

God level 611

Chapter 611: Corpse Moving Technique and Sea Soul Staff

The clean-up of the battlefield immediately got underway, for with the corpse transportation skill, a lousy professional skill, all of Da Fei's humanoid troops could load the corpses of the enemy forces on the ship and take them away.

Here, let's focus on introducing the "corpse transportation skill," a unique professional skill for undead players. Normally, non-undead players can't transport enemy corpses. Even their own fallen troops can only be gathered within the battlefield area for easy resurrection and cannot be transported away in vehicles. But undead players can.

The biggest feature of undead players is the Soul Summoning Technique, which is the legendary increase in troops as they fight, and the killed high-level soldiers will correspondingly transform into the same or lower-level troops of the Undead Race, which is extremely perverse. However, to balance the game, the Soul Summoning is limited by a "Dark Energy" setting, which requires the undead player's dark energy to cast it. Each undead player's dark energy is limited, replenished by the game on a weekly basis. The higher the level of the summoned soul, the more dark energy is needed.

For example, if an undead player kills a level 7 Green Dragon in the wild, then the undead player can convert its corpse into a level 7 Bone Dragon of the Undead Race, but the energy needed for one conversion is very high, hundreds of times that needed for a skeleton. Once there isn't enough dark energy, do you just watch the corpse go to waste as it refreshes?

Of course not, that's what the corpse transportation skill is for. Players can load the corpse of the Green Dragon onto a vehicle and store it in the refrigerated storeroom of the Undead City for later use.

For other races, obtaining troops above level 4 is not easy; they need to gain reputation and complete tasks. Similarly, the learning of the undead player's Soul Summoning Technique is also restricted. That is, if the reputation is not enough, the level of Soul Summoning will be low, and the killed high-level troops cannot be transformed into undead troops of the same level. In other words, a novice undead player, even if they kill high-level troops, can only stare helplessly, unable to convert them, not to mention the ungraded BOSSes which are even more impossible to convert.

Because of this situation, the importance of the corpse transportation skill is greatly increased. Low-level undead players will transport and store the corpses of every high-level troop they kill for future use. Thus, the latent strength of the Undead Race far exceeds the imagination of all races.

Transporting corpses also has significant tactical value. For example, in the chaotic battleground of national wars, when undead players annihilate a player's troop of another country, they can immediately transport away his fallen troops. Even if he calls for reinforcements, without corpses to resurrect, the loss is hard to make up for.

Also, because of the distinct tactical value of transporting corpses, there is another significant game balancing measure—that only undead players can transport corpses, not their Vice Heroes. This means that players of other races cannot transport corpses, even if they hire a Vice Hero from the Undead Race.

Then, let's talk about the volume of corpse transportation.

The command value of corpses and goods have a one-to-one relationship; that is, a Green Dragon has a command value of 10, so loading it onto a vehicle occupies 10 units of cargo space, and a transport vehicle has a cargo capacity of just 10 units. Even with overloading, one vehicle can't carry many corpses, and the efficiency is very low. Hence, the Undead Race's logistics has special types of vehicles, corpse transporters! Depending on the specifications, corpse transporters can carry 50-100 command value corpses, which greatly improves the efficiency of corpse transportation and also preserves the bodies longer to prevent them from being quickly refreshed by the system.

Of course, Da Fei doesn't have a corpse transporter; his Flying with 500 units of cargo hold plus the Holy Vine Space with 1000 units can only carry a total of 1500 command value corpses. And with so many dead level 5 Hell Horses and level 4 Banshees on the battlefield, it's absolutely no problem to fill it up.

Da Fei's first priority is to fill up Banshees first, as Da Fei wants to see if the souls of the dead bodies killed on land can be sucked over by the Sea Soul Staff when transported to the sea?

Theoretically, it should be possible, right? After all, any corpse that can be "resurrected" or "converted" has a soul. Da Fei has also encountered the situation where resurrection was not possible, such as during the last national war where that American born Demon rushed onto the ship and sacrificed a few gunners resulting in an inability to resurrect them.

In short, Da Fei immediately returned to the ship with Selvia, ready to witness what would happen next! As for Elena, who had become the boss, she was naturally going to receive her employees.

As soon as Selvia boarded the ship, she jumped excitedly and exclaimed, "I got paid! Captain gave me my salary, a million Gold Coins!"

—Apoo! Da Fei sprayed out a mouthful of essence blood! Can you not publicize getting your salary like that?

Sure enough, Catherine immediately followed up: "What about me? What about me? Where's my salary?!"

Anlicia was laughing heartily, patting Selvia on the head and teasing, "What's a little kid doing with so much money? Come on, give half to your big sister!"

Selvia snorted: "I'm not a kid!"

Alright, Vice Heroes asking for salaries must have triggered some scene event; it's all domestic harmony. Remember to buy a thong bikini with your salary, haha!

Da Fei then forced a laugh: "Everyone has one, everyone! A million each, haha, whoahaha!"

Anlicia immediately stretched out her hand: "Oh! A million is not too much for me, hand it over!"

Catherine laughed: "Do I still get paid for the long time I was absent for work?"

Da Fei scoffed: "That offsets the earliest reward you got from me!"

Selvia excitedly said: "I'll go call Deirdre to collect her salary!"

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Amidst the laughter, the first Banshee corpse was air transported onto the ship by the Vine Demons, and Da Fei eagerly anticipated!

Sure enough! A wisp of light pink smoke from the Banshee corpse was absorbed into the Sea Soul Staff.

Da Fei was startled and his eyebrows twitched! Holy moly, it actually works? The Sea Soul Staff collects anything that touched water? Does that mean in the future if I kill enemies on land, I can just move the corpses into water to feed the Sea Soul Staff? Does this overcome the shortcoming that the Sea Soul Staff can only be used in water? Could this be a bug?

Haha, wahahaha! Awesome, if this continues, who knows how powerful the Sea Soul Staff will eventually become!

Now, more and more corpses were being transported onto the ship. Meanwhile, Elena and the group of hero employees were bringing nearly a thousand workers of various races to the dock.

Elena laughed heartily: "Lord City Lord, all these people want to join my mercenary company! But their only use could be running errands."

Da Fei chuckled: "Great! The more, the better!" Damn it, why the change to calling me 'Lord City Lord'? Alright, you're a boss too, keep calling me 'master' but it's kind of awkward for me.

Just then, Catherine suggested: "Captain, we have too many people. Even with the Holy Vine Space, the Flying can't carry that many. We have to take fewer corpses!"

It's truly hard to have both, the more you fill the smaller the Holy Vine Space feels. But no worries, if it comes to it, I'll just take all the Demon Children from the city wall to feed them.

Da Fei waved his hand broadly: "Fill it up with Banshees!"

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Finally, the Flying opened up the Holy Vine Space and loaded nearly a thousand Cave People workers, as well as the bulky Ogre and Minotaur forces. The cargo hold was also filled with hundreds of Banshee corpses, and the deck was crammed with smaller-sized troops, causing the entire Flying to sway as if it was about to collapse!

Such overloading would definitely cause a shipwreck if it were to sail far across the sea. In any case, as Anlicia started the Teleportation Array again, with a sudden flash of white light, the scene changed once more, and the Flying returned to Radiant City with a splash.

This teleportation used up 45,000 Mana, emptying 4 Charging Crystals instantly! It turns out, the more you load up and the further you transport, the more Mana it consumes viciously. After these multiple transits, the 10 fully-charged Charging Crystals on the Flying before departure were almost depleted, so it was time to recharge again. Da Fei once again profoundly realized that A-grade batteries were totally unreliable.

In any case, everything had to be done quickly, my Flying is not an Undead corpse cart and doesn't have corpse preservation capabilities. Wait a second, could that ice coral I bought from the Dwarf Auction be considered?

Whatever, Da Fei immediately placed the ice coral in the cargo hold, and a surge of cold air instantly filled the cargo space crammed with mountains of corpses. In any case, just try it. And looking at the hold full of Banshee corpses—ugh! For some reason, Da Fei suddenly felt a strong urge to vomit, like he was in a slaughterhouse!

Alright, I admire those Undead players! Now there's not much to say, just hurry up and take out everyone from the Holy Vine Space to organize and position them.

Chapter 612: About to Become a Barbarian City

The Flying now opens the Space Gate; a large group of Cave People, Ogres, and Minotaurs is flowing out one after the other. For a moment, the consultants waiting at the dock are stunned!

The Cultural Consultant rushes forward and asks: "Lord City Lord, these are all Barbarian Tribes from the Underground World, do you intend to accept them into the city?"

Da Fei laughs: "Of course, as long as we have such a group of cheap labor in our city, we can at least reduce the cost of construction labor."

The Cultural Consultant anxiously says: "But Lord City Lord, so many Alien Races already make up 1/4 of our city's total population. Ordinary Flower Demons, being level 0 troops and citizens, do not contribute any city score. Now, our city's population is almost entirely composed of these Underground People. Our city has completely turned into a city of barbarism, the cultural comparison score will be unimaginably negative. This will result in no one from the Kingdom wanting to settle in our city, not to mention attracting high-level talents!"

Da Fei frowns and says: "Cultivate! We build our own academy and cultivate Flower Demon talents ourselves. Flower Demons as talents will provide scores, and we'll rely on Flower Demon talents to raise the city's cultural score!"

The Cultural Consultant is suddenly speechless: "This... this will take such a long time..."

Da Fei feels a tightness in his heart. Given the growth rate of Flower Demons, this is not just a long process, it's completely unreliable! But no matter, worst comes to worst, I'll just follow the path of the Beastman Race, completely give up on the cultural score, and take the route of strong military and prosperous trade.

Elena steps forward and says: "Advisor, let's isolate them to minimize their impact on the city score. As Underground Races, let them live in the sewers."

Minotaur Hero Gerna immediately adds: "Boss is right, it's best to have sewers like a maze!"

Damn it! Da Fei finally sees through this Minotaur. Surrenders the most actively, and his flattery is the loudest! This Minotaur indeed, just like the Cave People, truly deserves the title of the most famous slave bearers in the Underground World; such ingrained servility!

Cave People are enslaved because they are naturally cowardly and weak, and dare not rebel against the strong. Minotaurs are enslaved because they have simple minds with no opinions and are too lazy to think for themselves; without someone leading them, they wouldn't even know what to do! It seems that a Minotaur that knows how to play to the wind and flatter like Gerna must be a top intellectual among the Minotaur Race.

Elena continues: "Our next goal is to excavate a spacious hall in the sewers to serve as a Mercenary Tavern—I suppose that wouldn't be a problem, Ogg?"

The ogling Ogre Ogg immediately snaps back to attention: "No problem!"

Elena nods and extends her hand: "Hand it over!"

Ogg mutters: "What?"

Gerna immediately kicks the big fat guy: "Give whatever the boss asks for!"

Ogg mutters: "What does the boss want?"

Cave Person Shakert says darkly: "Ogg, you're too stupid. If it weren't for the fact that I can't beat you, I'd never let you be the leader."

