

God level 631

Chapter 631: Bloodrose Cannot Summon the Banshee

Da Fei dove underwater and found the dropped Sea Soul Staff. At this moment, the Sea Soul Staff was surrounded by blue light and was slanted into the seabed. The once crimson body of the staff now had an additional stripe glowing with a golden-green light!

Da Fei couldn't help but be secretly shocked, thinking it had surely absorbed the Hydra Soul!

—Sea Soul Staff: Divine Artifact, Magic Power +35, Knowledge +35, capable of absorbing the souls of creatures that died in naval battles. Already 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 Elite Scorpion Demon Soul +41, absorbed Leader Scorpion Demon Soul +2, absorbed Leader-level Abyss Lord Soul +1, absorbed Artillery Emperor Soul +44, absorbed Charming Emperor Soul +2, absorbed Demon Soul Sea Demon +11, absorbed Banshee Hero Soul +1, absorbed God-level creature Hydra Soul +1, currently gained 13,613 point Mana.

As expected! Not only had it absorbed the Hydra's soul, but the Sea Soul Staff's attributes increased by 10 points! With so many souls absorbed, when on earth would it finally be digested?

Looking at the Banshee Hero Soul and the countless Sweetheart Cannon Emperor listed, Da Fei couldn't help but shiver. Although his God-level Navigator sub-skill "survival will" could keep everyone at one point of health in a near-death state, the premise was to lie on the ground without taking additional hits. However, the Hydra's blood vapor explosion kept happening wave after wave, utterly incinerating their bodies beyond salvation, not even gods could save them!

Reviving Deirdre later would indeed be troublesome, and he had to discuss with those ladies from Bloodrose about selling him that Banshee Contract Summoning Book.

The problem was—well, let's just say now he's the top player in China's God Slayer rankings, even the big bosses from the three major guilds treat him with respect, let alone a small Bloodrose! Just a little flex, and those girls would change into thongs and crawl to kiss his feet in submission—right? Maybe... hopefully...

Da Fei handed the Sea Soul Staff to Selvia, who eagerly extended her hand, and earnestly warned, "Take good care of it, this staff is prone to dropping."

Selvia embraced the staff tightly against her chest, saying sternly, "Got it, nobody can take it away!"

Well, her will is firm, but her delicate body is fragile! Looks like it's time to equip Selvia with a full suit of knight armor, yes, female knight gear, forming a heavily armored nun—no one could lay a finger on her!

While pondering this, Elena returned to report, "Sir, aside from the 1,641 Demon Children killed by the Hydra's blood explosion and unable to be resurrected, all other Demon Children have been revived. As for the defeated players Ogg, Gengna, Alkin, etc., we'll have to wait for the Wandering Mercenary Tavern in town to be completed before they can be resurrected."

Da Fei nodded, "Let Fu'er and Shakert take these Demon Children back to the Vine Demon Space to rest and be on standby, now I'll take everyone upstream to visit an old friend!"

"Yes, sir, I'll immediately give the orders."

Then Da Fei smiled at Lady Tachiusu, "Lady Tachiusu, I invite you to go upstream to see your neighbor, are you interested?"

Lady Tachiusu smiled, "Of course, I've been bored in the Vine Forest Space for a thousand years, I'm hoping to visit more places!"

Tamilia reported, "Sir, the ship's Holy Vine Space is filled with the Hydra's corpse and lacks enough space to transport Nasir."

My landing tank! Da Fei was shocked, "What should we do? Find a place to store the Hydra first?"

Nasir said solemnly, "No need, I also need time to rest and digest the absorbed cursed power of the Flame Demon, I'll just stay here. But I remind you, it's best not to release the Hydra's decomposing body, or it'll become a plague source."

Tamilia also nodded, "It seems the only way is to let the body fully digest in the Holy Vine Space. Moreover, during the digestion process, there's no need to open the Space Gate to prevent toxic gas leakage."

Damn! So my Flying's remaining time would only rely on that 500-unit cargo hold? How long will digestion take?

However, digestion will take time. The Hydra's main threat has been eliminated, and I should probably head to the Eastern World, probably for quite some time, let's leave the Flying to slowly digest during this period.

Now, the Flying set its Magic Sail in order, heading toward Swamp Space. Da Fei could already imagine how excited the Habbit Village Chief would be to see him, wahahaha!

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Bloodrose Guild, Bloodrose Studio headquarters.

The news of Da Fei slaying the god undoubtedly shocked these women, for a time, the beauties were indignant.

Bloodrose Qiqi angrily said, "Why?! Is there any justice left? This trash relies on scheming and snatching to make a fortune, and on top of that slays demigods and gods, is there anyone in the China Region who can control him?"

Bloodrose Xiaoyu agreed, "Exactly, why is it that a trash player prospers while rule-abiding players aren't as good as him?"

Bloodrose Qiqi fumed, "What's more infuriating is how some large guilds, instead of condemning him, go with the flow, shamelessly defending him on television, now that trash even slays gods, and they're likely to exalt him, making him the pride of China's players!"

Just then, big sister Zhou Qing returned from a phone call on the balcony and clapped her hands enthusiastically, "Ladies, I have some internal good news: National War Zone regulations have adjusted, the New World's national war server is temporarily closed, at least until the newly opened Southeast Asia and South America regions launch and their levels reach the world standard. This gives us plenty of time to consolidate our industry in the Old World!"

The studio's beauties erupted in surprise!

Bloodrose Holy Sword laughed, "Aren't Star and Ninth Heaven caught off guard? They didn't build any industries, just focused on leveling and reputation, can they adjust in time?"

Zhou Qing chuckled, "I initially thought Dragon Slayer suffered the most, but it seems with this much time, they have plenty to recover and progress with the three clans combined."

Bloodrose Qiqi exclaimed, "Was the adjustment made because of Da Fei?"

Zhou Qing shook her head with a sigh, "You finally guessed right for once, our guild counted on riding his coattails for this. It's said foreign guilds saw Da Fei's limit-breaking sea monster killing video and were scared of encountering him at sea, having long petitioned game headquarters to make this demand, and today Da Fei's god-slaying probably made them decide decisively."

Bloodrose Holy Sword sighed, "Actually, the biggest beneficiary should be the Royal Guild, right? They've already invested in a standard large fleet, now this extended time gives them a strong follow-up force, the Chamber of Commerce fleet in St. Paul Harbor must catch up quickly."

Zhou Qing shrugged with a smile, "No need, let them continue strengthening cooperation with us. We just focus on developing city specialties and specialized warships, while they focus on cargo transport and fleet development. I believe after being repeatedly provoked by Da Fei, their eagerness for revenge gives them no reason not to cooperate."

Bloodrose Holy Sword nodded, "Indeed, usually with Royal's temperament, they squeeze others out and eat the monopoly alone, Da Fei teaching them human decency has undoubtedly reduced our troubles."

Zhou Qing proudly smiled, "At the end of the day, we owe Da Fei a favor. So, even if he's a trash player, as long as he has influence, we can find ways to make him work for us."

At this moment, Bloodrose Holy Spear suddenly exclaimed, "Big Sis, something new has come up! Come and see!"

"What happened?"

Few things would surprise Bloodrose Holy Spear, so quickly the beauties around craned their heads to view the item displayed on the large wall screen.

Zhou Qing was astonished, "The color of the Banshee Summoning Book turned gray?"

Bloodrose Holy Spear excitedly said, "Yes, this is a death notification, the Banshee Hero that Da Fei took has died!"

Bloodrose Qiqi laughed heartily, "He must have messed up during his god-slaying, serves him right! Now the Banshee finally returns to its rightful owner!"

Zhou Qing was surprised, "Logically, the book's color should turn black, what's going on?"

Bloodrose Holy Spear shook her head, "I don't know, but the only certainty is that the Banshee is absolutely dead! The symbol on the contract represents death!"

Zhou Qing nodded, "Very well, whatever the situation, gather the team to summon the Banshee immediately!"

The beauties were thrilled, "Let's all do it!"

"Great, everyone gather in the guild's warehouse!"

In no time, the Bloodrose female players in town quickly assembled excitedly. Bloodrose Holy Spear flipped open the book, drawing a red Summoning Array on the ground, just as skillfully as always.

Then the group of beauties stood around the array as always and began casting. Now everyone's levels, equipment, and Mana Values were at least ten times stronger than when they were at the Monastery, hosting this array was naturally a breeze.

However, unexpectedly, the array extinguished right after a brief surge of red light, summoning failed!

The beauties were stunned! After several attempts, all failed!

The shocked beauties said, "What's going on? Does summoning difficulty increase after turning into a hero?"

Bloodrose Holy Spear flipped through the book and shook her head in confusion, "There's no way to establish a soul link, meaning the Banshee is dead, but her soul hasn't returned to the Contract Space."

The ladies were surprised, "How can this be? So we can't summon her anymore?"

Bloodrose Qiqi coldly snorted, "He must have encountered a mysterious god during his god-slaying and made the Banshee's soul completely vanish."

Bloodrose Holy Spear shook her head, "Impossible, if the Banshee was truly eliminated, this book would be scrapped directly."

At this point, Zhou Qing, who had been observing from the side, chuckled, "Stop fussing, everyone go back to their tasks. Anyway, without this book, Da Fei can't revive her, with the Banshee dead, it's unlikely he'll have no reaction, let's see how he handles this."

"Got it."

Chapter 632: Incorporating Habbit Village

When Da Fei's Flying crossed the Vortex Gate and appeared in the swamp, the Habbit villagers floating wood from the log cabin by the lake near the Vortex Gate were stunned!

Da Fei stood at the bow of the ship, smiling and waving to everyone.

In that instant, the Habbit villagers finally reacted and shouted loudly, "The Lord is here! The Lord has come after killing the Eight-Headed Snake!"

With a clang, the door slammed open, and the Old Village Chief stumbled out to take a look. Tears streamed down his face as he opened his mouth but was too overwhelmed with emotion to speak!

Haha! Wahahaha, this is the effect I was going for!

Da Fei said with a smile, "Village Chief, I have killed the Eight-Headed Snake. You have worked hard during this time!"

The Village Chief finally regained his composure and shouted shakily, "Fire the fireworks! The whole village, fire the fireworks to welcome the Lord~~!!"

In an instant, fireworks shot up from the log cabin over the lake and exploded with a boom. Fireworks from afar over the lake immediately responded. Not to mention anything else, just the scale of this fireworks display was unprecedented. This time, shouldn't you be won over?

