feel invigorated, yet at the same time, he was shocked. How could that Ogre possess such Divine Skill to provide a shield that could withstand Elena's heavy artillery for the entire army?

And just as Da Fei was still in shock, a blue light flashed on Elena!

——System Prompt: The enemy Heroic Legion's hero Fu'er has targeted your Vice Hero Elena with the skill "Magic Counter," but the skill failed!

Da Fei's jaw dropped once again! Goodness me, there actually was someone who could counter Elena's spells? If it weren't for Elena's Divine Equipment, Elemental Domain, providing a 30% increase to Casting Speed, that Chain Lightning just now might not have been cast at all?

Sure enough, Elena herself was also surprised and exclaimed, "They have some formidable characters among them, huh?"

Just then, as they spoke, the ground in the middle of the battlefield rumbled, and a huge green Array burst forth, with countless vine sprouts breaking through the soil and instantly entangling the Hell Army whose charge had slowed!

——System Prompt: Your Heroic Legion's hero Tachiusu has cast the mysterious Magic "Vine Jungle"!

Oh yeah! That's what you call a turnaround, Da Fei leapt up in surprise, there sure is some eeriness to this hero! Although due to environmental reasons, these vines were far from being as thick as the ones released in the jungle last time, but as long as they could hold the enemy back even for a moment, that was enough!

Elena also couldn't help but laugh heartily, waving her hand, and another bolt of lightning struck down fiercely! Hundreds of Hellhounds in the area all fell together!

Oh yeah!

For Elena, with her lightning damage reaching up to 5000, those Hellhounds with merely 15 hit points were nothing but rapid cannon fodder! The fact that the first volley of Chain Lightning didn't annihilate them was already a display of the enemy heroes' superior strength!

Indeed, although Da Fei was startled moments ago, he had never considered the possibility of losing because of the sheer power of Elena, the human-shaped cannon! Elena's power had surpassed the current campaign's scale of the game; those first, second, and third-tier troops without Magic Resistance were simply no match for her! Da Fei's only concern was that if his own troops suffered some losses and the formation looked poor, it might not achieve the optimum 'all unharmed' effect for impressing and recruiting purposes.

Now, with the Hellhounds down and the Hell Horse Army still struggling within the clutches of the Vine Jungle, the enemy's Banshee Army started to advance. It was only at this moment that Da Fei realized, these Banshees hadn't truly entered casting or shooting range — the Kobold's magic had merely been a one-time boost to their range. He had to admit, such range-enhancing spells were unheard of!

Elena was not in a hurry to act, but instead laughed heartily, saying, "Ogg, Gengna, and Shakert who is playing hide and seek, is this how you welcome your master?"

The burly Ogre replied in a muffled voice, "I wondered who it was, turns out to be the little Queen Elena, but the era of the Dark Elves has passed, we are now free mercenaries."

The Minotaur Hero also muttered, "Right, we will not submit to any power anymore, even the Demons recognize our mercenary status. We've received a hefty sum of mercenary fees from them, that is our freedom!"

Elena laughed loudly, "What pathetic mercenaries! I'm curious to see how you will explain yourselves to your employers!"

Amid their conversation, all of Da Fei's troops finally regained consciousness. With a grand wave of his hand, a barrage of arrows rained down, dealing massive damage to the still struggling Hell Horse Army trapped within the Vine Jungle. Hundreds of Hell Horses from the army fell with collective screams, and the entire battlefield fell silent in an instant!

Chapter 610: The Old Superior Requests to Join the Group

As the battlefield suddenly quieted down, Elena's laughter echoed across the scene: "As mercenaries, you need to assess the battlefield situation. Do you think you can still oppose the master?"

Just then, a sinister voice emerged from one side of the battlefield: "Having tasted freedom, we'll never turn back. Even if we can't beat you, we can escape—and what can you do to us then?"

Elena's face darkened: "The freedom like a stray dog, is that your pursuit?"

Da Fei was taken aback—it was that stealthy Cave People hero! And at the moment it spoke, Da Fei's mini-map flashed red, finally revealing the enemy's whereabouts! Damn it, the Cave People's Stealth was so advanced that my God-level Reconnaissance Technique didn't even notice it!

As he was in shock, the chubby Ogre also laughed loud: "Even a pack of stray dogs is better off than those wagging their tails. And you, having become someone else's minion yourself, think you're qualified to lead us? Even the Demon couldn't command us!"

The whole battlefield erupted in laughter.

Elena's expression turned cold, and Da Fei also felt a jolt in his heart. Da Fei suddenly thought of a serious issue: Could Elena, as a player's Vice Hero, potentially rule a region or even inherit the throne? If possible, wouldn't the player become Supreme Emperor? Such a situation clearly wouldn't align with the game system's consistent nature.