Elena impatiently says: "The blueprint for the Mercenary Tavern!"

Then Ogg makes an 'oh' sound and pulls out a twinkling blueprint.

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Elena has obtained the "Wandering Mercenary Tavern Building Blueprint"!

—Wandering Mercenary Tavern Building Blueprint: Owning this blueprint allows for the construction of the system function building Wandering Mercenary Tavern anywhere. Construction within a player's territory will give +10 points to city safety score, +10 to the city prosperity score, and +1 to the city garrison's Morale. There is a chance that unidentified Wandering Heroes or Wandering Warriors will appear in the Tavern after construction.

Da Fei is shocked and his eyes widen! A golden blueprint! Damn it, it turns out players can also build system function buildings! The only difference between a player-built tavern and a system-built one is

that the building is not invincible, but as long as there are blueprints, you can rebuild if it's destroyed—there's no difference with being invincible! Is such a high-end building considered a Miracle Building? Of course not!

Da Fei hurriedly opens up Elena's inventory to check the blueprint's specific attributes, but a line of big red letters blocks his view—"Hero's personal item, cannot be accessed."

Damn it! Da Fei closes the inventory, chuckles, and says: "Alright, let's organize the workers to dig deeper into the sewers right away!"

Cave Person Shakert immediately says: "Boss, Lord City Lord, please leave this task to our Cave People Race. When it comes to digging, our efficiency is unmatched by these surface races."

Elena nods with satisfaction, then turns to Da Fei with a smile: "Lord City Lord, this project is not just about digging and building a tavern, but also constructing underground dwellings for everyone; it's quite a significant engineering expense. So, please, Lord City Lord—"

Da Fei waves his hand grandly and laughs: "Money? That's a small matter!"

Elena nods in satisfaction, then says to all the Underground Heroes: "From now on, our company is established. As the first batch of employees and founders, everyone must work hard!"

The heroes reply in unison: "Yes, Boss!"

Anlicia laughs: "Miss Elena, starting a company in the Elf Kingdom has rules—it requires registration! Only then will the company be recognized by the Kingdom and be able to receive commissions from all over."

Elena is taken aback: "There's such a rule?"

Anlicia laughed and said, "Of course, if we don't register, it would become like one of those thief guilds in the wild. It's still operable, but wouldn't be recognized by the Kingdom, and won't earn any public credit. However, Miss Elena, please rest assured, leave the registration to me!"

Elena exclaimed happily, "That's wonderful, thank you Miss Deputy City Lord!"

Anlicia smiled and said, "Then, Miss Elena, please give the company a name."

Without hesitation, Elena said, "The Shadow Mercenary Labor Export Company!"

Damn! This naming talent is second only to Brother! Da Fei couldn't help but slap the table in amazement: "What a great name!"

Speaking of which, Da Fei's Vice Hero wives are starting companies, and it seems that before this, Anlicia had already invested early in a beekeeping industry on Fire Dragon Island. Damn, what's Brother's is the wives', and what's the wives' is still the wives', how could Brother possibly cope? Maybe Brother also needs to develop a few more industries.

Well, the tavern that Brother is setting up in the Dwarf Capital should be about ready to launch too.

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Now Anlicia had called the administrative consultant over to take care of the company registration, and Elena was organizing Shakert to get the tools at the construction site, while Selvia, who had just received her salary, was gleefully commanding all the Flower Demons in the city to charge the Magic Charging Crystals. Tachiusu, who was visiting Radiant City for the first time, was flying around the city with great interest.

As for, the Ogre, Minotaur, Kobold, Lizardman, and other heroes present, their first task was to man the walls of Radiant City. The commission was unknown, probably the first stint was a promotional offering of the company's opening—volunteer work. Come to think of it, Da Fei didn't know anything about the attribute skills of these Wandering Heroes; perhaps this was the so-called secret of mercenaries.

The busiest person at the moment, undoubtedly, was the population consultant, who, holding his nose, was registering the names of the Cave People, whose bodies emitted a strange smell, increasing the city's population one by one. The problem was most of these Cave People didn't have names. Out of

frustration, the population consultant began to name them himself—"Cave Person 0031," "Cave Person 0032," ... "Cave Person 0101!"

This talent for naming had already surpassed Brother by several realms! Da Fei sighed in admiration and couldn't help but feel that talent was hard to come by.

The cultural consultant, however, stood beside the population consultant with a bitter face, and Da Fei empathized with him. As a result, Da Fei went up to console him, "That noble living in the school, is she making any moves to teach?"

The cultural consultant's face stretched longer with bitterness: "Lord, her bodyguard won't let me get close, I haven't had a chance to talk to her at all."

Oh my goodness, Da Fei was inwardly shattered. Was the Prince giving him a headache? If Brother talked to her, would the bodyguards give face? If they were wary because Brother is a man, would it be convenient for Brother's wives to approach and talk to her? Of course, the most crucial point was that the Mermaid Saint seemed to have written back on the harp, which was necessary to advance the quest, so that should be allowed, right?

But normally, Brother should only qualify to talk to her after he's successfully completed the third stage mission of reviving the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce, right? Regardless, he must try if he meets her.

While pondering this, suddenly the cultural consultant exclaimed, "Lord City Lord, that noble has appeared!"

Da Fei hurriedly looked towards the school and indeed, accompanied by a group of black-clad bodyguards, that Black Priest had appeared again.

One of the bodyguards urged in haste, "Miss, these are all lowly Alien Races, there's nothing to see, please return!"

Another bodyguard said, "Indeed, Miss worked hard today and should rest."

The Priest said displeasedly, "I am an Alien Race, is there something wrong with Alien Races?"

The bodyguards, flustered, whispered urgently and waved their hands: "Miss must not..."

Da Fei's eyelid twitched, opportunity! So he motioned to Selvia on the ship, while awaiting respectfully with the cultural consultant alongside the path she was walking.

With no choice, the bodyguards could only follow the Priest forward. Da Fei said nothing and bowed as a greeting to start.

The Sea God Priest smiled and said, "Lord City Lord, it seems new guests have arrived in your city."

Oh yeah, she's initiating the conversation with Brother! Does having a few more Alien Races create a sense of identity for her, an Alien Race herself? Da Fei's mind raced and immediately said, "Not guests; from today onward, they are also part of the city, they are the city's owners too. My apologies for any impropriety."

The Priest smiled and replied, "Does Lord City Lord not care about others' opinions?"

Da Fei shook his head continuously, "I am a pragmatist; races might differ in strength, but not in standing. As long as each race can contribute to the city with their unique strengths, seeking welfare for everyone and happiness for all, that is the noble race."

Humph, the underlying message from Brother is, it's time for you to contribute to Brother with your special talents. Start teaching!

Da Fei's words indeed please the Priest, who clapped her hands and laughed, "What a pragmatic City Lord you are."

Just then, Selvia also arrived at the scene. Just in time! Present the harp!

However, the Priest's gaze fell on the Sea Soul Staff in Selvia's hand, her brow furrowing, "Lord City Lord, may I have a look at this staff?"

Chapter 613: Instruction of the Sea God Priest

This Sea God Priest chose to look at the Sea Soul Staff instead of the harp? Is this triggering some new storyline? Fine, the Sea Soul Staff is so mysterious, it's a good opportunity to ask her about it.

Da Fei chuckled, "No problem, miss, please enlighten me." As he spoke, Selvia handed over the Sea Soul Staff.

The Sea God Priest took the Sea Soul Staff and her expression grew even more grave, "This is the Divine Artifact of Sea General Skira of the North Ocean. Now that the artifact is beginning to revive, Skira will undoubtedly return to reclaim it, so Lord, when you go to the New World, be extra cautious, as Skira's true self is in the New World. Moreover, as the artifact becomes more powerful, more strong beings will covet it. Then, if you are defeated, the likelihood of losing the artifact will greatly increase!"

—System Prompt: You received information about the Demigod Sea Demon Skira,

Da Fei was so shocked his jaw dropped! Damn! It's already a player's equipment, can the system even take it back? Isn't it said that when equipment drops, low-level gear drops first? Why is it now that the Divine Artifact is the first to drop?

Da Fei anxiously said, "Miss, what do you mean the Sea Soul Staff is reviving?"

The Sea God Priest returned the Sea Soul Staff to Selvia and said sternly, "There are two kinds of Divine Artifacts, one with fixed attributes, which are usually relatively fine items made by mortals or formed by powerful, godlike beings over long years. The other kind is made by gods, with attributes that can grow, simply called True Divine Artifacts. The Sea Soul Staff is such a True Divine Artifact. Mortals possessing a powerful True Divine Artifact will gain god-like strength, but at the same time, they must bear the risk of losing the True Divine Artifact at any moment. The reason for the Sea Soul Staff's revival is very simple, because you have absorbed too much strong soul energy in a short time, far exceeding the Sea Soul Staff's ability to digest, leading to its evolution and revival!"

—System Prompt: You received information about the True Divine Artifact, you received new information about the Sea Soul Staff.

So it's wrong to overeat? Da Fei, stunned, checked Selvia's equipment bar and looked at the Sea Soul Staff's attributes again, it had grown, magic power knowledge increased to 30! At this rate, what will it grow into in a month?

—Sea Soul Staff: Divine Artifact, Magic Power +30, Knowledge +30, can absorb the souls of creatures killed in naval battles. Stored High-level Sea Monster Leviathan Sea Soul +1. Absorbed Leader-level Demon Eye Soul +1, absorbed Leader-level Blood Abyss Demon Soul +269, absorbed Banshee Soul +135, absorbed Giant Leader Electric Eel Soul +1, absorbed converted battlefield souls, currently gained Magic Power +9613 points.

After this information prompt event, the Sea Soul Staff suddenly had an additional attribute:

—Warning: The constantly growing Sea Soul Staff will gain extra attributes, but at the same time increase the drop rate. If you die in battle, the Sea Soul Staff might drop, please use cautiously.

Pfft! Da Fei spewed a mouthful of old blood!

What's the most satisfying in games? Blowing up someone else's Divine Artifact! What's the most frustrating in games? Your own Divine Artifact being blown up! More frustrating than your Divine Artifact being blown up is holding a Divine Artifact in your hands, but being so anxious day and night that nightmares keep you up, worrying that your Divine Artifact might get blown up! Why even play anymore?

Why do some Tycoon players in games spend a lot of money to buy all sorts of anti-drop locks for their Divine Artifacts? Isn't it just for peace of mind, to use their Divine Artifacts to wipe out all enemies?

Now, the Sea Soul Staff suddenly has such an attribute, it's simply a sign of being too much of a good thing going overboard! What to do in the future? Should I be a War God and never lose a single battle? Damn, it's such a pain!

While Da Fei was musing painfully, the Sea God Priest spoke again, "By the way, I see your Sea Demon Demon Soul is interesting, may I take a look?"

Want to see the Sea Demon Demon Soul again? Da Fei immediately snapped back, busy saying, "No problem, right away, immediately!"

Right, almost forgot, the Demon Soul Sea Demons are locked in the Banshee Camp on the ship! They didn't even enter the battle just now.