Da Fei then laughed and said, "Village Chief, everyone, come aboard the ship for a tour, won't you?"

The Village Chief, too excited for words, stammered, "I will, I will!"

A rope ladder was lowered from Flying's side, and the Habbit villagers excitedly climbed up with loud cheers and screams, jumping and hopping around.

But Da Fei suddenly realized that with the Village Chief in such a state, how could he climb a rope ladder? There's no dignity in that!

Da Fei quickly said to Lady Tachiusu, "Lady Tachiusu, please welcome the Old Village Chief."

Lady Tachiusu smiled and said, "No problem!"

Then, a dozen Vine Demons gracefully flew down and formed a vine chair, "Please, sit, Village Chief!"

"This is—?" The Old Village Chief was stunned for a moment, but without further questions, he exclaimed excitedly, "Good! Wonderful!"

"Wow!" Among the exclamations of the Habbit villagers, the Old Village Chief floated up onto the ship.

Heh, heh, this counts as the first greeting between neighbors, right? Strike while the iron is hot, get things done while he's excited!

Da Fei introduced with a smile, "Village Chief, this is Lady Tachiusu, Clan Leader of the Lumang Tribe in the Vine Forest Space downstream of the Eight-Headed Snake passage. Their tribe greatly helped in the action of slaying the Eight-Headed Snake, and you will be neighbors from now on."

The Old Village Chief quickly bowed and said, "Because of the barrier of the Eight-Headed Snake, for a thousand years we didn't know we had such good neighbors! Thank you! Thank you, Miss Clan Leader, your help to the Lord also assists us in Habbit Village."

Lady Tachiusu smiled and said, "Very pleased to meet you, Village Chief. Our tribe was saved by the Lord. We are about to become the Lord's subordinate village, helping him is our duty!"

Da Fei chuckled, "Lady Tachiusu, you're being too polite." Heh, Lady Tachiusu has already stated that her tribe will become my subordinate village, so now it's your turn, right?

Sure enough, the Old Village Chief excitedly said, "The Lord is wise and mighty. Our Habbit Village also wishes to become the Lord's subordinate village. I wonder if the Lord would accept?"

It finally came, the moment I've been waiting for!

Da Fei hurriedly stepped forward to shake hands, "To work with such a wise and heroic elder as yourself, to achieve great success together, is my honor!"

The Old Village Chief shook hands vigorously and repeatedly, "Thank you! Thank you, Lord!"

—System Prompt: Your reputation among the Habbit has become Revered!

—System Prompt: Habbit Village has applied to join Radiant City. Once your city is officially completed, Habbit Village will become a subordinate village of Radiant City.

—Newbie Tip: The definition of a village includes having functional structures with a total level of 10 or above and a gathering point for a population of 100.

A city with a Level 1 administrative hall can only have two subordinate villages, each of which can increase the city's prosperity score by at least 10 points. Once a subordinate village reaches a City Level of 30 and a population of 1,000, it qualifies to build a Teleportation Array. You may also cancel a subordinate village's status and directly move its population to the Main City.

Haha! Wahahaha, it's finally Revered. This is the kind of effort only a God Slayer possesses to gain a village's allegiance, truly not easy!

Then Da Fei introduced to the Old Village Chief the accompanying Cave Person Shakert, Lizardman Fu'er, and his other Vice Heroes, finally focusing on Selvia: "Village Chief, last time we discussed employment in the Minstrel profession, I brought her over. What do you think?"

Selvia bowed, "Greetings, Village Chief, please guide me."

The Village Chief was startled, his eyebrows lifting, "What a voice! Could I trouble this lady to sing a song? Anything will do!"

Oh yeah! It's mostly settled! Even someone like Coltner could instantly see that Selvia is a genius, let alone this old man! Sure, Selvia's hero talent is Sea Hymn!

Selvia nodded, "Then I shall sing a segment of the Holy Mother Hymn!"

Da Fei quickly applauded, and the whole ship burst into applause as well. So, Selvia's crisp, loud, holy, and solemn singing echoed through the swamp. Amid her song, the swamp's pervasive stench seemed refreshingly clean.

Flying set sail towards Habbit Village, and the rafts that came to greet along the route fell into a hush, silently following the ship after hearing the song.

Finally, after her song ended, the Old Village Chief nodded repeatedly with excitement, "Genius! This lady is a natural-born singing talent. Her voice reaches the nearly impossible 0th and 8th musical scales!"

Da Fei exclaimed, "0th scale? 8th scale?"

The Old Village Chief excitedly explained, "Indeed, ordinary scales are 'Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do' — 7 notes. However, beneath the 7 notes is the inaudible 0th note, and above, the difficult-to-sing 8th high note. In essence, due to racial advantages, the Beastman's Professional Skill battle roar reaches 8th and even 9th high notes, while the 0th and 8th notes are scales with damaging effects in battle. And according to legend, angels possess the God-level twelve-tone scale, which is unimaginable for mortals. In short, Miss Selvia's talent destines her to become a great Minstrel. Please, Lord, allow me to devote the rest of my life to imparting all my knowledge to her!"

I get it, the so-called 0th and 8th notes must be akin to infrasound and ultrasound that can kill mice and cockroaches!

Da Fei and Selvia were overjoyed, "Thank you, Village Chief!"

The Old Village Chief warned sincerely, "However, the Minstrel profession differs from an ordinary Hero profession. It cannot be learned simply by spending a Skill Point. Its teaching process is quite lengthy; therefore, this lady will need to bear the simplicity here and stay for some time."

Selvia looked at Da Fei, "I wonder if it's convenient for the Captain?"

Damn, the longer the duration, the more impressive it must be. The skill that one just clicks to learn from a Skill Tutor isn't even on my radar! Da Fei quickly agreed, "Convenient! The big battle is over, the situation is settled!"

The Old Village Chief laughed, "I believe this lady's aptitude will ensure it takes little time, certainly not delaying the Lord's business much."

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Then it's settled!"

Now, in the distance, the island in the lake revealed Habbit Village. Hundreds of fireworks rose into the sky, and the Habbit villagers around erupted into a chorus of cheers.

Habbit Village has arrived!

The Old Village Chief smiled and said, "The feast is ready. Please, Lord, graciously accept the finest hospitality of us Habbit people!"

Da Fei, waving at the surrounding villagers, laughed heartily, "I am honored by your hospitality! Unfortunately, I was so focused on fighting that I didn't bring any gifts this time. Now it's different; if Habbit Village needs anything, just say so. I'll bring it over later, don't be shy."

Lady Tachiusu also smiled, "Indeed, the Lord's generosity is something we've deeply experienced!"

The Village Chief was overjoyed, "We've had firsthand experience of the Lord's generosity. He gave us an antique worth nearly ten million Gold Coins for our children to play with."

—Achoo! Da Fei spewed a mouthful of old blood! Damn it, so the junk antique I picked up from the Sea Demon's mouth was worth that much?

Just then, a voice called out from beyond the crowd, "Lord City Lord, what we lack most now is woodcutters. We should dispatch more woodcutting personnel just in case!"

Another young voice shouted, "Make way, make way, I want to see Lord City Lord!"

It was the long-missed Tai Da and young hero Billbo!

The Village Chief laughed, "Everyone is here, it seems there are quite a few matters to discuss. Let's sit and eat while we talk!"

Indeed, there were a lot of matters to handle. Of course, Da Fei wasn't particularly interested in the eating and drinking of the game. After exchanging pleasantries for a while, Da Fei then jovially approached the long-absent Tai Da, "Advisor Tai Da, you worked hard. I've read your wood reports. It is precisely because of your daily reassurance of safety that I could calmly prepare and ultimately claim the significant victory of slaying the Eight-Headed Snake. But this is just the beginning; the Demons entered in Lava Space are our next target to clear. However, as you said, before that, we need to intensify our logging efforts to clear the entire battlefield. Then, concerning the Mercury Mine, I've already purchased advanced Mercury Mines from the Mage Academy, so planning for mining is our next move."

Tai Da laughed, "As expected of Lord City Lord, wise and far-sighted!"

The Village Chief also laughed heartily, "As expected of Lord City Lord, even though I have been isolated for a millennium, I still know that acquiring anything from the Mage Academy is quite challenging."

Da Fei laughed heartily, "As long as you have a will, you can accomplish anything."

Billbo queried, "Grandfather, what's the Mage Academy? You've never mentioned it before."

The Village Chief waved and shook his head, "Just a group of people who think themselves gods and are indifferent to world peace."

Da Fei's heart stirred, and he immediately said, "Right, Village Chief, I believe Billbo, being young and promising, should see the outside world now that the passage is open!"

Heh, heh, I need a top chef for my restaurant!

Chapter 633: Long-term Sustainable Development Strategy for Swamps

Da Fei's words made the village chief nod immediately, "You're right, I'm old and a lot of my knowledge may be outdated; it's time for him to venture into the outside world."

Billbo was overjoyed upon hearing this, but immediately shook his head and said, "Lord City Lord, it's not possible yet. Grandpa currently has limited energy, and I need to fully develop our village. And since Lord City Lord has opened the way, it's time for us to vigorously develop our village, I can't leave yet."

Wow, so young and already so conscious of development, bro likes!

Da Fei then smiled and said, "My next goal is also to develop our village well, talk about your ideas for building the village!"

Billbo laughed and pointed at the large ship in the lake, "What else to ask? Of course, it's to ask Lord City Lord's big ship to eliminate all the monsters around the swamp, so that we can truly control the entire swamp. We also need ships; rafts are too slow and impractical!"

Da Fei couldn't help but burst into laughter! Damn, this guy's ideas are the same as mine? Alright, from today onwards, I'll take you as my sworn younger brother, hahaha!

At that moment, the silent Lizardman Fu'er spoke up, "A swamp without all its creatures is no longer a swamp."

Da Fei was suddenly taken aback, yes indeed, the swamps in the Beastman's territory are dominated by Lizardmen, they really understand swamps!

The village chief then immediately asked, "Could Miss Fu'er enlighten us?"

Miss? Pfft! Da Fei accidentally spit out a mouthful of water, so this Fu'er is a Female Hero? Damn, I seriously can't tell the difference between male and female Lizardmen! But, am I also too awesome and too lucky with Female Heroes, casually encountering a Female Hero from a different race?

Fu'er looked at Da Fei and Elena; Elena nodded, "But speak freely, it can provide a basis for Lord City Lord's decision."