Similarly, like Tachiusu, the hero forces such as Habbit Village, even if the relationship with the player maxed out, would at best be annexed by the player, becoming a subordinate village of the player's territory—not acting as Vice Heroes carrying a piece of land as dowry or something.

In short, a player's Vice Hero could only be appointed as the City Lord of the player's subordinate territory, unlikely to become the head of an NPC force. In other words, if Elena were to become an Empress, she might have to break away, becoming an entity like Tachiusu. Yet having a relationship like Tachiusu's is quite inconvenient, as it's not just about saying whatever you want but requires negotiation! Like Tachiusu sailing out this time, a military alliance against Demons had to be signed with the opposition in advance. Moreover, if the alliance helps a few times and suffers casualties, the friendship level decreases.

Damn, just considering this possibility gave Da Fei a sense of dread! No way, absolutely not! I need an Elena, a human cannon next to me as Little Honey, how can I let her go independent?

Even if she were to go independent, it can't be now, can it? I severely rely on Elena now, whether it's for killing the Eight-Headed Snake or going to the Eastern World!

Overall, seeing Elena at a disadvantage, I can't remain silent! It's time for the player to guide the storyline, isn't it just coaxing a few people over?

Da Fei shouted: "Who said it's a return to the past? Times are changing, society is progressing! We're no longer in a slave society; it's a salary society now, all about performance-based pay! If you follow me, uh, if you continue working with Elena, there'll be wages for everyone!"

Selvia suddenly asked: "Is there a salary? How much is my salary?"

—Ah, phew! Da Fei spat out a mouthful of saliva! Can you not cause trouble? Da Fei casually tossed a million Gold Coins to Selvia: "That's your salary, keep it safe!"

"A million!!!" Selvia's eyes widened in shock, looking incredulous: "Is that really my salary? Is it really my own money?"

Vice Heroes are basically lifelong indentured servants with no salary! Da Fei replied with a sense of dread: "It's yours now, after following me for so long."

Selvia asked again: "Then how much does Miss Catherine get? Miss Anlicia? Miss Elena? What's this salary based on?"

Ah, cough! Da Fei nearly choked on his saliva! Starting to compare now, my little darling, what are you up to?

Da Fei waved his hand and continued shouting to the other side: "Did you see that? A million! That's our Radiant City's salary package! You guys know about Radiant City, right? You ought to know my forces destroyed tens of thousands of Demon troops there, right? Would you rather work comfortably for a powerful boss like us and complete tasks easily for money or get pushed into a corner by formidable foes like now? As mercenaries, can't you do the math for this deal?"

Elena immediately followed, "The Radiant City's Lord already expressed his stance. Considering you're my former people, I'm willing to introduce you to the City Lord. But if you don't agree, we'll wipe out your forces to prevent you from continuing to aid the Demons against us!"

Oh yeah, husband and wife supporting each other, that's real negotiation!

The Ogre laughed: "Anyway, this crappy place has no business. The only thing we can talk about is opening the Mercenary Tavern in this boss's city. You can hire us for tasks, but whether we accept them depends on our mood!"

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched, progress! Damn, it's a big step forward—having system-function buildings on the player's territory is basically a private venue, isn't it?

The Cave People hero named Shakert continued in his sinister tone: "Indeed! As mercenaries selling our force and life, we reserve the right to refuse commissions. The Demon employer wanted us to fight on the front lines of the Pool of Radiance, but we declined. Your presence here is a complete surprise."

—System Prompt: The Wandering Mercenary Heroic Group wishes to establish a base in your territory. Do you accept?

Damn! A system prompt? Can they really open a tavern on my territory? Isn't this a good thing? I don't mind more diversity in my land!

Da Fei, overjoyed, was about to agree when Elena said coldly: "I need an army I can dispatch at any time, not merchants haggling with me. Besides, you've already reached a point where explaining to your Demon employer is hard—you're out of options!" Then she turned to Da Fei: "Lord City Lord, there's no need to waste words with these people. Clear them out to eliminate potential threats."

Da Fei was astonished, really—we gained such significant progress in negotiations, yet still need to fight?

Da Fei hastily said: "If they are willing to open a tavern in our city, it's a win-win situation—"

Elena frowned, her face turning icy. Da Fei abruptly stopped speaking—this was—

Understood, it was still part of the negotiation! Elena aimed to recruit them, not just open a tavern; if I opposed Elena in front of the opposition, wouldn't that embarrass her and ruin everything?