For Captain players, moving troops is just a matter of opening the control panel and clicking a couple of times, so quickly, 11 faint blue, transparent, cicada-winged nude Sea Demons flew into the cabin of the Flying.

"Ah!" Seeing such peculiar Sea Demons, the Sea God Priest couldn't help but exclaim, "I didn't expect there would be such a breed of Sea Demons?"

Da Fei chuckled, "Please advise, miss."

The Sea God Priest chuckled, "Being able to fly and go underwater, only the high-level Siren Clan can match them. You could say they are a simplified version of high-level Sea Demons, and it's rare that as low-level Sea Demons, all their attributes have exceeded those of common low-level Sea Demons, only that they can't sing."

Da Fei's eyelid twitched, Siren Clan? My Sea Demon isn't the most advanced? Indeed, how can a Sea Demon be called a Sea Demon if it can't sing? Even Skira, the six-headed monster, has a mermaid head specifically for singing! This is an opportunity!

Da Fei immediately went along with it, "Well, our school has a music major, but we lack a music teacher. I wonder if miss could teach them to sing?"

— "Bold!!! Do not be rude!" As soon as Da Fei finished speaking, a group of black-clad bodyguards immediately shouted sternly.

Damn!

The Sea God Priest turned around and said angrily, "The ones being rude are you!"

A bodyguard who seemed to be the leader coughed dryly and said to Da Fei, "Sorry, Lord!" Then he said to the Sea God Priest, "Miss, you've expended too much energy today, please rest, otherwise it will be difficult for us as well."

The Sea God Priest had to shake her head with a sigh, "Sorry, Lord, to placate Leviathan, I have already used all my strength, there's really no surplus to agree to your request, sorry!"

Rendered speechless in astonishment, Da Fei could only accompany it with a laugh, "Indeed it was my impoliteness, miss has worked so hard for the safety of our city, I shouldn't have made such a presumptuous request."

The Sea God Priest gave a faint smile, "Actually, I should be the one apologizing. Well, Lord, excuse me!"

With that said, she was escorted by a retinue of black-clad bodyguards towards the school.

For a moment, Da Fei felt an inexplicable sense of loss. Now that she had no energy to teach, once she sorts out Leviathan, the Prince would surely take her back, thus leaving no chance again. Indeed, hoping for a god-level musician to teach isn't reliable, is it?

If that's the case, the only option is to clear the Eight-Headed Snake space, invite the old man from Habbit Village to teach, or complete the third stage task of the Dragon Cavalry Chamber of Commerce and talk to them? By the way, why didn't she look at the harp this time? Or was it that my task stage hadn't progressed enough?

In any case, being able to converse with her means making a breakthrough; anyway, the worst scenario is to completely abandon cultural scores to become a Barbarian City, nothing more to think about now.

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After a busy half day, all the Flower Demons in the city, along with the giant slime monster stuck to the bottom of the Flying, had fully charged the Magic Charging Crystals. At this time, the Banshee corpses stored in the cargo hold were still intact without any sign of decay, and it's unknown if the ice coral was responsible. Anyways, there was still a bit of time left, so might as well fill up the ship.

Da Fei then had the Flying teleport to the city wall by the shores of the Pool of Radiance, costing only a few thousand mana due to the short distance.

At this time, many thousands of surrendered Demon Child Generals and other level one and two units were densely packed on the city wall, their spirits languishing. Needless to say, when the flood came, they didn't have time to bring food and water. Now that Leviathan was blocking the gate, the military advisor had no way to send them grain. Counting over, they hadn't eaten for several days, all of their stamina values were in the red.

Forget it, after all, you are low-level demons, you'll be sacrificed by high-level demons sooner or later, you were born to have this awareness!

The Flying opened the Holy Vine Space again, filling it with 1,000 Demon Children, and then the deck was crowded with several hundred Demon Children. Although not high-tier, at least it fills the stomach! As for the other demons, Da Fei thought for a moment, since they were here, might as well feed them a little something, though not highly regarded, they were at least their own troops.

So with the help of the Vine Demons, Da Fei airdropped about 50 units of grain from the kitchen to the city wall. A level 1 unit requires one unit of food and water per day, so 50 units equal 5000 portions, just enough to make them full for a day, then they can go hungry for a few more days. Damn, having too many soldiers indeed can be a hassle.

Now with everything ready, with a flash of light, the Flying once again returned to the Vine Demon Space.

Chapter 614: It Turns Out Gold Was Right Under Our Feet

The Flying has returned to the Vine Demon Space once again.

Accompanying her return, Tachiusu couldn't help but exclaim, "Lord City Lord, you are truly amazing, no, magnificent! To build such a massive city in such a closed environment as the Pool of Radiance, not even the entire Elf Kingdom might be capable of doing that. I feel extremely honored that I will soon become a subordinate of yours."

Hahaha, it really pays off to bring a beauty to visit your home! But this was built by the Dragon Slayer Gang, it's not all my credit, but greatness is greatness precisely because people are willing to give for me! Yes, that's my greatness!

Da Fei replied with a faint smile, "It's just a framework for now, there's still a long way to go."

Tachiusu said seriously, "My Lumang Clan is willing to offer strategies and efforts for Lord City Lord's construction endeavor!"

Haha, I love hearing such loyalty, and relying on others for efforts is imperative, as for strategies—alright, I'll put you to the test!

Then, Da Fei sighed, "Miss Tachiusu, as you've seen, Radiant City's transportation is blocked, and the environment is closed off. The World Tree is dormant and unable to increase the population. Out of necessity, I had to employ a large number of Cave People to fill the city's population, but this has led to a low cultural rating for the city. Although I have many Flower Demons, I'm trying to train their skills through schools, but firstly, there are no good teachers, and secondly, the maturation rate of Flower Demons is very low, or rather, none have matured so far. Do you have any suggestions?"

Tachiusu furrowed her brows, "Lord City Lord, how many Flower Demon students are there in your school?"

Damn, I have no idea! Isn't this always managed by the Cultural Consultant who doubles as the principal? Da Fei immediately opened the city panel to check the school's attributes:

—School: Level 1 school, enrollment capped at 100. Current students: 100. Teachers: 4. Building Durability: 10,000.

Courses offered: Medical Class (63 Flower Demon students, 1 teacher).

Circus Class (37 Fishman students, 3 teachers).

Requirements for upgrading to level 2: Have 1 resident teacher with Master Level professional skills, cultivate 10 students with Advanced professional skills. Level 2 school enrollment cap: 200.

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So these are the school attributes, my bad! Da Fei then said embarrassedly, "There are 100 students."

Tachiusu let out an "Oh," and said, "I personally believe that a teacher's energy is limited, and the more students they teach at once, the lower the rate at which students will mature. However, with a large base of students, even with a low maturation rate, the number of talents cultivated can be quite significant, which is why the school model has become mainstream in education. But, to cultivate truly elite talents, it's better to select a small number of intelligent students and concentrate teaching resources to train them fully. Since Lord City Lord lacks teaching strength, you can change the training method."

Da Fei's brows twitched, "Intelligent students?"

Tachiusu nodded, "For instance, the Flower Demon Instructors I saw in your city! They are the most intelligent individuals among Flower Demons, and they are the most likely to learn skills. If you focus on teaching them, perhaps you will find a breakthrough. Also, there are a lot of Flower Demon Instructors in your city; I've already seen no less than 10, which is a very rare special skill troop type!"

Flower Demon Instructor! Holy moly, that's a wake-up call! How could I have only 10 Flower Demon Instructors? They were all saved during the last Pool of Radiance battle, in the side quest to rescue the enslaved Flower Demons, and not a single one was lost! It was that quest that laid the foundation for the Flower Demons' reverence for me!

Da Fei suddenly realized, "I see! Thank you for your guidance, Miss Tachiusu!"

Tachiusu smiled and said, "It's probably just that Lord City Lord was too busy to think of it. By the way, even though Instructors are smarter than ordinary Flower Demons, it's still best to focus on one subject, so Lord City Lord needs to assign learning tasks to the Flower Demon Instructors. Moreover, Flower Demons as students should focus solely on studying and should not take part in other battles. Earlier, I noticed there weren't many Flower Demons in Lord City Lord's school; I only saw a group of Fishmen cleaning."

Fishmen cleaning? Is my school turning into a mess? Damn! Even the Cultural Consultant who's a part-time principal is running around the streets! As expected, if the City Lord and Deputy City Lord don't care, it's impossible to expect the people below to be proactive, after all, this is my fault!

Da Fei hurriedly said, "Thank you for your guidance, Miss Tachiusu. It's been very enlightening!"

Tachiusu smiled and said, "Actually, before I became a hero, I was also a Vine Demon Instructor, and the troop types with Instructor Skills are the most likely to grow and evolve."

Da Fei understood once more, so she and Deirdre are actually the same!

It reminds me that in the public beta, mutant troop types with Instructor Skills are considered valuable assets. Once a player is lucky enough to recruit an Instructor in the barracks, it's a small fortune. This also shows the rarity of Instructor Skills. And during the last Pool of Radiance battle, so many rare special skill mutant troops were present, and I never paid attention! I always thought having many Instructors was just for the convenience of barracks repairs and tasks, and also because they were level 0 Instructor troops, I didn't take it too seriously!

Now I realize why that mission to save the Flower Demons was an Epic Quest side quest, because the presence of Instructors is an important foundation for future city development!

Holy cow! Finally figuring it out, Da Fei felt the clouds of worry dissipate and his confidence surged!

It's said that Wang Chongyang, with his unrivaled martial arts, took in hundreds of disciples and ended up teaching seven losers, the Seven Disciples of Quanzhen. The Jiangnan Seven Strange, with their mediocre martial arts, trained a dull Guo Jing, and cultivated a legendary hero. This is the advantage of concentrating teaching resources!

Alright, since there aren't any good teachers right now, I'll focus all my efforts, and have the part-time medical class advisor concentrate fully and train a Flower Demon Instructor 1-on-1 first! Once all the Instructors have learned, will there still be a worry about not being able to teach others? Haha, hahaha!

Amidst laughter and chatter, the Flying had docked. At this moment, the Nasir Ancient Tree still stood motionless, silently erect in the water.

There wasn't much to say, it was time to unload the cargo and have a meal.

In an instant, the Vine Demon Army began their operation of moving bodies again. The deck was crowded with lethargic Demon Children who listlessly disembarked and gathered on the shore. Meanwhile, Tamilyia opened the Holy Vine Space Gate, releasing a thousand Demon Children from the space. Looking at the red sea of Demon Children on the shore, Da Fei couldn't help but shake his head and sigh; after all, they were the Hell Race's treasured level 1 strategic troops. What a pity that would be in a moment.

Then, Tamilyia flew into the Nasir Ancient Tree Castle, and the tree shook with a thunderous vibration as it awoke again: "Fertilizer!"

Tamilyia called out, "Lord City Lord, just throw the Demon corpses around the tree!"

Da Fei waved his hand: "Throw them."