Fu'er blandly spoke, "It's very simple, carnivorous swamp creatures, herbivorous swamp creatures, as well as swamp plants together maintain the ecological balance of this swamp. Once the balance is disrupted, unchecked aquatic plants will grow wildly, covering the entire water surface. Then, there will be no fish nor any unique products of the swamp. When the aquatic plants finally drain all nutrients from the swamp, they too will die, leaving this place completely turned into a pond of dead mud."

Upon these words, everyone was shocked!

As for Da Fei, being a modern youth and having read some university and seen news about algae pollution for many years, this simple principle is certainly something he should know. But Da Fei never expected that the monsters here weren't periodically refreshed by the system each week? Damn, this is an Epic Quest scenario! If killing one lessens the count by one, then indeed, it's a serious issue.

Da Fei then asked, "Then how do we develop this swamp reasonably and comprehensively?"

Fu'er said gravely, "That depends on whether Lord City Lord is looking for a long-term investment or a short-term one. If it's a short-term investment, this young hero's view is not wrong but needs to be controlled to some extent. It's possible to clear some creatures but not to exterminate them, leaving them with basic living space. Short-term investment is also easier to manage and shows quick results!"

Everyone nodded continuously, and Billbo was even more thrilled that his view was agreed upon.

Da Fei quickly asked, "What about a long-term investment?"

Fu'er said seriously, "That would be to tame all the powerful creatures in this swamp, thereby truly controlling the entire swamp!"

The audience was shocked again! Da Fei's jaw dropped, if we had this capability would we even need to clean the place? Or are you suggesting you have this skill?

Indeed, the village chief exclaimed in shock: "However, the strong creatures in this swamp are different from the ordinary ones. Those that grow in the World Tree Space are much bigger and stronger. How can they be tamed? Moreover, we Hobbits do not have the skills to tame beasts."

Miss Fu'er confidently said: "I sense a clear ecological imbalance in this swamp, and I can't feel the presence of an absolute ruler here. There is a lack of a king!"

The village chief coughed and said: "There used to be one, but then it was defeated by the Eight-Headed Snake, and subsequently a giant crocodile rose to power, only to be defeated by Lord City Lord."

Fu'er nodded: "As a swamp ecosystem, without the suppression of an absolute ruler, it leads to chaotic competition among other species, which is absolutely unacceptable. Therefore, we have another method: cultivating our own ruler. I mean, since Lord City Lord has obtained the eggs of the Multi-headed Snake in this battle, as long as they are carefully nurtured, the naturally high-ranking Multi-headed Snake will become the rightful king here. This is what I call a long-term investment!"

Da Fei was thrilled, this was exactly to his liking! He was just thinking of building a fortress here and breeding the Multi-headed Snake eggs!

Da Fei hastily asked: "Then, can Miss Fu'er undertake this task?"

Fu'er stood up and bowed: "I come from the Great Swamp in the Eastern Wilderness, and I came to the underground just to find more powerful dark creatures and try to tame them, thus becoming the greatest Beast Tamer. The Multi-headed Snake egg is exactly the goal I have in mind, so please, Lord City Lord, boss, entrust this task to me!"

So that's how it is! Da Fei suddenly respected her; she really is a Beast Tamer from the very heart of the Beastman territory! This is also publicly considered a hidden force with a Hidden Profession. For average players to reach the capital of the Swamp Kingdom is almost impossible; most would drown halfway in the swamp without even the need for monsters to intervene. And also because of the swamp terrain's significant advantage, as well as the strength of the Swamp Army, even the fierce and savage Beastmen have no choice but to accept their existence and trade with them.

In that moment, Da Fei realized the extraordinary nature of this Wandering Mercenary Tavern! Every mercenary hero here has a background story, fitting the definition of an Epic Hero! This means, while ordinary taverns only refresh normal mercenaries with no background, the Wandering Mercenary Tavern specifically refreshes Epic Heroes, and even those rare hidden force Hidden Race Epic Heroes!

Da Fei then asked everyone present: "Miss Fu'er has convinced me. I want to make a long-term investment here. What do you all think?"

Elena also nodded: "It makes sense. Whether it's Lord City Lord's swamp or the Vine Forest Space up ahead, both have a great advantage: being in a relatively enclosed World Tree Space, they face fewer external threats. Therefore, we can fully leverage the geographical advantages for long-term development!"

The village chief was also excited, immediately bowing: "We fully support Lord City Lord's decision! And we also have a lower-level Multi-headed Snake population in this swamp. Once our Multi-headed Snake king is born, it can first unify these Multi-headed Snake populations, then ruling the entire swamp will be a piece of cake!"

Da Fei was delighted, great! Back when I was feeding crows at the lake, indeed a group of Three-headed Snakes passed by me, and even enabled me to obtain information on the Primary Sentinel's Aura Shield skill. Once we recruit these wild Multi-headed Snakes, my military power will skyrocket!

Da Fei was overjoyed: "Alright, let's do it. Now I want to build a fortress here specifically for breeding the Eight-Headed Snakes. Miss Fu'er, where do you think the terrain is suitable?"

Fu'er answered without hesitation: "The fortress is not just a breeding den for creatures, but also a fortress for defense. In this World Tree Space, it should naturally be built at the entrance of the Space Gate."

Billbo immediately said: "Then let's build it at our entrance to the Black Forest's Space Gate! Giving the invading Demons no chance at all!"

Da Fei laughed loudly: "Exactly what I want!" It looks like I have a lot to keep me busy, hiring more Woodcutters and transporting building materials. I just wish the Flying had larger cargo holds.

At that moment, there was a message in the World Channel!

—China Region Announcement: "Hero World Cup" individual international knockout round will begin in 10 minutes. Please prepare participants who have advanced.

Da Fei was startled? A match? Damn, can I not be disturbed when I'm busy? But no matter, since I'm multi-tasking it won't have much impact, and with Elena's human cannon, I look forward to seeing who can withstand a blast from Elena. This time I want to make a name for myself, and see who dares to siege me after this!

Chapter 634: International Knockout Competition

—Hello, viewers! Hero News is back on air. There are only 10 minutes left until the international knockout competition begins, and soon we'll see 1,332 players from various countries paired up by the system for a round of elimination duels. The strongest players will enter the final battle for first and second place after achieving 10 consecutive victories. We are now going live to the Star Goddess, Bu Feiyan, who is joining us in the studio. Miss Bu Feiyan, hello!"

Bu Feiyan's silvery laugh rang out: "Hello host, hello viewers, it's a pleasure to meet everyone."

The host laughed and said: "Having Miss Bu Feiyan join us again is quite an achievement."

Bu Feiyan chuckled: "I had no choice, I needed to level up and do quests, so I had to reluctantly give it up."

The host laughed: "In the end, Miss Bu Feiyan is still a player who relies on her skills. It's a pity you are not participating in this competition; your fans and the audience must be disappointed."

Bu Feiyan laughed: "I can't help it, my game account is also a secret of the Guild, and can't be easily showcased. So I hope not to disappoint everyone during the National War."

Host: "In fact, many professional guilds from various countries have adopted this tactic of preserving their strength. On the contrary, it's some amateur players who, motivated by the huge prize money,

have eagerly participated and a lot of strong players have emerged. For these players, professional teams from various countries follow closely and extend high-paying offers to join. I'm sure Star Guild is no exception, right?"

Bu Feiyan smiled: "Of course, whether it's in the qualifiers or the knockout rounds, any strong players that emerge are high-paying targets for recruitment by China Region's large guilds. Here, I'd like to take the opportunity to advertise for our guild: any player who makes it into the world's top 500, Star Guild will offer an additional monthly salary of 300,000 yuan to invite you to join."

The host laughed heartily: "I'm so jealous, that's equivalent to my annual salary. If I were 10 years younger, I'd fight my way into the top 500 no matter what."

Bu Feiyan chuckled softly: "The host is really joking. Ten years ago, you were the famous Brunei in the esports world, easily hammering the keyboard 40 times a second, beating Dragon Slayer Leader in a solo match is nothing to you, already successful and well-established, why would you care about a monthly salary of 300,000 yuan?"

The host responded with a wry smile: "That just brought on early onset of shakiness, a type of Parkinson's, didn't it? But games nowadays are not the same as before, with holographic technology and huge improvements in operation, hand speed is no longer the key to victory. Strategy and awareness are the most important, and this has allowed ordinary players to achieve great success under good conditions, something unimaginable in the past."

"That's the reason why this game has become a global phenomenon."

The host smiled: "Alright, aside from skills and tactics, what is the most important factor that affects the player's performance in this competition?"

Bu Feiyan: "First, the time difference. Currently, 4 PM in the China Region is 4 AM in the American Zone. Second, all players are in a state of fatigue. For example, players in the American Zone must be exhausted from leveling up overnight and still continuing to compete relentlessly. It's even possible that many players overslept and missed the matches. These two unfavorable conditions could enable well-prepared amateur players to defeat professionals. Compared to that, our China Region has a big advantage in terms of time difference."

Host: "Then, which amateur players from China Region do you fancy in the upcoming matches?"

Bu Feiyan laughed: "It's hard to say, but if I must pick someone, I'm very fond of a 44-level Druid player named 'Yixiao Yanran'. Her performance in the preliminaries was very low-key and almost unnoticed, yet it's useless, she's like a firefly in the night, so bright, so dazzling, her ranking deeply betrays her identity."

The host said, surprised: "There's such a player from China Region participating? Miss Bu Feiyan sounds like you know her very well?"

Bu Feiyan shook her head seriously: "Not very well! But I really fancy her!"

The host oh'ed and continued: "Right, there's another player participating, he is the well-known Da Fei from the China Region, what do you think he can achieve?"

Bu Feiyan said solemnly: "Judging by his performance in the preliminaries, and the recent world-shaking act of God Slayer, it wouldn't be surprising if he takes the championship. It is difficult to find a contender who could match him in the world right now. If there must be one, from the current list of known players, it could only be SawSaw from the American Zone, who made a splash in the last National War with his ability of Instant Teleportation. SawSaw clearly didn't go all out in the preliminaries, and we are really looking forward to seeing his full-power effort."

The host nodded: "Right, the strength of the American Zone is terrifying; perhaps this SawSaw is just the tip of the iceberg of their strength, and we also hope that Da Fei can reveal the full picture of the American Zone's strength!"