Da Fei suddenly realized, Even if we take a step back, and it's not about negotiation, there's no need to upset the beauty for these worthless hero recruits, is there? Fine, we were here to burn, kill, and loot anyway—no hesitations!

Da Fei immediately said: "Alright! First, eliminate those Banshees!"

The Jungle Hunter, long on standby, unleashed another wave of arrow rain, sweeping across the Banshee forces, leaving them no escape and sprawling!

Da Fei was puzzled, unable to instantly kill these frail Banshees? During close-range shots on the Hell Horse weakened by Magic, it didn't seem like much, but now Da Fei truly sensed the enemy's attribute levels. Besides the range affecting power, the enemy heroes' Defense estimated at around 100 wasn't far behind my own Attack. Without Elena, the human cannon, in the lineup, my forces alone would have a disastrous outcome if an encounter began. Perhaps the first round of charges would have knocked us down.

This truly was a scene designed for Elena! However, I must admit, the opponent's strength was indeed formidable. All in all, save for the female heroes, the rest is like passing clouds to me!

And with the successive fall of the Banshees, Elena swung her arms, casting a massive flame array over the battlefield. Laughing wildly, she declared, "You heroes can escape as you please, but I'll obliterate your troops and see how you continue in the mercenary business!"

At that moment, the Minotaur hero shouted: "Hold it! I'm not afraid to die, but I have to think about my brothers. We can negotiate!"

—Ah, phew! Da Fei spat out saliva again! Turns out, if not pushed to the brink, they won't relent!

Elena sneered: "I can grant you freedom and respect your autonomy as mercenaries, but under the condition that I become your boss! How about it, your former superior wants to join in—no reason to refuse, right?"

The Ogre was visibly stunned: "What!"

The Minotaur immediately responded: "No problem, Ogg over there can't even count properly, him being a boss is impossible!"

Upon speaking, the Minotaur's troops switched from red to yellow names and turned their coats, rushing over to Da Fei's side!

The opposing camp was in an uproar! Da Fei's joy made his eyebrows twitch, they recruited one!

Elena canceled her spell and burst into laughter: "Gengna, for a slave Minotaur like you to reach this point, you're indeed much smarter than most!"

Gengna quickly replied: "Thank you for the compliment, boss!"

Ogg bellowed in rage: "Gengna, you're an idiot! At least negotiate percentages if she's to be the boss!"

Elena sneered: "Fifty-fifty! I take 50% of your commission! It's up to you if you want to work or not, I won't force you!"

Ogg growled: "We risk our lives and you just sit back and rake in the money?"

Elena laughed heartily: "Of course I'll help you get business. If I'm the boss, your business will undoubtedly be better than in this crappy place with neither people nor liquor!"

Ogg raged: "Seventy-thirty! I get seventy, you get thirty, or you can kill me!"

Elena lowered her voice: "Fine, my final offer—sixty-forty. I take forty, you take sixty! If you're unwilling—hey, Kobold and Lizardman friends, you don't seem to be natives of the Underworld, interested in swapping bosses and heading to a lively place with good food and drinks?"

The Kobold Alkin replied seriously: "Doesn't matter, as long as there's money!"

Lizardman Fu'er calmly said: "We're in a cooperative employment relationship, not a loyalty-based hierarchical one, free with our decisions!"

Elena nodded: "Of course, the boss isn't a ruler."

"No problem!"

Oh yeah! Secured two more!

Finally, the Ogre Ogg also said in a heavy tone: "I need to drink half a bucket of beer with every meal and eat a large plate of roast meat!"

Elena sneered: "Earn your own food money with your salary! I have no reason to use everyone else's money to feed a glutton like you!"

The Minotaur immediately chimed: "Indeed, every time it's him using our money for his eating and drinking!"

Cave People Shakert finally revealed himself: "Then let's welcome our new boss!"

Elena laughed loudly: "This is how it should be! As warriors, all you need to focus on is fighting. Being the boss isn't suitable for you!"

Oh yeah! It's all settled! Da Fei couldn't help but laugh out loud! With Elena being a Vice Hero, recruiting them wasn't feasible. Maintaining this cooperative relationship really was the best option!

Now, let's not waste words, quickly gather up the corpses and leave. Yet, Da Fei's plans didn't stop there—he had his eye on the various-race workers on the dock.

Da Fei approached the heroes and greeted, "I warmly welcome you powerful heroes to join our Radiant City. I'd also like to take those workers serving the Demons with us. Can everyone help?"

Cave People Shakert stepped forward, "No problem, many of those people are from my tribe, merely enslaved by Demons, not serving them willingly."

Da Fei laughed heartily: "Then hurry, prepare to board the ship!"