Thus, the Vine Demons tossed the carried bodies next to the tree. The parasitic Holy Vine tendrils coiled around the bodies like giant snakes, wrapping them up immediately. Then, the vines began to pulsate, and the wrapped Banshee corpses started to rapidly wither - just like a deflating inflatable doll!

So evil! In that moment, Da Fei felt his stomach churn with extreme discomfort, and his entire being felt unwell! Da Fei couldn't help but turn his head away, thinking to himself, is playing a game supposed to be this hard?

Now, under the frenzied absorption of 20 parasitic vines, the hundred-odd Banshee corpses in a ship's hold had shriveled down to nothing but skin and bones. At this time, the 20 vines were blood-red, and the entire Ancient Tree Castle seemed to be tinged with a faint red hue.

It was then that the ancient tree spoke: "Very good! But I need more!"

Da Fei said with annoyance, "There's plenty, the shore is full of them!"

The ancient tree gravely said, "If you hope for me to lift the curse from your ship, it is better to let me feed on the flesh and blood of High-level Demons. These low-level little Demons are not even valuable enough to be fertilizer."

Da Fei was stunned! Damn it, after I've brought them all the way here, you're still picky with your food?

Da Fei then asked, "Do you have a way to lift the curse?"

The ancient tree laughed heartily: "Actually, I do not have a way to lift the curse, but I do have a means to absorb the curse's power on your ship onto myself. This curse is more upscale and powerful than the one on me, a power I very much desire to obtain! But the prerequisite is, I must be strong enough, strong enough to absorb this curse's power!"

Da Fei was shocked, "Didn't you say you were tormented by a curse? And you dare to absorb more?"

The ancient tree spoke solemnly, "Correct! When you can't escape torment, then you must confront it, transforming the pain into your own power! Curse Knights among Demons are such beings; they gain endless strength from their suffering, and that is precisely the kind of power I seek!"

Holy crap! So that's the deal, alright, I'll satisfy you!

Da Fei then told Lady Tachiusu, "Lady Tachiusu, looks like we have to go out and hunt Demons again, I'll be needing your assistance."

Lady Tachiusu chuckled, "It is an honour, and as for hunting Demons, I never tire of it."

Anlicia confirmed, "Then what about the small Demons that have been transported here?"

Da Fei shook his head and sighed, "Since we've already brought them here, let's use them as cannon fodder. At least they possess the special skill to steal Magic Power; maybe they can manage to pull something off against the Eight-Headed Snake, right?"

Wait a minute! In that moment, a thought flashed through Da Fei's mind! Right, have the Demon Children steal the Mana from the Eight-Headed Snake! The biggest value of the Demon Children, as level 1 strategic troops of the Hell Race, lies in their ability to steal the enemy's Mana Value at regular intervals during a battle, where the amount of Mana Value stolen equals the number of Demon Children divided by 4, meaning 4 Demon Children can steal 1 Mana point. I have five to six thousand Demon Children; with one move, they could steal over 1200 Mana from the Eight-Headed Snake! If this were a player versus player battle, it's akin to rendering the enemy's Magic Hero useless right from the start!

Of course, the Eight-Headed Snake has more than a thousand Mana points, but since the cannon fodder is just cannon fodder, they'll contribute as much as they can! The reason why Demon Children are classified as strategic troops is precisely because they differ fundamentally from common cannon fodder like Skeleton Soldiers; that is, the longer they stay on the battlefield, the more value they can exhibit!

Holy crap, my odds of winning just increased by ten percent! Why didn't I think of this before? I must have been groggy with sleep, too busy being silly; such awesome troops and I was thinking of wasting them as food! Even high-end Hell Race players might not be able to accumulate such a staggering number of five to six thousand Demon Children, as after all, Demon Children are prime targets for the enemy's ranged and Magic attacks, suffering heavy consumption.

As for how to deploy five to six thousand Demon Children into battle? Easy, let the newly recruited Underground Mercenary Heroes lead them, joining from the riverbanks on both sides of the Eight-Headed Snake's space, which under normal circumstances would be the primary battlefield. I trust they have a combined Command Power total of five to six thousand without a problem.

Da Fei then laughed, "Lady Tachiusu, I must trouble you with one more thing; is there some simple, rough food that can sustain these little Demons for a bit?"

Lady Tachiusu chuckled, "No problem, with the exquisite food that Lord City Lord has brought, nobody eats our old fruit and nuts anymore. I'll immediately send someone to transport food over!"

Da Fei exclaimed with joy, "Great! Hurry up, as long as they can last a day for now!"

Da Fei couldn't help but feel deeply moved; whether it be the Flower Demon Instructor or the Demon Children, the treasures to break the game were right in front of my eyes, yet I've been oblivious to them. This is the case of looking too far ahead and failing to see the gold under one's feet. I was wrong!

Chapter 615: Go Big or Go Home

While the Vine Demons were transporting food in the village, Da Fei entered the Eight-Headed Snake tunnel again to reconnoiter the situation, where six heads were still writhing.

Time! It wasn't until this moment that Da Fei truly felt the urgency of time and realized that he was not fully prepared yet. He even started to regret having slept for those two hours. Da Fei now had too many things to do, such as continuing to raid the Demon Race's rear base to transport corpses and returning to transport Demon Children.

Actually, these tasks wouldn't take much time; the trouble lies in the time-consuming replenishment of mana by the Magic Charging Crystals, and that wretched Blood Sea still required half a day to recede!

Fortunately, while the Flying was replenishing mana in the city for half a day, it happened to coincide with the ebb of the Blood Sea, which luckily allowed that time to pass by unnoticed.

Alright, now it's crucial to calculate the timing of the ebb and the mana replenishment and to grasp this rhythm.

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Now, the Flying set off once again, and this time Da Fei's target was another large demon lake. However, to ensure a swift and secure sweep, Da Fei decided to head back to Radiant City first to bring along all those mercenary heroes. Of course, there's no need to bring their subordinates—they'd just take up space. What he needed was their Hero Skills, not their troops. In fact, with Elena, the Human Cannon, in the lineup, who needs troops?

With a flash of light and a change of scene, the Flying had returned to Radiant City once more.

Without a word, the first thing to do was to call over the Flower Demons to fill up on fuel while handling business; that's how to make efficient use of time.

As soon as they reached the shore, Elena shouted up at the city wall: "Ogg, you guys get on the ship right away, there's work to be done!"

The Minotaur Gengna was thrilled: "As expected of the boss, bringing business the moment he arrives!"

Business my ass! Elena had already said that the first day is a grand opening with freebies to show off your abilities! But rest assured, there won't be any shortage of good food and good drink.

Meanwhile, Da Fei hurried off the ship and called over the part-time school principal, the Cultural Consultant, and the part-time medical class instructor, the Hygiene Consultant.

"Lord City Lord, what are your instructions?"

Da Fei spoke earnestly, "It's to deliver the utmost directive of developing our school! Starting from today, both gentlemen are to temporarily cease handling advisory affairs related to the territory and focus entirely on teaching!"

The two were taken aback: "This..."

Da Fei sighed with a smile: "Comrades, the fact is we've always overlooked that we have excellent students, that is, the 31 Flower Demon Instructors in our city, these are the individuals we should focus on cultivating. In any case, to ensure success in one go, from today onwards, our medical class and circus class will only teach one student each, meaning the medical class will only teach one Flower Demon Instructor, and the circus class will only teach the Fishman Leader Gulu solely focus on learning. How does that sound?"

The two of them looked at each other in astonishment: "Only teach one? This efficiency... the cost in terms of time..."

Da Fei solemnly said: "As long as we achieve a breakthrough from zero, everything will turn around. Once we have a highly skilled graduate, it would be like cultivating a teacher—or at least a teaching assistant, right? This way, our teaching resources will become stronger and stronger, and the progress

behind will be like rolling a snowball, getting faster and faster. By then, both of your burdens will be much lighter."

The two nodded: "That makes sense. We will follow Lord City Lord's instructions and give it our all!"

Hahaha, that's exactly the effect I wanted. Now that I've given my instructions, it's time to set off.

When Da Fei boarded the Flying once again, Elena stepped forward to report: "Lord City Lord, just now Ogg and the others heard that Lord City Lord's goal is to kill an Advanced Demon, they provided a very valuable piece of information!" Then she turned around and shouted: "Shakert! Show the map to Lord City Lord!"

"Yes, boss!" The Cave Person Shakert presented a greasy piece of beast skin map and said: "Lord City Lord, this is a map drawn using my Reconnaissance Skill, it's an underground mine. You must have found some unknown minerals at the station's dock, right? It's just under the station, about half a day's journey away. Guarding the mine is an Abyss Lord named Aziklo, those minerals were mined by him. We used to work in that mine, so we're very familiar with the layout there!"

Da Fei raised his eyebrows in surprise! Underground mine? Information not found on the Military Governor's map! Who would have thought these Wandering Heroes, these surrounding maps still held such depth? Damn it, of course, it has depth. If there was no depth, why would the Demon Race manage so many outposts here? But half a day's journey? My time is so tight, even if there was a mountain of gold in front of me, I'd have no interest in claiming it, especially since I have to leave the battleship and venture underground, what a pain!

The Minotaur Gengna grumbled: "I've had it with this Abyss Lord for a long time, he's nothing but a Leader-level creature, but he has humiliated us, proud heroes, in every possible way. If we could have beaten him, we would have killed him long ago!"

Eh? So you guys have this kind of regrettable history?

Shakert spoke sinisterly: "Since Lord City Lord needs the corpse of an Advanced Demon, I believe he is a very good target. Additionally, Lord City Lord can even take over a mine. It's a win-win situation!"

Good grief, taking advantage of this to get revenge for you guys too, wouldn't that be three birds with one stone? Da Fei couldn't help but look at this Cave Person's intelligence with newfound respect. Aren't seemingly weak races full of cunning beyond anyone else?

Da Fei then asked: "What kind of mine is it?"

Shakert shook his head: "Unclear, judging by the color, it might be iron. But it's unlikely that the Demon Race would expend so much effort to operate a regular iron mine. Actually, the outpost we served before was specially used to transport minerals for that place, but then the battle at the Pool of Radiance escalated and it was repurposed to supply the front lines. Now that the Radiant City has suffered a great defeat, it's a time of chaos in the rear, and it's the perfect chance for us to sneak into the mine and kill him!"

The Ogre Ogg also spoke up: "If it's to kill him, I'd rather not take money!"

How badly do you want revenge? Da Fei frowned and asked Elena: "What do you think?"

Elena said gravely: "The strength of this Abyss Lord is beyond what they can handle even if they join forces. It must be very nutritious, which will save much more time than running around collecting the corpses of ordinary soldiers, not to mention it could allow Lord City Lord to take over a mine. Even if Lord City Lord can't operate the mine by himself, reporting it to the Kingdom would also be a great contribution, so I think it's worth a battle!"

Shakert spoke gravely: "I have a secret passage! He could never anticipate us showing up!"

Anticipate my ass! Even the station has been leveled by me, even a butt-thinking person would know trouble is coming, right?