"There are five minutes left until the start of the match, and here's another question that the viewers are most concerned about. This question is unrelated to the competition: there are rumors on the forums that the Heroic Creation Headquarters has decided to postpone the opening of the National War servers, is this information accurate?"

Goddess Bu Feiyan spoke earnestly, "Indeed, there are such rumors, but I can't be certain until we receive official notification. However, the likelihood of this news is very high, so I suggest that all players start preparing early."

"If this news proves true, how great of an impact will it have on the Star Guild?"

"It's huge, this completely negates our development strategy..."

...

At that moment, in a certain garden villa.

Tang Yan and Yang Qian were finalizing their preparations for the competition while watching Hero News to pass the time.

When Goddess Bu Feiyan appeared as a guest, Yang Qian couldn't help but frequently burst out, "The host calls her Goddess, and she dares to accept it? She doesn't even have a bigger chest than mine!"

"And her laughter, could it be any more risqué? How is her video any different from those strip-chat camgirls?"

Tang Yan replied with a faint smile, "That's exactly what the homebodies love, poor her."

Just then, on TV, Goddess Bu Feiyan suddenly revealed, "...I have high hopes for a level 44 Druid player named 'Yanran's smile'... Not very familiar! But I really think highly of her!"

—Achoo!!! Tang Yan and Yang Qian sprayed out their drinks on the spot!

Yang Qian laughed out loud, "Not very familiar—more like super familiar! Haha, wahahaha, Miss Tang, you've just been sold out in front of the whole of China, no, the whole world's audience, you'd better just delete your account!"

Tang Yan was shaking with rage, gritting her teeth, "That bitch!!!"

Yang Qian laughed again, "Right, she said Yanran's smile, not Yixiao Yanran, did she purposely get your name wrong or what? It doesn't count as a complete sellout!"

Tang Yan snapped, "Just wait! Once Miss Tang is done with the competition, we'll see how I deal with her!"

...

The big competition was about to begin, and Da Fei was also rushing to make preparations.

Damn, what's there to prepare? With my strength, couldn't I just pull out the Earth Element BOSS from the Dwarf Nation and scare the crap out of everyone? But the Earth Element BOSS is a trump card to be used at the last moment. As for before that, of course, it's about conserving strength.

At this time, Da Fei's Command Power, including titles, treasures, skills, was as high as 2522. Adding in the combat-ready Catherine at 539, Selvia at 689, Anlicia at 550, and Elena at 640, the total Command Value was 4940! Damn it, that's practically approaching the Lieutenant General Military Rank! After all, that God Slayer bonus of +200 command power for all participating heroes was just too brutal.

With so much command power, of course, it's all forces deployed—wait, why should I deploy all forces? I'll just bring thousands of Demon Children, and once they take the stage, siphon away the opponents' heroes' mana! Isn't this the infamous, shameless, and invincible Demon Child Sea tactic of the Hell Race? Not to mention with my Attack and Defense, plus +12 basic health for all troops, those 4 HP Demon Children in my hands are just insanely strong!

Haha, wahahaha! That's right, an ocean of strategic troops along with Elena's Human Cannon, that's called low-end high-quality! That's what I'll do!

Chapter 635: Meeting a Japanese Player First Again

The competition is imminent and the meeting here has come to an end, so Da Fei has to set sail back right away.

As for Selvia staying behind to learn the ways of the Minstrel, and Lizardman Fu'er continuing to examine this swamp, they also stayed behind.

The excited village chief bid farewell to Da Fei: "Lord, the construction materials for the Multi-headed Snake Fortress will rely on you, we have enough manpower. Oh, we have plenty of wood here for building the fortress, you just need to bring in stone and sulfur crystals."

Geez! The wood here is meant for building giant ships, how can it be used to make fortresses? But if we don't use the local wood and instead transport it from afar, that's even more absurd, right? I bought "Deadwood" from him at a low price back then, if he knew the truth, the friendship level might drop a bit.

Da Fei's brows jumped up with an idea out of desperation: "We already have wood, when I first came with the logging team, we happened to bring 1000 units of rare wood here!"

That's right – when the logging team cut down the Nasir Ancient Trees, altogether they got 400 units of Ancient Iron Wood, 100 units of Ancient Cold Crystal Wood, 100 units of Ancient Storm Wood, 100 units of Ancient Radiant Wood, 100 units of Ancient Fire Wood, 100 units of Ancient Rock Wood, 100 units of Ancient Dark Star Wood, and so on, in total 1000 units. Just enough to meet the blueprint requirements for wood. Since it was too high-end and I never knew what to use it for, I might as well put it to use now; the sooner it's used, the sooner we'll benefit.

The village chief was incredibly shocked: "Lord, that's very rare, magical wood, excellent material for making Magic Wands!"

How can Arrays compare with fortresses? Da Fei chuckled: "I highly value this fortress, I believe the higher the quality of our building materials, the stronger our fortress attributes will be, which will benefit the cultivation of the Multi-headed Snake. So this investment is nothing, if possible, I will also try to bring over some rare stone materials."

Only then did the village chief come back to his senses, praising continuously: "As expected of Lord, so generous!"

Hmph, correct, my generosity has made a name amongst the Hobbits and is certified by the system. However, rare stone materials might be a bit tricky, last competition I only obtained 100 units of Ancient Granite, and some have been used for the Bell Tower and Netherworld Treasury. Anyway, let's see if I can gain some advantage from this competition.

Now, the Flying is cruising downstream, passing through the Eight-Headed Snake channel; alright, although the Eight-Headed Snake is gone, let's formally name it the Eight-Headed Snake channel. Then, back to the Vine Forest Space again.

The philosophy of sailing is that ships should never return empty, so now take away the wood stored on the riverbank. After clearing the Eight-Headed Snake, future water transport of wood won't be restricted. In any case, the next goal is to cut down and transport all the Mercury Wood as fast as possible.

Oh, the Hobbits' water villages and so many rafts are also made of Mercury Wood, aren't they? If I dismantle them, I reckon I could reclaim a few thousand units? Wouldn't that be enough for another giant ship?

That's a problem, need to find an excuse! Ah, I can transport thousands of cubic stones to fill the lake, build a stone island, and stone houses, claiming it's to improve everyone's living conditions, killing two birds with one stone, wahahaha! I'm brilliant!

While the Flying is loading wood, the competition time finally arrived:

- China Region Announcement: "Hero World Cup" individual international knockout round has begun, wishing all participants a smooth competition.
- System Prompt: Congratulations! You have successfully logged into the World Battle Network System.
- System Prompt: Your current comprehensive military strength is as follows, please choose the military strength to go into battle!

Your troops: 3539 Flower Demon (Command Value 0, cannot join the battle), 3705 Demon Child (Command Value 3705), 1250 Horned Demon Governor (Command Value 1250), 110 Hellhound (Command Value 220), 11351 Slime Monster (Command Value 0, cannot join the battle), 100 Dual-Core Large Slime Monster (Command Value 5000), unnamed Super Slime Monster (Command Value 300), 50 Druid (Command Value 150), 5 Storm Druid (Command Value 50), 200 Secret Archer (Command Value 400), 200 Forest Goddess (Command Value 600), 136 Banshee (Command Value 408), 1 Necromancer Dragon (Command Value 40), Forest Serenity (Command Value 50), 212 Forest Wood Demon (Command

Value 1322), Grassland Guardian (Command Value 30), 200 Grassland Flower Demon (Command Value 630), 42 Vine Demon (Command Value 84), Earth Altar Guardian (Command Value 150), Fishman Gulu Gulu (Command Value 400)...

Total Command Value: 15409 points, a total of 16 troop types. Note: Slime Monster, Dual-Core Large Slime Monster, and Super Slime Monster are considered the same troop type, Druid and Storm Druid are the same troop type, Flower Demon and Grassland Flower Demon are the same troop type. Troop types that cannot join the battle cannot participate in the competition.

- Competition rules: The competition will forbid Divine Artifacts and Divine Artifact Special Skills in battle. The competition arena has other players randomly assigned by the system, with a time limit of 30 minutes. The arena will have powerful monster BOSS and facilities and mechanisms that players can use, as well as resources from the competition that can be brought back to the player's region. You must defeat your opponents to advance to the next round; if you lose once, you will be eliminated.

...

Geez! Looking at my own troops that can join the battle with a terrifying Command Value of over 15,000, Da Fei himself couldn't help but gasp! I remember four days ago, when I first went into battle, the total Command Value was less than 2000. Right, why can't the Nasir Ancient Tree Castle join the battle? Is it like the Flying, belonging to buildable units and doesn't count?

Wait, what the heck? Forbidding Divine Artifacts?

- Achoo! Da Fei spat out a mouthful of water! This is such a trap! Who else in the world except me uses Divine Artifacts in the competition? Is this targeted at me? Was I too conspicuous in the last competition so they just singled me out?

Fine, the more famous you are, the bigger target you become, I'm big so it serves me right to be 'slaughtered'! But no matter, even without Divine Artifacts, not many can withstand Elena's one shot.

There's nothing much to say now, with my 4940 Command Power, I will first lead 3705 Demon Children. I originally had over 1600 more, but they were completely wiped out by the Hydra's blood explosion and their bodies can't be found for resurrection. Then with the remaining 1200 Command Power, I'll continue to lead 200 Secret Archers and 50 Druids, and the few hundred left will be Hellhounds.

I've caught the attention of the game company, so I'm deploying troops low-key now, so as not to scare you to death!

—System Prompt: Your hero has been selected for battle, and troop deployment is complete. Connecting to the World Battle Network competition venue, scene transition in progress, please wait patiently...

.....

At this moment, at the Japan Mitsubishi Command Center, in the competition center.

Igarashi is giving the players a last pep talk before the match: "Gentlemen, although our first-team players did not advance in the previous preliminary round at the Ancient City Ruins, your strength and tactical skills are in no way inferior to those of the first-team players. The fact that you could advance through the melee is proof enough. Now is your chance to demonstrate the strength of the mighty Japan, and our goal is to achieve excellent results and win the championship!"

All the players present shout in unison: "Win the championship!"

The team captain Tsukamoto yells: "The match begins, all players report!"

"Reporting! Player number 0131 Hukateng enters the battlefield, the opponent is Zeus from Greece!"

"Reporting! Player number 0026 Blood Gun Jiulang enters the battlefield, the opponent is Aamirhan from India!"