However, Elena makes a lot of sense. Alright, I'm pressed for time, so if I'm going to do it, I'll go for the big score!

Chapter 616: The Abyss Lord's Underground Palace

Since there's a big operation in play, the elite forces of these Wandering Heroes must be brought along. Compared to Da Fei's ordinary troops, these underground elites are better suited for combat in the constricting terrain of the underworld.

Now with preparations ready, a flash of light and the scene changes, Flying back to the lakeshore next to the Ruins Inn.

At this point, there's a surging crowd over the ruins, clearly, the destruction of the inn has drawn the Demon Race's attention.

Shakert said somberly, "The enemy will never expect us to come back, so as long as we land avoiding these people we can sneak into the mine quietly. And since this is the Demon Race's rear base, there's always been a lack of guard troops, with the boss's strength and the Lord City Lord's troops we'll certainly be able to take it over."

It seems that's the only way. Da Fei then said to Anlicia and Catherine, "You two continue to stay on the lake shore, if anything goes wrong, teleport immediately, don't worry about us."

Anlicia shook her head and gave a wry smile, "Lord City Lord, if an accident happens, you and your troops will all be lost here, won't you? It's time to prepare some Town Recall Scrolls, otherwise it's going to be very troublesome."

Town Recall Scrolls! Da Fei's heart stirred and he asked hastily, "I too want to get Town Recall Scrolls, but I don't know how to get them!"

Anlicia laughed and said, "It might be troublesome for normal people, but the Lord has a discount. Anyway, after Radiant City is officially completed, you can spend money to ask someone from the Mage Guild to come to the city and order them, although it will cost a lot, it's a necessary investment."

So that's how it is! But Radiant City won't be officially complete until the Epic Quest "Pool of Purifying Light" is finished, and that's not something that can be done in a day or two.

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Now, under the cover of mist, Flying quietly approached the other side of the lakeshore. Da Fei and a host of mercenaries leaped off the deck and waded ashore.

Shakert volunteered eagerly, "Boss, Lord City Lord, let me scout ahead!"

Elena nodded approvingly, "Very well, you must be careful and meticulous, there must be no slip-ups!"

"Understood." After saying this, Shakert and his Cave People immediately vanished into the darkness.

Da Fei couldn't help but break out in a sweat, this damn thing is on par with his Phantom March. Anyways, he also has the Blood Eagle, he can't just sit idle, in this dim underground world, aerial scouting combined with ground scouting is the only way to be infallible.

The troops began to move through a cavern riddled with stalagmites. With meticulous scouting, the troops either gave way or hid, perfectly avoiding all the Demon Race personnel encountered along the way. Such spacious and avoidable underground space could only be encountered in a game.

Finally, after half a day's march, a red glow of lava appeared ahead with a blast of hot air hitting their faces, revealing a Lava Volcano. They have arrived at the target.

Little Fei is now circling carefully over this underground volcano, and there are countless pits dug around the volcano with numerous Level 0 Demon Infant workers going in and out of the pits, and some Hellhound Banshee Hell Horse combinations patrolling around the volcano.

Not bad, the defensive force here isn't much stronger than the inn, and Da Fei's confidence only grows.

Soon, Shakert returned from the front to report, his voice slightly excited, "Boss, Lord City Lord, no abnormalities, we'll circle around to the back of the volcano, where is the abandoned mine area first started decades ago, most of the tunnels have been sealed, but there is one tunnel that is directly connected to the top of Aziklo's Underground Palace, used as a ventilation duct. Once we enter this duct, we can directly reach his Underground Palace, then enter his palace's bathhouse drainage, and from the drainage into his bathhouse, then we can directly assassinate him!"

Da Fei was surprised, "You know it very well!"

Shakert said gravely, "Of course, because I was the one who dug this mine and built the palace for the Demons as the first batch of slaves. The earliest mines were all dug by us Cave People, and many Cave People died working in such hot conditions. Later, as the Demon Race's project grew larger and the labor grew scarcer, they thought of preserving our Cave People's labor and dispatched us to the inn docks. Anyway, this also saved our Cave People's lives."

Elena sighed wistfully, "It seems after we Dark Elves were defeated into the New World, Demons also took the opportunity to take over the power we left behind. This must be the biggest mistake my Mother Empress made by being deceived by the Demons."

Da Fei couldn't help shaking his head with a sigh; it was clear that they had been duped by the Demons. Anyway, his team was united in their hatred of the Demons, and there was no doubt about the success of a big operation.

Da Fei then nodded, "Then let's set off."

Under Shakert's guidance, the team started to turn and circled a great distance before finally reaching their destination, a dead volcano that had long since extinguished, dotted with pits and with seemingly no guards.

Then Shakert sniffed and pointed, "That's the place, a mine vent emitting faint sulfur smoke."

Da Fei was amazed, "Found it so easily? The defense here is too weak."

Shakert said solemnly, "The vengeful spirits of slaves who died in anger inside the abandoned mine holes are the natural guards here. But these Resentful Spirits are nothing in front of our power, I'll lead the way!" After saying this, Shakert once again led the team into the mine tunnel.

Watching Shakert's hunched and blurry small figure disappear into the cave, Elena chuckled: "Who would've thought, after a hundred years, that little Cave Person who used to nod and bow has become so decisive. I sense a strong drive for revenge in him!"

This is just too decisive! I haven't even had the chance to use him, and he's already using me to settle his personal scores! I just hope it doesn't backfire.

Da Fei could only shake his head with a wry smile and follow. True to Shakert's word, there were indeed many unclear-level Resentful Spirits blocking the path in the ruins' pits, but they were nothing to worry about in front of Da Fei's powerful and mixed Heroic Legion. The team advanced through the maze-like pits, and the sulfur smoke grew denser, even with hints of warm vapor.

Shakert said solemnly, "We're close, this is the sulfur spring in Aziklo's bedroom!"

Just then, a thunderous laughter echoed from up ahead. Da Fei's heart trembled; this laugh had the air of a mighty one, similar to when he heard Baron Nash's in the competition server, right?

Reinvigorated, Shakert exclaimed, "Excellent! Aziklo is indulging in pleasure; this is the perfect opportunity to assassinate him!"

Da Fei nodded, "At this crucial moment, we must proceed with caution!"

"Of course! We need to deploy the troops."

The team continued ahead, the laughter grew closer; not only was the sulfur smell getting stronger, but there was also a strange fragrance mixed in. Could it be? Sure enough, a boisterous woman's laughter emerged ahead! Damn it, indeed reveling in pleasures! Are there beauties? Any treasures? It seems we must kill him no matter what!

At that moment, Shakert suddenly turned and said sternly, "Ogg, you're too fat. Stay behind for now, we'll call you when the fight starts."

Immediately, Gengna agreed, "Right, Ogg's heavy footsteps could alarm the enemy."

Alarmed? Da Fei, taken aback, turned around to see Ogre Ogg's contorted face, his tusks biting into his mouth and drawing blood, with his fat trembling uncontrollably!

Dammit, what's up with that? He's not scared, is he?

While still in shock, he heard Shakert say, "Very well, let's move ahead, and from here on, no talking."

Very well? Seeing the huge fatso standing still like a statue, Da Fei grew more puzzled. Is he really okay?

Now, the corridor ahead was alight with brightness. They were at the vent above the bedroom's chamber, where the laughter and light were coming from.

Shakert fell silent, simply gesturing Da Fei to come closer, then pointed down at the vent. Is it really a show of a Demon's lascivious life?

Unable to wait any longer, Da Fei rushed forward and peered through the stone grate of the vent, only to see a huge pool-like bathtub below. Inside, a massive fatso with giant tusks resembling a gigantic mammoth was soaking; this was the Abyss Lord!

Compared to his size, Ogg, the giant Ogre, was like a human zookeeper beside an elephant, hardly worth noting. At this moment, the Abyss Giant had one..."petite" Ogre on either side.

Seeing the two Ogres, with a pair of giant meat sacks hanging from their chest, wrapped in floral miniskirts, tenderly bathing the Abyss Giant, Da Fei felt a darkness before his eyes and spewed a mouthful of blood in shock!

My eyes are damned! So that's what female Ogres look like; unbearable to witness, truly unbearable! Of course, perhaps to a boar's eyes, beautiful human women might not be prettier than a sow. Da Fei's reaction was understandable. However, Da Fei couldn't for the life of him understand why an Abyss Giant would take a bath with female Ogres?

Perhaps, no race can stop love, no age can stop love, no gender can stop love—all that can stop love is size. Relative to the Abyss Giant's mountainous flesh, perhaps only female Ogres could serve him properly.

Da Fei now realized why Ogg had acted strangely before; no wonder Shakert and Gengna, who knew the scoop, didn't let him follow along. So, this Ogg is a Hero with a story, with his own drama? Hmm, he barely qualifies as an Epic Hero. Do well, channel your anger into strength; I got your back, bro.

Shakert now waved his hand, and the team continued to move forward stealthily. Da Fei, calming his shocked heart, quietly followed suit. After a winding route, the team arrived at the drainage channel behind the pool. They just needed to lift the cover to enter the pool.

Just one last step to go; no matter how strong this giant is, as long as he's not a Demigod, he's just a solitary figure without backup, and bringing him down will be no problem at all. It seems that this ambitious move is quite reliable indeed.

Just as Shakert was about to take action, a voice announced from afar in the direction of the pool, "Reporting to Aziklo, Tamara, Tasola have arrived!"

Aziklo laughed heartily, "Bring them here, serve wine and meat, and call all the female slaves to attend to us!"

Da Fei was taken aback suddenly, what's going on? More people coming?

Chapter 617: Ambush of the Holy Vine Seed

As the palace gates thundered open, raucous laughter filled the entire bathhouse hall. An unexpected situation arose—dozens of demons suddenly arrived in the bathhouse!

The two leading demons had human bodies with scorpion tails, exuding power and might. Their bodies were covered in thick scale armor, comparable in size to an ogre. Although it was unclear what race of demon they were, it was evident they were boss-level adversaries. The dozens of accompanying scorpion demons were slightly smaller in size, but they were undoubtedly elite warriors.

The unexpected surprise left Da Fei and his companions exchanging bewildered glances. Now it was troublesome. If even the Abyss Giant was too much for Shakert and his allies, then suddenly facing two leader-level adversaries with so many elite forces beside them meant there was almost no chance of winning!

At this moment, Shakert looked at Da Fei in confusion. Da Fei could only say in a deep voice, "Wait! Let's see how this unfolds!"

Now, the hall was filled with wanton laughter, and a large group of women clutching wine jars appeared. Da Fei's eyelids twitched; indeed, this time he didn't see wrong—it was really women and not female ogres! Sultry and nearly unclothed, this was truly reminiscent of a demon palace!

At this moment, the Abyss Giant laughed heartily, "Brothers, welcome, welcome! In the future, the defense of the mining district will rely on everyone! Drink, drink!"

Damn! Did they really burn down the station and alert the enemy to call in reinforcements?

The scorpion demon laughed, "It is a great honor to be recognized by Lord Aziklo. So, at his word, we immediately rushed here with our troops."