"Reporting! Player number 0021 Dragon of Echigo enters the battlefield, the opponent is— is—"

Tsukamoto discontentedly says: "Mr. Kazama, where's your spirit?"

"—Yes, it's China's player Da Fei, he has so many troops!"

"Da Fei!?" There's a shock through the crowd!

Tsukamoto exclaims: "Switch to the big screen, focus on monitoring match number 0021!"

Igarashi says somberly: "We need to get a full grasp on his attributes this time!"

"Hey!"

.....

—System Prompt: You have entered the Gravel Wilderness battlefield, your opponent is "Dragon of Echigo" from Japan!

—System Prompt: You have received the "MVP Terminator" achievement bonus, your Troop Attack +5, Defense +5, Life +5, Damage +1, Personal Life +100, Morale +1, Luck +1.

As the scene changes, and looking at the Japanese player in the distance with a plaster flag on his head, then looking at his troop size which is clearly a smaller bunch compared to mine, Da Fei can't help but burst into a wild laugh! Man, I really have a fate with the Japanese. Last competition it was also the first blood from a Japanese player, and now it's the same. Well then, I won't be polite.

Da Fei checks the attributes of the Demon Children:

—Demon Child: Level 1 troops of the Hell Race, Attack 119 (+116), Defense 156 (+155), Damage 6-7 (+5), Life 24 (+20)...

Holy moly! Who would believe that these are level 1 Hell Race troops with 3 Attack, 1 Defense, 1-2 Damage, 4 Life? Just the Damage and Life have been boosted by me to the standard of level 3 troops. Damn, I have over 3700 Demon Children at the standard of level 3 troops! Even if I stood still and let him kill me, he would have tired hands from killing, let alone when thousands of Demon Children make their move, guarantee to drain him of mana, not even a fart could he let out!

Winning him is definitely not a problem, the problem is, how can I win creatively and maximize his humiliation?

Forget it, I won't think too much, Da Fei directly waves his hand: "All troops charge!"

Exactly, I don't need any tactics, just drown you with a sea of Demon Children. You guys from the Japan Region claim to be professionals among the Hell Race? Let this amateur of the Hell Race teach you a lesson in minutes, haha, WAHAHAHA!

Chapter 636: Easily Crushing the First Game

Mitsubishi Team Command Center.

Staring at the large screen on the wall, where Da Fei's Demon Child Army surged across the vast plains, the entire command center was filled with solemnity. As professional players of the Hell Race, everyone knew what this many Demon Children signified. Even if they weren't Demon Children and were just the weakest Skeleton Soldiers, such a vast number on such an expansive plain would not be easy to deal with.

Outnumbering and outmatching was always the golden rule of tactics, even professional experts had to adhere to it. Although it was often seen that some professional experts could win against the odds, these experts were ultimately using terrain, magic, unit combinations, micro-management, and other factors to create local advantages in numbers, expanding their achievements to secure victory.

And now, Da Fei's massive Demon Child army directly rendered the Dragon of Echigo's magic useless. The plain terrain was equally fair to both sides, and in the face of absolute numbers, unit combinations and micro-management were insignificant—in short, no one held any hope for the Dragon of Echigo's victory, and its current mission was merely to further test Da Fei's attributes.

At this moment, Tsukamoto scanned the screen showing the advancing Demon Child Army, and with a stern expression, he explained to the manager beside him, "Nearly 4000 Demon Children, 200 Secret Archers, 50 Druids, 100 Hellhounds, total Command Power is 5000, troop strength is four times that of Mr. Kazama's."

As a professional player captain, Tsukamoto Hideki could estimate the approximate number of enemy troops at a glance; this was his extraordinary talent.

Igarashi nodded solemnly, "So many Demon Children must be his spoils of victory over the Dragon Slayer Guild. With so many Vice Heroes, it's no wonder he has such Command Power."

Tsukamoto continued, "Missing from last time's battle is the Banshee Hero, replaced by a strange hero who looks like a human-elf hybrid, likely a Priest Mage."

Igarashi said grimly, "His possession of so many female heroes is an inspiration to us; we should also fully invest in discovering female heroes in the future."

Now, Da Fei's Demon Child Sea entered the range of the Dragon of Echigo's dozens of Banshee units. A barrage of Flame Chains screamed out, and a small sea of fire exploded among the Demon Children's sea, felling seven or eight Demon Children, followed by countless "-1" and "-2" explosive damage values tragically jumping out around the Demon Child Sea!

The whole room erupted!

Dozens of 4th-grade Banshees barely killed seven or eight 1st-grade Demon Children! And the deaths of just seven or eight Demon Children were not even a ripple in the Demon Child Sea!

In that instant, Tsukamoto, as a professional expert, calculated from the damage values Da Fei's strategic defense: "Defense around 150!"

Igarashi said gravely, "Two days ago, when he used a Crossbow Cannon to bombard the Royal Guild's ships at sea, we estimated his base total attribute points to be around 200. It seems his equipment is unimaginably good."

Tsukamoto continued, "The Demon Child's Stamina is over 20 points."

Igarashi's face darkened, "Mr. Kazama has no chance, right?"

Tsukamoto said grimly, "Given Da Fei's blood defense bonus, even if he weren't leading Demon Children but regular Skeleton Soldiers, he could still exhaust Mr. Kazama's troop stamina through attrition; Mr. Kazama doesn't stand a chance."

Igarashi's face grew even darker.

Now, the two armies clashed, and with just a single encounter, the cannon fodder Demon Children before the Dragon of Echigo fell like wheat before the wind.

A roar erupted again in the command room! The Demon Children were annihilated by Da Fei in seconds! Were these even the same creatures?

Tsukamoto's face twitched involuntarily, "Attack over 100! Mr. Kazama's all-attack points total only 60 equipment defense, a 40-point attack-defense gap allows Da Fei to deal triple damage, and Mr. Kazama cannot withstand it at all."

Igarashi's face twitched subtly, "Neither the archers behind him nor the heroes have engaged, is he insulting us?"

Tsukamoto said grimly, "Yes. Judging from Da Fei's several public PK videos in the China Region, he likes to humiliate his opponents when he has an overwhelming advantage."

Igarashi angrily said, "Trash!"

Tsukamoto numbly said, "It seems the committee's decision was correct, more Vice Heroes and troops are the key, otherwise we cannot leverage the Hell Race's advantages. We must adjust our direction promptly."

Igarashi said gravely, "Indeed, time is on our side."

...

At this moment, Da Fei leisurely watched his Demon Child Sea engulf the opponent effortlessly, not requiring the Secret Archers or even Elena to engage.

Easy, too easy, crushing is the way! Honestly, I can't see how the opponent is one of those legendary professional experts, haha, wahahaha!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You defeated your opponent in the Japan Region, "Dragon of Echigo," and you won the match, earning 5 Battle Network Points.

—System Prompt: The current map of the arena has 27 minutes and 43 seconds of existence left. You can continue to search for spoils of war in the arena, which will be sent to your player mailbox in your region's server after the match. You can also leave the arena immediately. The earlier you leave, the more extra Battle Network Points you will earn.

Da Fei's eyebrow twitched, searching for spoils of war on the battlefield?

Yes, absolutely! The last time in the Ancient City Ruins map, I profited greatly, and now I've made it to the elimination matches—there's no reason not to have a windfall, right? But this vast Gravel Wilderness doesn't seem like the kind of place to have loot, does it? Could it be that it just happens to produce the rare stones I need desperately?

In any case, immediately summon Little Fei—wait! No!

Da Fei suddenly snapped back to reality, I'm currently the famous standout who's being watched for using a Divine Artifact, right? In general important matches, there's a spectator mode, right? Who knows how many eyes are watching this match from above? If I used Little Fei, will the world find out and then target me with rule changes again?

Fine, anyway I finished the fight in minutes, and there's plenty of time, I'll just search on foot. My God-level Reconnaissance Technique coupled with Advanced Treasure Appraiser, sharp as a hawk, is bound to be more thorough than any aerial reconnaissance.

So, Da Fei immediately instructed Vice Heroes to lead the way around the field, and he followed. Then he switched back to the local main account here.

At this time, under the hard work of a large team of Vine Demons, 500 units of timber filled the cargo hold, and the Flying was ready to return to the city.

Da Fei couldn't help but sigh inwardly, small cargo volume. If only the Hydra corpse hadn't occupied the space of Holy Vine, the transportation dilemma wouldn't be like this, right? But then again, the more things transported, the greater the battery consumption, and the longer the charging time, so during non-combat periods, it's hard to determine who gains more value, so just stay calm.

With a flash of light, the Flying returned to Radiant City. Anlicia immediately began consulting with advisors about hiring woodcutters and purchasing stones. The real busyness was just beginning now.

Chapter 637: The Battlefield Hidden Map Revisited

Da Fei's expectations were accurate; as the number one amateur player in the China Region and the world's number one God Slayer, his match was bound to draw attention.

At the moment, in the Hero Headquarters tournament organizing committee's monitoring room, countless screens on the wall were displaying the status of each match. And in front of the screen showing Da Fei's match, judges from various countries had gathered to watch.

One judge chuckled, "Although this isn't such an exciting match, the number of Battle Network users watching live has reached the 200,000 limit."

Another judge replied with a smile, "This is the effect of a celebrity God Slayer. If we open up the viewer limit, I believe more people would watch. It's hard to imagine how an ordinary Chinese could surpass so many famous celebrities to become the world's most well-known person."

"What he is doesn't matter; what's important is that such a large audience represents an unquestionable fortune."

"Absolutely. Our World Battle Network, though based on gaming, is not limited to just that. We aim to develop it into a global entertainment platform, introducing a paid VIP user system, where VIP users can watch not only game matches but also movies from various countries, TV series, concerts of pop stars, transnational shopping, and so on."

"By that time, the endorsement value of gaming celebrities will skyrocket. A world-class entertainment industry capable of competing with professional soccer and basketball will officially be born!"

"After the test in this competition, there are no longer technical issues with the Battle Network entertainment platform. The next step is formal negotiations with each developing country and inviting world-top-100 companies to invest and join."

"I can already see myself drowning in a massive wave of banknotes; I just can't wait!"

"Hahahaha!"

...

At the American New York Supernova Team command center, the sound of calls and orders was as frequent and noisy as a battlefield headquarters.

Among the countless screens on the wall, one side was displaying the battle situation in the South Korea Combat Zone, another the status of team members undertaking major tasks, and one was the ongoing match. Da Fei, who had just finished his match, was of course under the watch of the large screens.