Aziklo replied with satisfaction, "Very good. The destruction of the dock station indicates that the Elf Kingdom has finally discovered our base at the rear. It seems the death of Military Governor Agarlon has indeed leaked a lot of secrets. However, our mine isn't a military facility and isn't on the military governor's map statistics. Yet, we can't rule out the Elf Kingdom discovering our mine. When that time comes—"

The scorpion demon quickly responded, "At that time, our Demon Scorpion clan will use the maze-like tunnels to entrap and slaughter any invading elves!"

Aziklo laughed wildly, "Exactly! Climbing up from the lower demons requires steady, strategic acquisition of enough merit. Do not be like those idiotic Spider Demons, squandering the opportunities and patience granted by the Demon King. Though this may appear to be an insignificant mine, the more insignificant it seems, the more it will gain the Demon King's favor, leading the elves to drop their guard."

The scorpion demon immediately replied, "You're absolutely right, sir. Actually, we brothers think that your formidable strength is wasted just being a mine owner here..."

Aziklo laughed heartily, "You're underestimating this mine! I could clearly tell you that the mine itself isn't the point. The key is these hot springs here, formed by the sap flowing from the roots of the World Tree, heated by lava geothermal energy. It's an excellent supplement for enhancing demon power. Do you understand?"

The scorpion demon exclaimed, "So this is the reason you chose to stay here, sir!"

Aziklo laughed wildly, "I've been soaking here for decades and am about to become a hero. The hot springs are no longer of use to me. As long as you do your job well, this place will be yours!"

The demons rejoiced, "Congratulations, sir, on your imminent advancement to hero. Thank you for recognizing us!"

Aziklo laughed, "Don't be so polite, brothers. All jump into the pool and soak, so you know how wonderful it is!"

The demons excitedly replied, "Thank you, sir!"

Aziklo laughed, "Today, we'll bathe and drink here. Let's have some real fun! Women, dance! Hahahaha!"

In an instant, the entire hall was filled with unrestrained laughter.

...

Oh, crap! Hearing their conversation, Da Fei felt crushed. He thought they'd say a few words and leave, but it turned out they planned to play here all day? How could he have time to accompany them all day? The trouble was, he spent half a day getting here, and it would take another half a day to return, wasting a whole day for nothing?

Fighting wasn't an option; retreating even less so, leaving Da Fei's mind in turmoil. Moreover, they had already started setting up defenses, so there's no guarantee that this secret passage would still be

accessible next time. Would there be a next time? There had to be a next time; they had revealed it themselves, this hot spring had hidden significance!

Just when Da Fei was caught up in his internal struggle, Tachiusu spoke up, "Lord City Lord, what the demon says is true. This hot spring is indeed extraordinary. I can sense a faint trace of the World Tree's power from it. If we utilize this hot spring, we might have a chance."

Da Fei replied excitedly, "What chance?"

Tachiusu answered gravely, "The Holy Vine Seed from the Vine Space collected by you, sir! My major move, Vine Jungle, when led through physical seeds, will significantly increase in power. Not to mention with the Holy Vine Seed, and my power can simultaneously sprout five seeds. This hot spring possessing the World Tree's power will greatly enhance the sprouting of the Holy Vine Seed—so, as long as you find a way to plant the seeds in the hot spring, once the timing is right, I can trap them all. And then—"

Elena smiled, "Then it's our turn!"

I see! The Holy Vine Seed of mine finally has a purpose; I have forty fifth-grade seeds and fifteen fourth-grade seeds. I planted twenty fifth-grade seeds under the walls of Radiant City, and then those twenty were transplanted by Tamilia to the Ancient Tree Fortress. A fourth-grade seed was used and planted beside the administrative hall.

Given the significance of this operation, let's plant the fourth-grade seeds. But Tamilia didn't come along, and once I plant five seeds, I can't retrieve them. If the demons come back and uproot the Holy Vines later, wouldn't that be a major loss? These seeds are a limited edition, only produced in Vine Space once in a millennium, not even a hundred!

Damn it! With time running out, I shouldn't worry about these. Hopefully, the worth of this battle compensates for the consumption of these five seeds.

Da Fei nodded, "Very well. You all stay here, I'll Stealth over—if I fail, you must retreat immediately. Do not linger in battle."

Elena nodded, "Understood. However, they're indulging in drinking right now; perhaps it would be easier when they're thoroughly drunk."

Da Fei nodded, "Makes sense, let's wait a bit longer."

At this point, demons gathered in the bathhouse, laughing, drinking, and making merry. Women from various races danced and sang to drumbeats in the bathhouse hall, creating a scene of debauchery.

The timing seemed right. With the dense steam of the bathhouse as cover, Da Fei climbed out of a drainage cover, quietly crawling toward the bathhouse. Da Fei believed that with his God-level Reconnaissance Skill, combined with the Primary Sentinel's Aura Shield, and the thick mist, there was no reason he couldn't approach.

Indeed, Da Fei managed to crawl to the edge of the pool without even triggering an alarm. He successfully planted the first seed in the water, which flashed and disappeared upon submersion.

Oh yeah, success! With the first success, of course, came the second, the third!

Smooth, incredibly smooth! As the demons, intoxicatedly, focused on the bewitching slave girls, Da Fei easily planted five Holy Vine Seeds and scaled back into the drainage.

Now, everything was prepared, just waiting for the Holy Vines to sprout!

Chapter 618: Trapping and Killing a Horde of Demons

Time passed by minute by minute, the chaos continued within the Demon Palace.

Every moment longer it takes, the more the Holy Vine Seeds can absorb the nutrients needed for growth, so they can more effectively combine with Tachiusu's powerful spells. Da Fei has witnessed the optimal effects of Tachiusu's major spell. It was during the showdown with the Evil Branch Tribe in the Vine Demon Space when she planted ordinary vine seeds into the corpses of the Evil Branch Tree Spirits, and then they suddenly burst into growth, entangling the Evil Branch Fortress instantly.

Even the common vines could be so effective, what about the Holy Vine Seeds? If he could take out all the demons soaking in the pool in one fell swoop to absolutely dominate the scene, then his troops could deal tons of damage to their heads, instantly controlling the battlefield.

Well, the original target was to kill a big fat one, now with dozens of extra gifts, Da Fei would not be polite. As long as he could take them down, to revive his fortress, to clear the road of killing the Eight-Headed Snake, all the current investments are worth it.

Now Da Fei calmly awaited the moment to strike. At this time, the dancing slave girls in the field also caught Da Fei's attention. Earlier, the mist was thick and he was too busy to look closely, but upon a careful inspection, Da Fei suddenly realized that some of these slave girls were exceptional Elves; they were neither the Forest Elves of the Elf Kingdom nor the Dark Elves, but their seductive charm surpassed that of Banshees, utterly irresistible. Such exquisite slave girls, oh no, he must rescue them!

Under the sway of lustful thoughts, Da Fei asked Elena next to him, "What kind of Elves are they? I've never seen this Elf clan before."

At this moment, Elena's face turned dark and grim: "They're hybrids! The offspring born from the union of Demons and Dark Elves!"

Da Fei exclaimed, "Mixed-blood?"

Elena said coldly, "Over a hundred years ago, my Mother Empress was deluded by Demons and formed an alliance with them to jointly oppose the Dwarf Clan. During that period of the alliance, we Dark Elves received a lot of support from Demons. Our relationship was very good, and indeed, many female Dark Elves bore children with Demons. The most notorious was—"

At this point, Elena gritted her teeth with resentment, "My Mother Empress Tughana and the Demon King had a child, Regla, who is also my brother!"

— System Prompt: You have obtained information about the Legendary Hero Regla!

Da Fei's face twitched with surprise, holy moly! This is explosive news! Heroes that could give out their information previously were only Gru from the Elf Clan and Sirron from the Holy Demon Army of the Hell Race, which means her brother is as mighty as them!

Da Fei hastily asked, "Do you get along well with your brother?" Crap, her expression just now made it clear their relationship was bad!

Elena spoke with hatred, "We Dark Elves are a matriarchal clan society. As the firstborn daughter of the Mother Empress, I was naturally the primary heir. But the Mother Empress was too fond of this brother, so to avoid trouble from me, in the battle of Dwarf City Grimbatal a hundred years ago, she had me cover the rear for a defeated army!"

Da Fei suddenly realized, so this was her story. However, since she has such a brother and a sour relationship, wouldn't it cause considerable trouble to find the Dark Elf Tribe in the New World? Only now did Da Fei understand that her "wish to return home and take a look" was far from simple.

At this moment, Shakert spoke up, "Boss, if I may speak frankly, Lord Regla, no, Regla is notoriously cunning, ambitious, heartless, and brutal. It's lucky for you to avoid a direct confrontation with him."

Elena's expression turned even colder.

Da Fei asked in shock, "Just how strong is this Regla?"

Shakert spoke solemnly, "So strong, even the Demon King feared him!"

Da Fei exclaimed, "Is he that powerful?"

Shakert nodded, "He wasn't that strong at the time, but given the pace of his growth, even the Demon King started to be cautious of him. His ambition, even back then, was so great it unnerved the Demon King, which might be the biggest reason why the Demon King changed his mind and tore up the alliance with the Dark Elves."

Elena snapped, "Enough, don't mention that mongrel's name anymore."

Holy moly! It was her first time losing her temper! Suddenly, everyone fell silent like cicadas in winter.

Da Fei also could not help but plan for his future journey to the New World. Even someone as fierce as Elena, who is a Human Cannon, was not on the same level as Regla. To what extent must he develop to close the gap between them? If Regla were to inherit the throne of the Dark Elves, he would undoubtedly be equipped with Divine Artifacts, and fighting him would be even less feasible, right?

Anyway, it's still better to develop himself and avoid early contact with the Dark Elves. As for now, of course, he should focus on the present, kill who needs to be killed, and plunder what needs to be plundered. After all, he would definitely not let go of those hybrid slave girls who blended the flirtatious charm of Dark Elves with Banshees.

The crowd stopped talking, silently waiting for the arrival of what Tachiusu called the perfect moment. Meanwhile, the Demons continued their boisterous drinking, and the slave girls brought out big jars of fine wine, setting off another round of wild revelry among the Demons.

Good, drink, keep drinking, welcome you to walk further down the road of courting death. You fools who only know how to drink and eat want to compete with me? Don't even think about it.

It was at this time when the drunk Scorpion Demon spoke up, "The hospitality is very good, but, it still lacks a bit of punch."

The big fat one laughed heartily, "The Demon Scorpion Clan isn't satisfied without flesh and blood, these slave girls are here for the brothers to feast on! Brothers, pick whichever dancer you like and eat her up!"

The Scorpion Demons laughed wickedly, "As expected of the big boss! Generous indeed!"

The massive brute laughed wildly, "Compared to my brothers, these lowly female slaves are not worth mentioning! Ladies, it is time for your final service!"

"Ah!" In an instant, the female slaves at the scene screamed in panic and the music and dancing came to an abrupt halt!

Holy shit! Man-eating demons! This game is just too discordant! Da Fei's eyes widened in shock as he quickly asked Tachiusu, "Can we act now? We need to rescue the innocent slaves!"

Tachiusu said solemnly, "Move out!" In that instant, Tachiusu leaped into the bathhouse with a single bound!

Da Fei immediately gave a sweeping gesture, "Charge!"

The Minotaur, Gengna, let out a roar and charged out like a cannonball!

"Who's there?" The sudden disturbance startled the demons present.

The massive brute immediately reacted with a roar, "Kill!" Following his outcry, all the demons' bodies flashed with blood-red light as they suddenly swelled in size!

At that very moment, a giant green Array covered the entire pool—Boom!!! With a loud bang, the pool water shot towards the sky, and a large swath of sturdy vine forest burst forth, instantly entangling and wrapping around the demons that were still growing in size! Numerous two-digit red damage numbers like "-73", "-75", "-77", and blue mana-draining numbers "-10", "-10" erupted en masse!

Caught in one fell swoop, success! That was the damage from the special move "Vine Jungle," triggered by the Holy Vine! If these were Level 5 Soldiers with only seventy hit points, they would have been instantly killed! And if they were Angels with three hundred hit points, they wouldn't last five seconds in this jungle!

Boom! Simultaneously, a loud noise came from the ceiling of the bathhouse as the ceiling suddenly burst open. A massive meatball, Ogg, bellowed as he leaped down, rolling straight towards the massive brute!

The massive brute struggled and roared furiously, "It's you traitors—argh!"

Ogg's body rolled down like a giant ball, and a crescent of Blood Moon was drawn above the massive brute's head—Bang!! Lethal Strike -1533! Dazing Strike -363! Tear Strike -351! Shattering Strike -641!

Ah! Watching Ogg's damage from the axe from heaven, Da Fei was so astonished that he almost drooled! The horror of this single axe's damage was one thing, but the ability to unleash so many special skills at once was another. Was this due to his innate prowess, or was it easier to trigger such special skills while air-dropping, or did he turn his rage into strength for an overperforming power?

But none of that mattered now, for the massive brute was indeed stunned! Then the second, and the third Ogres followed suit, dropping from the ceiling.

Meanwhile, Gengna's Minotaur troops charged forward with the speed of the wind, striking the Scorpion Demons wrapped tightly like rice dumplings with no power to fight back! Fu'er's Lizardman Crossbow Arrow troops followed close behind, pouring down the first volley of poisoned arrows, as numerous "Weakened" special effects flickered into existence! And then Tachiusu's Vine Demon troops pounced onto the backs of the demons, unleashing a barrage of gunfire.

In an instant, the situation was completely under our control!

—Boom! A flash of Thunder Light, and the Human Cannon, Elena, finally took action!

We held the upper hand! Da Fei's heart which had been dangling was finally put to ease. That's right, the victory was predetermined from the surprise attack at the beginning, not to mention the use of the five precious Holy Vine Seeds!

Only at this moment did Da Fei finally take a breath and called out to the female slaves huddling in the corner, "Hide well and don't panic, I'm here to save you!"

.....

In just a few seconds, the Wandering Mercenary troops ambushed, and under the Vine Jungle's brutal Demon Blood double drain, the Scorpion Demon Elites were completely annihilated—when everyone is an Elite, then there are no Elites! Not to mention, they were facing Elites led by heroes!

Now, only three bosses struggling and howling, unable to extricate themselves from the vine forest, were left! And Da Fei's Jungle Hunter Druid Army was all in position, with a symphony of Arrow rain, Magic Bullets, poisoned Crossbow Arrows, and Thunder Light weaving into a dazzling curtain of light in the hall, with tons of damage pouring out every second.

"Someone!!!" Aziklo's roar echoed through the hall!

Shakert's sinister voice came from outside the hall, "From the day I built your palace, I've been ready to bury you, no one can save you now!"

Boom! A loud noise from outside the hall, and the corridor outside collapsed, sealing off any chance of rescue. It was the Kobold's explosive charges!

Aziklo furiously shouted, "You traitor! The Demon King will destroy your whole clan!"

"I never pledged allegiance in the first place! Die!"

"Ah... Ah... Ah... Ah..." Amidst the anguished cries of fury and despair, the three Demon Leaders collapsed with a bang!

Oh yeah!

Chapter 619: Full Load Retreat

—System Prompt: Battle Over! You have achieved victory in battle, you have gained experience +2.15 million, you have gained gold coins +260,000. You have obtained A-grade strategic treasure "Abyss Giant Axe", obtained "Secret Vault Key", obtained single player gear "Scorpion Demon Armor"×2.

—Abyss Giant Axe: A-grade strategic treasure, two-handed weapon slot, attack +30, 1% chance to inflict Tear Attack.

—Secret Vault Key: The key to Aziklo's secret vault storing minerals.

—Scorpion Demon Armor: Personal defense +50, personal poison resistance +60%.

—System Prompt: Congratulations! Your vice hero Elena has reached level 32...

...

Oh yeah! It's one thing to deliver the flesh and blood, but now I'm getting experience and gear as well, wahahaha! And as the Demon Leader went down with a thunderous crash, the entire hall erupted in cheers.

Untouched, once again untouched, I'm moving further along the path of the elite! And for such battle results, Tachiusu's contributions are immense.

Tachiusu is so exhausted she collapses on the ground, Da Fei rushes to help her up: "You've worked hard!"

Tachiusu shakes her head with a smile: "The power of the Holy Vine Seed is truly difficult to control, if we let them grow in the hot springs right now, who knows how strong they will become over time."

Da Fei's brow twitches, that's right! It seems like the Kobolds have just used explosives to block the hall's passage, it's unlikely that demon reinforcements will arrive any time soon. By the time the demons break through, the Holy Vine Seeds might have grown significantly; it won't be easy for the demons to eradicate them then. It's almost like I've got five strong units stationed here!

Alright, now is the time to take care of business and transport the corpses. As for that secret vault that stores minerals, I probably won't have time to find it, and even if I could, I can't transport it right now. In any case, I'll come back later to formally take over this place.

The battle is over, but Ogre Ogg and the rest of the Ogres are still howling continuously, still wielding their great axes to chop at the mountainous body of Aziklo.

What the heck, so much hate even after death! Uh, it is at this moment Da Fei notices that the two female Ogres who had been serving the Abyss Giant are dead, strangled by the Vine Jungle.

Da Fei lets out a deep sigh; it wasn't without loss after all, but it can't be helped. NPCs are not just troops, once they die, they usually can't be resurrected, and even if they could, it would have to be friendly NPCs. Just like players can't resurrect enemy troops, these two female Ogres died as soon as the battle started, not really allies.

Da Fei can only step forward and say, "Please accept my condolences."

Gengna reminds: "Lord City Lord, he is dismembering and cutting up the body to transport it easily!"

Dismembering and cutting up? Da Fei suddenly realizes, damn! I almost forgot, dismembering is an Ogres' special skill! That's why they are known as Ogres, don't be fooled by their chubby and seemingly cute appearance, they eat people!

Alright, what man Ogg lacks in a wife? You guys hurry and cut, I'll go collect the clean white female slaves, wahahaha!

Da Fei approaches the group of cowering female slaves in the corner and chuckles: "Don't be afraid, from today onwards, you are liberated, go lead a free and wonderful life in my city!"

The female slaves look at one another in terror.

Elena sighs: "Lord City Lord, just tell them they belong to you now! As slaves, they are prepared for this!"

Belong to me? Haha, exactly! This is the ultimate dream of a man, this is the thrill one can only pursue in games!

So Da Fei laughs heartily: "Alright! From now on, you all follow me! I will treat everyone more kindly than any master."

Just then, a Half-blood Dark Elf speaks up: "Is it Lady Elena?"

Elena frowns: "You know me?"

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat. Did he trigger another plot line?

The half-blood Dark Elf excitedly said, "So Vice Hero Alina is still alive. Some of our people are held by Demons as slaves at several waystations. Lord Alina will definitely be able to rescue everyone..."

"Clansmen?" Alina sneered coldly, "The likes of you are what you call clansmen?"

The female slave suddenly stiffened, then sullenly bowed her head.

Hey, hey, hey! Discrimination is not cool, you know! Da Fei quickly said, "No problem. I will eventually sweep through those waystations regardless, and I'll definitely rescue everyone."

The female slave bowed her head and sobbed, "Thank you, Master!"

Ha-ha, what a lovely 'Thank you, Master,' I love hearing that! So these bases around the Pool of Radiance have such depth—solving the population and talent problems for the isolated Radiant City through trafficking. Not to mention, each of these female slaves can sing and dance; isn't this just the foundation of my music class?

At the end of the day, it's just as the military advisor said—the development of Radiant City must follow the path of sustaining war through warfare! Alright, once I deal with the Eight-Headed Snake, I'll loot to my heart's content!

...

After a while of bustling activity, the Abyss Giant and those bulky Scorpion Demons had been thoroughly dismembered and bagged by the Ogres, turning the entire hall and bath into a slaughterhouse drenched in blood that Da Fei could hardly bear to look at.

Since Ogres naturally have the ability to carry meat, they became the main force in transporting the meat chunks. The remaining pieces were carried by Da Fei's few hundred troops, and then the forces, along with the newly recruited female slaves, made their way back through the secret tunnel they came from.

The army's march was much slower now, but that was inevitable. Moreover, they were accompanied by these scantily clad female slaves.

Under these circumstances, Da Fei dared not be the slightest bit careless and still had Blood Eagle and Shakert scouting the perimeter. By now, the explosion in the Underground Palace had clearly alarmed the guards at the mine's perimeter, and the entire mining area was on high alert. It wouldn't be long before the Demons would send a large force to investigate. If that were the case, it might not be long before the Flying could no longer hide in the lake.

So, in his urgency to return, Da Fei didn't bother sneaking around and taking detours anymore. He directly annihilated any small groups of the Demon Race they encountered on the road, whether workers or troops, and then sent the Vine Demon Army to pursue and exterminate them without leaving any survivors. Everything was for the sake of saving time and causing chaos.

Finally, after more than an hour of travel in the game, which was half a day's time, Da Fei's team safely made it back to the rendezvous point on the lakeshore. When the massive hull of the Flying emerged from the dark mist, Da Fei finally let out a long sigh of relief!

If I had a Legion Return Scroll, would I have needed to go through all that trouble? Anyway, we've returned, finally returned victoriously! Everyone is safe and sound, no more to say, let's quickly swim to the ship.

Just as Da Fei's forces were hurriedly boarding the ship through the Holy Vine Space, a System Prompt dinged!

—China Region World Announcement: Notice! The global war between the Hell Race from various regions VS the Elf Clan from the Korea District is about to begin! The Gate of Hell will open in one hour, and players from the Hell Race with more than 10,000 Merits from around the world are eligible to enlist for the National War. This enlistment will use the World Battle Network System without the need to return to town to find relevant NPCs; interested players please prepare. Enlisted players will be teleported to the Hell Race's town in the Korea District, "Holy Demon Flame Prison!" "Holy Demon

"Flame Prison" will become a battleground, and nationality icons for players from various countries will be enabled. Players can use the built-in translator function to communicate with foreign players.