The captain of the Supernova Team, Fortson, was silently puffing on his cigar, staring at the big screen showing Da Fei's match, deep in thought, with a dozen 17-18-year-old teenagers standing behind him.

Ultimately, Fortson exhaled a smoke ring and said in a muffled sigh, "I never thought an ordinary Chinese person could gain such immense power and fame in such a short time. His existence poses a serious threat to our All-Star Dream Factory."

One of the teenagers saluted and said, "Sir, please have confidence in us; our starting point is beyond the reach of Mortals."

Fortson spoke in a deep voice, "To customers, we don't need fairness. But at the very least, we need to make them feel that it is fair. That's how we can make money more easily. As for you, your very

existence is unfair, and you cannot easily show yourself in public. How do you see your profession? Professional players?"

A freckled-faced teenager immediately stepped forward and saluted, "We are warriors, the free warriors of Great America!"

Fortson nodded, "Exactly, you're not players, nor are you esports athletes. You're not here to play games or to make money. You're warriors. What is your mission?"

Another blonde girl stepped forward and saluted, "To defend the supreme honor of Great America, to ensure Great America is forever the strongest in any domain!"

Fortson spoke seriously, "Right. We are the world's leaders and the rule-makers. We do not allow anyone to challenge our rules, nor do we allow anyone the power to challenge our rules. We must maintain our interests in the cyber domain—and the Chinese before us already has the power to challenge our rules. Your goal from now on is to crush this trash completely!"

"Yes, Sir!"

Fortson spoke solemnly, "We cannot let him become famous anymore. Now we can only hope that SawSaw will block his path."

...

Meanwhile in Radiant City, Flying was unloading timber; Anlicia and the advisor had already gone back to the capital to hire Woodcutters.

And Da Fei was engaged in a complicated discussion with the city planning advisor about the stone material problem.

The municipal advisor pointed to the pile of stones at the construction site of the sewer and said, "Lord City Lord, we've already stockpiled 800 units of stone here. If you need them, you can just take them away directly, and we can continue to order more from the Mining Guild immediately."

Da Fei sighed, "Well, does the Mining Guild sell rare stones?"

The advisor smiled wryly, "Lord City Lord, rare stones are top-level strategic resources. The Mining Guild would definitely not sell them. Besides, they wouldn't have that much either."

Da Fei shook his head, feeling conflicted. I've prepared 1,000 units of high-grade rare timber for the Multi-headed Snake Fortress, but ended up with nothing but ordinary stones. It's like wearing a suit and tie on the top half and shorts and slippers below—so incompatible; it's uncomfortable and my thoughts can't flow freely!

Right, even if the issue of rare stones is resolved, what about the 200 units of crystal and sulfur required for constructing buildings? Would those also need to be rare minerals? If not, what's the point of bothering with rare stones? My thoughts are even less clear. If I'm going to do this, I need everything to be rare!

Ah, forget it. Development is pressed for time, and there's really no choice. For now, let's just load the ordinary stones onto the ship. At the very least, Habbit Village needs a decent dock that can accommodate large ships.

While pondering this, the advisor added, "However, Lord, even though we don't have many rare resources, the Mage Academy certainly has plenty. If you have valuable goods to exchange with them, they might be able to solve your problem."

The Mage Academy? Right, there's nothing so forbidden that the Mage Academy can't handle! As for valuable goods, besides the corpse of the Hydra, what else do I have that could interest the Mage Academy?

Da Fei suddenly remembered the Mercury Mine in the Black Forest! That has to be a rich vein, right?

Da Fei eagerly asked, "If I exchange the rare, rich Mercury Mine for other rare resources, would they agree?"

The advisor laughed, "If it's for stones, they would definitely be happy to trade. As for other rare resources, the exchange rate and such will depend on how you negotiate with them."

Da Fei had a thought, right, when I've cleared the forest, it would be about time to set up the Mercury Factory—but there's a Demigod Crow there! If I can't take down that Demigod Crow, wouldn't it delay the start of my fortress construction?

Damn it, isn't this troubling me again? And just at that moment, a notification sound from the competition server suddenly rang out!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have searched the battlefield and obtained 5 units of ancient granite as spoils of war! The spoils of war will be sent to your region's inbox after the competition has ended.

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched; just when I'm short on stones, they send me stones! But how does a few stones from a competition map justify my participation? Shouldn't there be something like an MVP's Golden Cockroach to give me a thrill?

Da Fei immediately checked the surrounding environment. The landscape was still a Gravel Wilderness, but already far from the battlefield where the great fight had taken place.

Keep searching! Soon, Da Fei made another discovery ahead!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have searched the battlefield and obtained 6 units of ancient granite as spoils of war...

Oh yeah! Although far from the target of 1,000, it's better than nothing and it's better to keep busy.

Da Fei continued in the direction where he found the stones. Finally, a yellow dot flashed on the minimap, something's up! Last time in the Ancient City Ruins, it was a sewer cover. What could it be this time?

Da Fei couldn't wait to get closer. A pit with a depression blocked by stones!

Da Fei touched the stone!

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have searched the battlefield and obtained 16 units of ancient granite as spoils of war...

But before he had time to be happy, a red light exploded in front of Da Fei!

—System Prompt: Warning! You have discovered a hidden map entrance to the "Sandworm Nest." Entering this map will pose a severe challenge, and if you fail, you will lose the qualification to advance in the competition. Please consider it carefully.

Holy Crap! I've actually discovered a hidden map! Should I go or not? These kind of tunnel battles are very disadvantageous for me! If I lose, won't my championship, my 1 million US Dollar prize, be gone?

Chapter 638: The Boss Elevated Behind The Scenes

What is a sandworm? It's not a group of tiny insects in the sand, or insects as big as dogs found in the desert, but rather, it's a gigantic worm as thick and long as a train or subway, which can be understood as a super-sized roundworm.

The huge mouth of the sandworm houses dozens of rows of rotating saw-teeth, which like a mole burrower, allow it to move swiftly under the sandy gravel. Meanwhile, the sandworm grows by digesting the energy from the mineral crystals in the sand, and as for its excrement, that is the "hard stone" produced after the mineral crystals go through the high temperature, high pressure, and strong acid digestion inside the sandworm's body.

And this hard stone is the rare material known as "Ancient Granite"! This means that the stones Da Fei found nearby are all the excretions of the sandworm, which also implies that there are even more inside the nest, and possibly an unimaginable bounty of resources if the sandworm is killed!

However, the formidable nature of the sandworm within its tunnels is well known; with a body as massive as a subway, and speed to match, it can easily swallow enemies whole in the passageways with just a wide opening of its mouth!

Should he enter or not?

Da Fei was instantly conflicted! The terrain was extremely unfavorable, his troops couldn't be deployed, and once they encountered the worm, it would mean instant slaughter with no chance to escape! For the 1 million USD prize, equivalent to 6 million RMB, and not to mention the second-place prize of 3 million or the third-place prize of 1.5 million, there was no need to take such a risk. So, it wasn't necessary to go in.

But then again—

Sometimes people just do these things, fully aware of the health risks of smoking and drinking, understanding the need to quit, yet unable to resist when they're laid out right in front of them! Da Fei very well understood that the risk of entering was not worth it, but he was exactly troubled by the dilemma of the stone materials, and not addressing it would leave his thoughts unsettled and his body uncomfortable!

More importantly, how strong could a hidden monster in a mere one-on-one competition map be? Could it be stronger than the likes of Baron Nash, the Ancient City Lord seen in multi-player arenas? Is he, a man who has slain gods, to fear a monster from a puny map?

Just as Da Fei hesitated, torn over whether to enter or not, Captain Fordson, who was monitoring the large screen, had already put a phone to his ear.

Finally, Little Fei made up his mind—to go in!

Meanwhile, Fordson gave a sinister smile: "Load, difficulty level S!"

The other end of the phone replied: "Yes, Sir!"

That's right, the United States is the host provider for Heroic Creation Era, and it is the United States that sets the rules. Although the main brains of the various divisions are highly intelligent and autonomously controlled, making it impossible for the rule-makers to interfere manually or view user data—thus allowing the countries to feel it's fair and be eager to invest and co-develop—the competition server is clearly not some intelligent main brain, and the competition server does not need

an intelligent main brain! Therefore, the United States has the ability to manually control the competition server.

The act of temporarily raising the difficulty level of the BOSS isn't unprecedented; the last time this happened was to face Da Fei when the difficulty of the Ruins City Lord of the Ancient City Ruins was raised. However, that time was far too blatant, as the foolish Japanese monkey openly exposed the insider manipulation of the difficulty level in front of judges from various countries, truly akin to a pig of a teammate.

However, it doesn't matter, as the incident could be covered up with the pretext of testing the competition server, and the scenario entry carried a loading time suspiciously long enough to raise eyebrows. But now things are different, the United States can easily send a command backstage, and the data of the BOSS's Attack, Blood Defense, and other attributes would be instantly boosted, unnoticed by anyone. To ensure the mystery of the hidden maps, these maps have now been set to be inaccessible to spectators and to prohibit the recording of videos for post-match data analysis, further increasing the behind-the-scenes operability.

The now S-level sandworm BOSS possesses the sustainability of a super city wall in terms of Blood Defense, and it isn't something that regular troops and regular Magic can shake, not to mention its greatly enhanced ability to self-heal by devouring mineral ores. Without getting into details, even if it just stood there and allowed Da Fei to attack, it wouldn't be possible to finish it off within the remaining 20 or so minutes of the competition. This is a match the United States simply cannot lose.

That's right, Da Fei is now challenging the casino's owner. A shrewd casino owner always lets the patrons see him losing, but when he doesn't want to lose, he absolutely will not lose!

...

—System Prompt: You have entered the hidden competition map "Sandworm Nest Entrance." You have 22 minutes and 46 seconds left in the competition time. Once you enter the hidden map, you will not be able to leave the competition mid-way, and you will be automatically removed from the map when the time limit is reached. Should you be defeated in your adventure, you will lose your eligibility to advance in the competition. The difficulty of this scenario is extremely high, please exercise caution.

—System Prompt: The hidden competition map is not open to spectator viewing! The hidden competition map does not support video recording functions.

So, there are spectators after all! The rules have indeed changed, and what's more, you can't withdraw once you've entered? No support for video recording, either? But isn't it possible for others to simply pick up their phones and record the screen?