—World Channel: Notice! All regions...

Instantly, all the tycoon players on the World Channel erupted, "The Shenlan Guild's experts called it, something big really did happen in the Korea District!"

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched. National War? Korea District's National War? Does that mean there is a high-level player in the Korea District, like me, who triggered the national war? Anyway, it's Elves and Demons again, none of my business; I have a road to hit.

Finally, all of Da Fei's troops boarded the ship, and bags filled with limbs and flesh piled up an entire cargo hold. The thick blood mist emanating from these bags of meat was once again absorbed by the Sea Soul Staff of Selvia.

That's adding three more BOSS and a few dozen Elites to the Sea Soul Staff! Da Fei was speechless, joyous yet conflicted! Already warned by the Sea God Priest, but there was no helping it; my Sea Soul Staff was advancing on a high-end path, sigh...

Now, no more to say, time is of the essence; we won't be heading back to the city this time.

With a flash of light, the scene changed, and the Flying appeared in the Blood Sea. Then the scene changed again, arriving at the Vine Demon Space, oh yeah! Full load, victorious, grand evacuation, wa-ha-ha-ha!

Chapter 620: Final Preparations for the Battle Against the Eight-Headed Snake

The Flying once again docked, and at this moment the Nasir Ancient Tree, who was resting its eyes in the river, opened its eyes and exclaimed excitedly, "High-level Demon fertilizer!"

Da Fei laughed heartily, "This time we brought lots of good stuff, you can eat to your heart's content!"

There wasn't much to say now, bundles of meat chunks were thrown into the river, and the twenty Holy Vines on Nasir, as agile as octopus tentacles, rolled them up one by one!

And with this mere roll, the Ancient Tree immediately sensed something was up and was overjoyed, "I feel the Power of the World Tree! This is Demon Flesh fused with the Power of the World Tree. As long as I consume this flesh, I will immediately become stronger!"

Oh yeah! My efforts, risks, and costs are all worth this moment! I was waiting for this exact statement!

Da Fei exclaimed with surprise, "Will you be able to absorb the curse on the ship once you grow stronger?"

The Ancient Tree's branches danced wildly with excitement, "I can definitely absorb it, but I can't guarantee it will be clean! But it's not a problem, as long as I absorb a part of the curse, your ship will grow a bit. When I become stronger, I can definitely absorb it clean."

Da Fei was overjoyed, "Great, I will wait and see! Once my ship is free to grow, I can take you around the world to devour demons!"

Nasir laughed wildly, "I am also immensely looking forward to seeing what state a tree running all over the world is like. Hero, you are very impressive, I'm sticking with you!"

Wahahaha! What, you think you can turn against me? In the end, the simplest and most direct way to win people over is to treat them to a meal!

Da Fei laughed, "Alright, you eat slowly!"

After being away for a day, Da Fei was very concerned about the situation in the Eight-Headed Snake's passage, so he took a moment to ride a leaf boat into the passage to observe. And at this look, Da Fei's heart jumped wildly, seven heads!

Damn, sure enough, the later it gets, the faster they wake up. The final battle is about to come! But I still have the Transport Demon Child matter to handle, I must hurry!

Da Fei returned to the lumber pile on the shore to check the wood messages from Habbit Village in the past two days and found new content!

"Lord City Lord, reporting something that might be good or bad news. We still haven't detected any demon activity, but the mercury vapor over the Black Forest has completely stopped, maybe this is the demon's activity. Overall, we can finally log wood around the clock, and we have already logged a fifth of the forest."

A fifth? Da Fei frowned, then asked a Vine Demon present, "How much wood is piled up in the lumberyard now?"

The Vine Demon reported, "Sir, there are another 2000 units!"

Another 2000? Damn, this Eight-Headed Snake must have been hit silly!

Speaking of which, I've already shipped out 1500 units ahead of time, Radiant City has a stockpile of 500 units, meaning 4000 units of wood account for a fifth of the forest? Saying the total wood in this Black Forest is 20,000 units, and from the conversation with the Elorin Shipyard owner Comelon, building a giant ship generally requires 3000 units of wood, meaning this huge forest can only build six giant ships, factoring in resource wastage in the shipyard's research phase, there's probably not that much, it might not even succeed!

Nah, it must succeed, even if it only makes one ship, I still profit!

At the core, it's because this Black Forest is all deadwood, an unreplenishable resource. It seems that in the future, I'll have to go to the New World and grab some forests that can produce giant ship wood. Speaking of which, my ambitions are grand at any time or place.

Now, Da Fei returned to the Flying, the meat tossing continued, and Nasir's devouring continued. Then Da Fei suddenly found that the Ogre Ogg was sitting on the deck gazing at the sky, with what seemed like flashes of tears in the corners of his eyes, looking very sorrowful yet clear!

My God! Is this the legendary tender-hearted fat man? Indeed, a man's tears are way more impactful, I admit, I am moved by you!

Da Fei thought about the drop from the BOSS this time, honestly, although Da Fei's Vice Heroes didn't have much equipment, anything below S-level equipment no longer caught Da Fei's eye, probably the biggest treasure was that key. Although the axe's Attack was terrifying, unfortunately, it was a two-handed axe and conflicted with Da Fei's Divine Artifact Shield position, so it wasn't very good, it's better to reward the employees. As for the other two pieces of Scorpion Demon Armor, leave them for Anlicia and Selvia to use.

Da Fei said to Elena, "In this battle, Ogg really put in a lot of effort both in combat and transporting meat. I want to reward him with the A-level Strategic Giant Axe dropped by the Abyss Lord, what do you think?"

Elena was surprised, "Lord City Lord, this is an A-level strategic weapon! It's very valuable and precious, even if you don't need it, you could still sell it. The value of this axe is enough to pay their entire team's annual bonus."

Well, it seems Elena, being a Dark Elf, is used to poverty, and it's no wonder that some female Dark Elves would succumb to demonic temptations and whatever. But it's good this way, after seeing my generosity, whether they become independent in the future or not, they will stick with me loyally!

Da Fei nodded, "Indeed, gifting a hero a fine sword! Specifically speaking, hand it over to you, rewarding it in your capacity as a boss. I think he is a talent worth courting."

Elena laughed, "Lord City Lord is considering everything for me so thoughtfully."

So, Elena called a group of Wandering Heroes to the deck to hold a reward and recognition ceremony, "In this operation, the most outstanding performance was by Ogg, so following the generous Lord City Lord's directive, the first spoil is awarded to Ogg!"

Everyone gasped in shock, and Ogg's eyes widened in disbelief, "Awarded to me?"

Elena said sternly, "Indeed, this is only the beginning! As long as everyone performs well in the future, you all can earn rewards. But don't get carried away, in my opinion, the major victory was entirely due to Lord City Lord and Lady Tachiusu's strength, you're just replaceable lackeys, don't think you're indispensable, recognize your standing!"

Everyone was silent. Damn! All veteran soldiers aren't motivated by incentives?

Elena continued her speech, ignoring much else, "Alright, there's another big battle ahead, your task is just to lead, with those Demon Childs on the shore, but if you can make an additional contribution, there will be extra rewards!"

Everyone responded with an acknowledgment. But Ogg asked, "Boss, I have a question!"

"Speak!"

Ogg grinned, "Can I sell this axe for money?"

Elena replied coldly, "With your intelligence, it'd be normal to sell yourself, don't bring up money matters in front of me again!"

Everyone burst into laughter.

In any case, with Ogg's award setting an example, he was no longer melancholic, and the other people's spirits seemed slightly better. This is the effect I'm after, even though they verbally claim only an employer-employee relationship now, denying any lord-subject relationship, as long as they taste more benefits, like only subjects being granted fiefs or something, let's see then if they're willing to submit!

Now, under Da Fei's eager anticipation, the Ancient Tree finally devoured all of the Demon Flesh, and the once gray-black as charcoal Evil Branch Fortress was now dyed a crimson blood color! Nice, that's awesome!

Da Fei asked impatiently, "Is the power enough?"

The Ancient Tree laughed hysterically, "Watch me!" Then it wrapped the whole Flying in its twenty giant python-like Holy Vines!

And at the very moment the vines enveloped the Flying, all the vines suddenly burst out with crackling sparks!

"Ah!" The Ancient Tree couldn't help but emit a painful groan!

Da Fei asked in surprise, "Can't do it?"

The Ancient Tree trembled, "As expected of a Demon God-level curse power, so pure, so evil, ordinary fertilizer can't compare, this is the true power I've been seeking! I won't... miss this — Ahhh —"

Sparks were flying, vines were burning, the Ancient Tree was howling in pain, at this moment the Ancient Tree was like hugging a high-voltage line, struggling desperately!

Can it even do it? Just as Da Fei was in shock, Tamilia stepped forward, "Stop!!!"

"Ah!!!" With a howl, all the vines on the Ancient Tree abruptly released, and the gigantic body of the tree sat down with a splash of towering water.

Tamilia said urgently, "Mr. Nasir, the Holy Vine can't bear it."

Nasir spoke in a muffled voice, "I can't bear it either! Hero, this is as far as I can go now!"

At this moment, the system prompt sounded a chime!

— System Prompt: The Fire Demon corrosion curse on your Flying has been weakened, the Holy Vine fused on the Flying has its growth suppression reduced, and the Holy Vine Space's capacity increased by 1000. In the foreseeable future, the Flying will gain a durability cap increase of 30,000 and an increase in ship mana by 1000. The ship's special skill Dark Domain will have a radius increase of 30 meters. Until the Fire Demon curse is completely removed, the Flying will not continue to grow.

— System Prompt: Your Evil Branch Fortress has been affected by the Fire Demon corrosion curse, and the growth of the Evil Branch Fortress is suppressed.

Holy Vine Space capacity +1000! Double!

Da Fei laughed uproariously! It's a success, my Flying has finally reached the level of a large transport ship, wahahaha! However, a mere 2000 space capacity compared to the countless living spaces of the World Tree is nothing, I've celebrated too early, wahahaha!

Tamilia said joyfully, "Lord City Lord, the Holy Vine has gained growth space again, this time I can definitely fit Nasir on the ship!"

Da Fei laughed so hard he couldn't contain his chin! The tank transport ship combination finally succeeded, now I can directly transport the Ancient Tree to the Eight-Headed Snake and fight it to death! The most important tank is in position, I fear no demigod!

Tamilia then frowned, "But Nasir is indeed affected by corrosion, before he digests the corrosion power, even if he continues to devour Demon Flesh, he won't be able to improve."

Nasir spoke in a muffled voice, "Wrong! I can still produce Evil Beetles, which still require Demon Flesh as fertilizer!"

Fine, however you like! After all, the Ancient Tree's current attribute is already strong enough! As for now, only the final preparations before the decisive battle remain, Transport Demon Childs as cannon fodder! Now the cargo capacity has doubled, two round trips will suffice!