Without further thought, the scene changed, and Da Fei's troops appeared in a pitch-black underground tunnel. The size of the tunnel was comparable to that of a subway or a car tunnel. His 4,000-strong army packed densely into the elongated passage like a giant meat sausage.

One could easily imagine, the moment a sandworm as big as a train appeared, his troops would be done for! Damn, this isn't the way to fight a battle.

At that moment, a thunderous boom erupted behind him!

—System Prompt: The entrance to the nest has collapsed. You must find another exit to leave.

Damn it! Completely cutting off any retreat, is this a fight to the death?

Da Fei had a bad feeling about this. However, since the hidden map wasn't open to viewers, he didn't need to hold back - Blood Eagle, scout ahead!

Soon, the Blood Eagle found a trail of mineral crystals sprinkled along the path ahead, all of them rare stones! As expected of a sandworm nest, filled with goods. But now wasn't the time to be collecting stones. Da Fei needed to find a fork in the path! There had to be one; otherwise, there was no way to engage. The game, no matter how much it cheats, would not design a scenario that rendered players utterly helpless.

Finally, the Blood Eagle discovered the fork in the path Da Fei was looking for ahead in the tunnel, and Da Fei couldn't help but let out a sigh of relief, nearly scared to death, thinking it was just a straight tunnel.

But then, Da Fei immediately spotted a large pile of sparkling mineral crystals right in front of the main tunnel at the fork!

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched. Not rocks! It was a pile of rare crystals! Holy shit, isn't this a bit too loaded? Just what I'm short of, rare crystals. This pile must have 7 or 8 units, right?

Overcome with excitement, Da Fei temporarily abandoned scouting the fork and continued to survey the main tunnel. Soon, there was another flash of light ahead - another big pile of rare crystals!

Da Fei's eyes widened in shock. This pile must have a dozen or more units? Damn! Although it's a hidden map, isn't this a little too generous to players?

And there's more ahead! Piles and piles of it! Not just crystals, but gemstones, gold ore, everything! What is this, a treasure chest opening? Why is there so much stuff in this section of the tunnel?

Da Fei instantly lost his cool! All these rare crystals together must be enough for the construction needs of Multi-headed Snake Fortress, right? What are we waiting for, hurry and pick them up before the sandworms appear!

Wait! After a moment of intense excitement, Da Fei suddenly snapped back to attention!

No, something's not right. When things are too good to be true, there's probably a catch. How could there be no difficulty in finding this hidden map? With the system's tendency, how could it possibly gift players with such a bounty? And this resource-filled section of the tunnel seemed noticeably narrower than the one just passed - had the sandworm slimmed down by pooping as it moved through?

While pondering, Little Fei reached the end of the passage - a dead end!

Da Fei was astonished. No way? No boss, and it's a dead end here? Could the boss be at the fork? But the player's first reaction after getting here would be to get drawn by the resources along the way; who would possibly go to the fork?

Could it be a lure? Amidst the shock, Da Fei immediately inspected the dead end of the passage closely and quickly noticed the difference - the walls here were clearly much smoother.

Could it be... In an instant, Da Fei had a startling realization - could all these resources actually be inside the gaping mouth of a sandworm? Is my Little Fei flying inside the mouth of a sandworm right now?

Damn it! It could only be this. Otherwise, there's no way to explain the system's UI! So it means, if I get lured by the resources along the way, I'd end up like a dumb rat caught in a trap while chasing cheese.

What a devious boss! But I've seen through your tricks. There's nothing left to say; first, the troops will move towards the fork in the tunnel.

Chapter 639: God-level Firewall Barbecues Sandworm

Bloodrose Studio. The large screen on the wall displaying the competition suddenly went black as Da Fei entered the tunnel.

—System Prompt: We regret to inform you that the player you were watching has entered a hidden map, which does not support spectator viewing. Thank you for your participation!

"What, it's gone?" The women expressed their regret.

Bloodrose Qiqi snorted, "What's so great about trash? If it's gone, then it's gone."

Bloodrose Xiaoyu sighed, "I heard this Dragon of Echigo is a famous professional player in the Japan region, but he's completely powerless against Da Fei."

Bloodrose Holy Spear sneered, "His Banshee Hero hasn't even fought yet. I don't believe this is the end."

Bloodrose Qiqi laughed coldly, "Exactly, how could a pervert who only recruits female heroes give up easily? Huh? What's sis looking at?"

Zhou Qing chuckled, "I'm looking at the Yanran's smile highly recommended by the Star Goddess. If I'm not mistaken, that's Tang Yan."

Everyone was astonished, "That local girl, the aristocratic lady who did ads for several gaming companies, the arcade genius Tang Yan?"

Zhou Qing smiled faintly, "Yes, she's the Goddess that our Mr. Lin has pursued for a long time without success."

Bloodrose Qiqi was surprised, "Sis, Brother Tianhao is obviously after you, not her. We're not blind."

Zhou Qing's face darkened, "Stop talking nonsense!"

Bloodrose Qiqi cowered in fear.

Bloodrose Holy Spear cleared her throat to change the topic, "Ahem, so how skilled is she?"

Zhou Qing laughed, "Her troops died miserably, but she seems a bit stronger than her opponent. Overall, she has a decent chance of winning."

Bloodrose Holy Spear exclaimed, "So, she's deliberately suppressing her strength to avoid attention?"

Zhou Qing smiled, "Definitely, once the competition ends, let's find a way to contact her in the game."

"Got it."

At that moment, Bloodrose Holy Sword shouted, "Sis, Royal Dominator has sent a message. He wants to meet you at St. Paul Sea Emperor Restaurant."

Zhou Qing snorted, "That man is such a bother. Why couldn't he just send a simple text to say yes or no?"

"He said he brought all 72 medium ship owners of the Royal Fleet to Great Hall to formally meet with you."

Zhou Qing chuckled, "Seems fitting for a tycoon display. Alright, let's entertain them. Bring a dozen beauties to go with me."

...

At this moment, in the hidden map Sandworm Nest, Da Fei's troops entered an intersection channel. Along the way, Da Fei collected 20 units of Ancient Granite.

Meanwhile, the Blood Eagle explored some of the map with its reconnaissance, discovering a figure-eight-shaped passage. More intersections indicated a complex network of connected figure-eight paths without any stone or other resources visible.

It became clear that the resources found on the main path were bait, and the resource-laden tunnel was actually the sandworm's mouth. This complex terrain meant the sandworm could strike from multiple paths, making it difficult for players to defend.

So, how to kill it? In a labyrinthine underground railroad network, how do you handle a silent, fast, unstoppable armored train?

There's only one way, hide at the intersection and strike it as it passes; that's the train's weakness! Demon Children with no long-range attack capability would only block paths, better let them die. As for the 100+ Hellhounds, with high mobility, they could be used as bait.

The main force consisted of 200 Secret Archers, 50 Druids, and Vice Hero Alina with God-level Destruction Skill. With the sandworm's train-like amazing speed, every Secret Archer might only have one shot; the output would be pathetic, and if the sandworm circled a few times in the tunnel, given the remaining 20 minutes of the competition, it could be a close call.

Alina was the hope. When dealing with a train-like target on fixed tracks, only one magic was suitable, Fire Wall Skill!

Fire Wall Skill inflicted sustained damage; the damage per hit wasn't high, and visible fire lines appeared on the ground when activated, easy to avoid unless you were blind. Killing enemies with Fire Wall wasn't practical. Generally, it was used to burn houses or clear roadblocks.

In battle, Fire Wall was used to block and annoy; going through it would shed a layer of skin, unpleasant. Going around it just for that? Even more annoying! In short, a high-magic-power Mage's Fire Wall Skill was still intimidating for slow-moving low-tier cannon fodder.

Now, for Alina, who reached God-level Destruction Skill, wielded two sets of Divine Equipment, and owned the dark elf trait to reduce target magic resistance by 60%, and also used powerful magic boosting magic effect power by 50%, the Fire Wall Skill's power exceeded a regular player's imagination!

Even though the competition banned Elemental Set's "Elemental Domain" God-level effect, the two sets of Divine Equipment had magic points reaching two hundred, enough to frighten ghosts! Right, dark elves also had Elemental Chain Damage, triggering elemental nemesis among wind, fire, water, and earth; wind (lightning) overcomes water, water overcomes fire, fire overcomes earth, and earth overcomes wind. The sandworm must be earth attribute, perfect for Fire Wall!

Da Fei could imagine the scene as the subway passed through the Fire Wall, an absolutely thrilling spectacle.

Time was short; no more talk, get going!

Hiding at the intersection, Da Fei waved his hand. Over 3,000 dense red Demon Children charged into the resource-filled tunnel's maw like a giant red, red sausage!

At that moment, the ground of the whole tunnel began to tremble. A big red line appeared on the map ahead of Da Fei!

—System Prompt: Warning! Sandworm appeared, your troops are under attack!

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat, the sandworm had made a move! Its camouflage was perfect, seamlessly blending with the tunnel, undetectable even by the Blood Eagle's God-level Reconnaissance Technique!

In the rumbling ground noise, a harsh scraping sound came from the tunnel's front, the sandworm subway roared to life, and a flood of system prompts filled the screen!

—System Prompt: 226 Demon Child units were swallowed by the sandworm!

—System Prompt: 212 Demon Child units were swallowed by the sandworm!

...

In an instant, thousands of Da Fei's Sausage Army were devoured, but he had no time to be shocked. The "subway" was already at high speed, howling towards him!

Act now!

A flash of light, a long fire line ignited across the tunnel!

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Alina cast God-level Destruction Magic "Fire Wall Skill"!

Boom!!! The fire line exploded, a long fire wall rose in the tunnel!

At the same moment, a foul-smelling wind pressure hit from the tunnel front; the subway was coming! Secret Archers and Druids prepared to shoot!

—Boom Boom Boom Boom Boom!!! The explosion from the sandworm passing through the fire wall was like firecrackers, continuously deafening, with countless red words "Flame Damage -370!" "Elemental Chain Damage -164!" "Flame Damage -366!" "Elemental Chain Damage -160!" "-3!" "-4!" scrolling across! The damage frequency exceeded Da Fei's imagination!

Indeed, there are two ways to pass through the fire wall. One is to go straight across it, the correct and normal way, receiving only one hit from the wall. The other is this method, vertically passing along the fire wall, taking multiple hits?

This was the ideal fire wall mages dreamed of, where every part of the fire wall inflicted damage with no waste!

Moreover, the sandworm's length meant even passing horizontally through the fire wall inflicted much more damage than normal units, let alone vertically! The actual damage was many times multiplied—the perfect fire wall encountering the most suitable target! A genuine roasted sausage!

Haha, wahahaha! Watching the sea of fire and red words, Da Fei laughed heartily!

But there was a small flaw; the damage from passing the fire wall was too low, only 3,400 at best? This was way below Alina's regular terrifying thousands of damage, indicating the sandworm had high magic resistance or damage reduction. No matter, against dark elves, magic resistance was negligible, with this firecracker effect, no matter if the sandworm had tens of thousands of health, it couldn't withstand more than a few times?

Now, the sandworm passed through the fire wall, but the Blood Eagle followed.

No, it couldn't disappear into the dark and take a different path to deal with me? Not a chance, it's constantly under my watch. Unless I intentionally head towards it to get hit, it has no chance, haha, wahahaha!

The sandworm sped past like a roller coaster and quickly adjusted the path in the tunnel, aiming for Da Fei's Secret Archer troop! Its chosen attack path was really tricky! Without the Blood Eagle, Da Fei couldn't defend against it.

But no worries! Even though Secret Archers can only do single-digit damage, it doesn't matter. To lure it in, let it eat them! After all, using the fastest Hellhound as bait was most suitable.

For now, Da Fei had already picked an intersection path to lay down a vertical fire wall, ready to go. Killing this sandworm was just a matter of time.

...

Meanwhile, at the Supernova Team headquarters command room, Fortson lazily held a cigar, staring at the long-dark competition screen in thought—8 minutes passed. Fortson felt a bit uneasy.

Encountering a sandworm usually meant getting wiped out immediately, but Da Fei lasted surprisingly long. What was Da Fei doing now, playing hide-and-seek? That was indeed a good way to drag things out, but if the sandworm couldn't find a target for long, it might cause an earthquake to collapse passages. Could Da Fei escape a collapsing tunnel?

As he pondered, the black screen dinged!

—System Prompt: Competitor Da Fei killed the sandworm, completing the hidden map "Sandworm Nest" exploration!

—What!? [Cough!] Fortson choked on the cigar ash, coughing wildly!

Chapter 640: Sandworm Mining Machine

Sandworm predictably fell in the sea of fire, and Da Fei couldn't wait to check the rewards!

—System Prompt: You have successfully killed the Sandworm Boss hidden in the Sandworm Nest, acquiring competition reward: S-class strategic treasure "Sandworm Mining Machine", ancient granite +200 units, Refined Crystal Gem +20 units, Refined Crystal +20 units. The competition rewards will be sent to your server after the competition ends.

—Sandworm Mining Machine: S-class strategic treasure, special vehicle. Durability 1000, speed 4, a highly efficient mining machine with functions such as lumbering, mining, excavating, etc. The mining machine itself can transport 100 units of ore. Activating the mining machine requires 10 units of crystal or gemstone resources as fuel. (Note: The storage capacity and transport speed of the mining machine increase with the user's logistics skill level.)

—System Prompt: You have completed exploring the hidden map "Sandworm Nest" and obtained the competition achievement "Gravel Wilderness Ruler," granting your troops a "Defense +10, Life +3" boost in the Gravel Wilderness. You have fully secured the victory of the competition, do you wish to leave the competition ground?

...

Sandworm Mining Machine? Gazing at the round plump machine that resembled a giant maggot, with rows of extendable rotating saw teeth on its head, Da Fei was shocked on the spot! He had never encountered such a bizarre treasure in the game before!

Future technology? Holy shit, the reward from this competition server is too thrilling! Well, Brother's Black Forest is exactly looking to accelerate the deforestation, let's see how effective the mining machine's saw teeth are for lumbering.

Then, as expected, came the resource rewards, 200 units of rare stone and rare crystal gems, each 20 units. The richness of this resource reward has already surpassed the last time when resources were awarded in the Ancient City for killing the MVP cockroach and the City Lord! This sandworm truly deserves the title of a mining boss; it's like sending charcoal in snowy weather, providing exactly what I needed, haha, wahahaha!

However, after a brief joy, Da Fei became conflicted again. Despite a rich harvest in this competition, there is still quite a distance from the "high-end" construction needs of the Multi-headed Snake Fortress. And the closer to perfection, the less Da Fei is willing to compromise.

Anyway, there are several more competitions to go, let's see how much resources I can still obtain. However, encountering a mining boss like Sandworm again is hardly realistic; ultimately, it's better to make plans to exchange good products with the Mage Academy.

There's nothing to say now, exit the competition.

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have won the competition, advancing to the next round. The next competition will take place at 17:00 sharp. Please pay attention to the competition time.

—System Prompt: New items have arrived in your mailbox, please check!

Oh yeah, the rewards are here just as said, awesome! And as Da Fei exited the competition, the guild channel erupted!

"Brother Fei won! Congratulations on Brother Fei's first victory!"

"Brother Fei is too awesome, crushed the Japanese, playing the hidden map as if it's a game!"

"The Japanese are too silly, even claiming themselves to be the world's number one of the Hell Race. Just send some miscellaneous Hell troops with Brother Fei and he'll teach them how to be decent in minutes."

"Isn't that obvious? Brother Fei is a God Slayer. How can mortals compete against Brother Fei? The entire world is trembling under Brother Fei now!"

Unable to help, Da Fei burst into laughter: "Just a small gesture, brothers! If you guys spot any rare and rich mines, keep an eye out for me, especially ancient granite, Refined Crystal, and Refined Crystal Sulfur, I urgently need them."

Da Bing quickly said: "Did you hear that? Brother Fei urgently needs ores, hurry up and find some for Brother Fei!"

The guild was taken aback: "This... it's too high-end..."

Da Bing angrily shouted: "High-end my ass, even if it means selling kidneys or buttholes, we must find it!"

Da Fei smiled and said: "No rush, no rush, I was just asking casually, everyone just do what you need to do!"

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief: "Understood, Brother Fei, we'll keep an eye out!"

Just then, a usually silent Harem Beauty suddenly spoke: "Brother Fei, my friend has dozens of units of ancient granite, if Brother Fei wants them, we can give them to Brother Fei."

As soon as this was said, the guild erupted: "The beauty spoke!"

"Beauty, ask for video!"

"Beauty, ask for a group!"

Da Bing shouted angrily: "You've got some nerve, flirting with Brother Fei's girl, you useless rocks that can't even be found, scram as far as you can!"

Everyone hastily responded: "Yes, yes, yes, we were just greeting the sister-in-law!"

Oh, come on! Your sister! A man like me, destined to have a harem in the game, doesn't need a sister-in-law creature!

Da Fei cleared his throat and said: "Well then, thank you very much!"

The Harem Beauty smiled and said: "Brother Fei, you're too polite! I'll send them over to Elorin Guild's warehouse in a bit."

Everyone chimed in: "Great, great, the beauty is awesome!"

Da Fei couldn't help but smile contently, recruiting little sisters like this, quiet usually but capable in critical moments. As for the rest, oh come on, can they do anything other than kiss up? After all, the guild's people really need to step up.

Just then, the city's Teleportation Array blazed with light, Anlicia appeared with a large group of Woodcutters, waving from afar: "Lord City Lord, we recruited 500 at once!"

Da Fei was overjoyed, this number was truly impressive! Okay, my mining machine plus over 700 woodcutters, I will have Black Forest wrapped up in one day. Right, the mining machine seems to need resources to start, okay, my mining machine's grand opening will not use ordinary resources, I'll use these 20 Refined Crystal Gems from the competition rewards, the energy of a Refined Crystal Gem is equivalent to 10 regular gems, haha, wahahaha!

Now that the cargo hold is almost full, all aboard and let's hit the road!

.....

Meanwhile, in a rental apartment in University Road Wenhua District.

Since players can only carry 10 Unit Crystals of resources, Little Li is busy transporting the Ancient Granite stonematerial from the Rapids Town warehouse back and forth to Erinro.

In her busy schedule, Little Li sighed: "Little Fang, are you sure Da Fei will cover for us?"

Little Fang replied gravely: "We have no choice, it's a perfect time to assert our stance while Da Fei is crushing the Japanese and striving for the nation's glory. The Royal Family and Bloodrose Guild have strategically joined forces, and Saint Paul will belong to them in the future. If by the time we painstakingly dig the canal to Saint Paul, if our company doesn't have a share in Saint Paul by then, we'll have lost a lot."

Little Li nodded: "Yes, the power of large guilds uniting is indeed terrifying!"

Little Fang continued: "Besides, as a human, Da Fei won't stay in the Elf Kingdom forever. When he stabilizes Radiant City, he'll surely return to develop amongst humans, and Ninth Heaven also intends to woo Da Fei. His foundation in the human domain will surely be solid, and his development will definitely be in line with his naval strategies. Eventually, his attention will turn to our canal, so we should still prioritize PR, and that was a good opportunity just now!"

Little Li sighed: "All said and done, digging the canal is much more difficult than imagined, it's been so long and the only valuable thing is this Ancient Granite, and financially, it's getting tough."

Little Fang also shook her head and sighed: "Indeed, we underestimated the difficulty of the Epic Quest initially. Anyway, let's find an opportunity to borrow some money from Da Fei, they say he has seventy million Gold Coins."

Little Li anxiously said: "Is that okay? What if he proposes some, well, those kinds of conditions, wouldn't that be—"

Little Fang chuckled: "Then we'll just refuse! What's the big deal, are we afraid we can't find money? Okay, Bloodrose is making noise again, you continue using the alt after you're done transporting the ore, haha!"

.....

While one rejoices, another is in sorrow. Learning that an S-grade sandworm was dropped, Captain America felt devastated, almost smashing his phone!

Indeed, the strategic pattern of the sandworm's too simple. Once Da Fei has a tactic that completely counters it, like that mysterious blonde Elf Mage, increasing the sandworm's Blood Defense is pointless, it's just handing Da Fei benefits on a silver platter. After all, the arena's BOSS just isn't enough to withstand a God Slayer.

Now, the person on the other end of the phone asked: "Sir, should we adjust the difficulty of the secret maps for the next game?"

Fortson angrily commanded: "Adjust it! The lowest difficulty, make sure he doesn't even get a pair of underwear! Make him never want to enter a secret map ever again in his life!"

"Yes, Sir!"