

God level 701

Chapter 701: Divine Equipment in the Blacksmith Shop

As Selvia's mysterious harp music began to play, the already congested Demon Army seemed to fall into further disarray.

Anlicia was not content to be outdone by others, and with a wave of her hand, a dazzling Demon Light shone, and suddenly a large number of Illusion Army troops appeared beside the battle formation. These Illusion Forest Goddess Army troops took the initiative to charge towards the Demon Army, attempting to further disrupt the Demons. Illusion magic like this, of course, doesn't work well on players but is quite effective against computer-controlled monsters, distracting a portion of the Demon Army and changing their charge direction instantly.

And so, under the exhibition of Divine Skills by various heroes, the entire battlefield was absolutely controlled by Da Fei, with thousands of Flesh Demons becoming live targets for Da Fei's troops, falling in succession, until finally their continuation waned and defeat was a foregone conclusion.

Amidst his roaring laughter, Da Fei also began to review the gains and losses of this battle with a sense of relief.

In this battle, everyone unleashed their Divine Skills, and there was nothing much to say about that. The biggest highlight was Billbo; without him, our army wouldn't have had it so easy. The biggest regret was not fully utilizing the 20% speed boost of the Divine Artifact Bow.

Now, thinking it over carefully, Da Fei of course knew where the problem lay. A mere 20% speed increase only boosts 10 speed up to 12 speed, which indeed isn't a very significant advantage.

However, if one is fully equipped with gear that pushes attack speed to the limit, a 20% increase would be absolutely terrifying. It would mean not just striking before the opponent, but striking two or even three times before the opponent's troops can even react. That's the essence of extreme high-speed combat, and it's the high-speed approach that South Korean experts were so keen on during the open beta. Coupled with the Elf Clan's well-known talent for rapid assault, it often meant that right from the start of a battle they could shoot like machine guns and mow down the opposition.

High-speed is indeed cool, but it is the most difficult attribute to acquire in the game. Leveling up doesn't increase Attack Speed, and neither do most achievements or quests; usually, equipment is the

only way to boost it. And gear that increases Attack Speed often doesn't add to attack and defense. Da Fei's Captain's Sword, with its +1 to every attribute, is a rare gem that increases both Attack Speed and attack and defense damage, although these enviable attributes now seem barely worthy in Da Fei's view.

In summary, pursuing high-speed comes with the cost of falling behind in attack and defense attributes, where hitting the opponent twice may not hurt as much as the opponent hitting you once. This places extremely high demands on troop types and the hero's own attributes; it's truly not a play style that average players can afford.

But Da Fei is not an average player! With his many side jobs, his attack and defense attributes are now sky-high, and his troops are formidable, so pursuing high-speed comes without burden. To bring out the 20% Attack Speed increase power of the Divine Artifact Bow, he would need to stack gear that boosts speed.

While Da Fei claims to be fully geared with Divine Artifacts, in reality, he's only got a Divine Artifact Shield, Divine Artifact Necklace, and some very high-end trinkets. The rest of the main pieces, like the Captain's Sword, Spider Demon Armor, Spider Demon Boots, Blood Wolf King Set, look pretty pitiful! Aside from an A-grade Speed Cloak given by the American during the last National War, Da Fei has no other speed-boosting gear.

And what does it mean that the American had an A-grade Speed Cloak so early on? It implies that the American had been preparing the high-speed strategy for some time. The reason why Da Fei hasn't felt the power of the opponent's strategy in this competition may be because his Elina cleared the field with one shot, or perhaps because the opponent's high-speed strategy hasn't fully formed yet. Once given more time, it would be quite dangerous for Da Fei to face a master of high-speed techniques.

Now, Da Fei resolved: It's time to lead the trend and embark on the high-speed approach.

The requirements for normal high-speed aren't too high; just adding 1 or 2 points of speed to each gear piece, accumulating 10 points of Attack Speed can immediately show effects, allowing one to shoot an extra arrow compared to ordinary archers without speed stacking. The rest is about seeking to further improve high-speed troop types. But with Da Fei's Divine Bow in hand, there is no need to bother with any high-speed troop types.

During this period of contemplation, the situation on the battlefield began to settle rapidly. As the number of demons on the battlefield declined, so did the number sharing the Magic damage with Elina, enabling Elina's magic to finally start showing its power.

Now, nearly a thousand Flesh Demons lay strewn across the wilderness, with the remote reinforcements far from catching up, leaving the Sealing Array wide open to Da Fei's troops.

Passing the test was just that simple! Da Fei burst into laughter and waved his hand, "Charge, all troops!"

The troops stepped over the corpses of the Flesh Demons to reach the Sealing Array, as a golden light descended from the sky: Ror, here to break the Sealing Array, spoke, "Warrior, you have lived up to expectations by successfully destroying a Sealing Array. However, the Demon reinforcements are about to arrive, I suggest you retreat and regroup immediately."

Retreat after just one fight? That's not my style, is it? Da Fei looked around; everyone seemed fine, but Billbo was drenched in cold sweat and pale—a clear sign of aftershocks from a powerful skill.

Ah well, nothing more to say, times are different now, time to retreat. After all, to Da Fei's team, these monsters are just grist for the mill providing renown, and he can come back for another round after regrouping.

With Da Fei's troops retreating, the entire Despair Plain was once again overrun by the floodlike Demon Army.

"I'm truly sorry, I didn't even get a chance to act," Tachiusu said with a laugh.

Da Fei laughed heartily, "No need for Miss Tachiusu to take action on goods of such quality. But it really has been tough on Billbo!" He said so while patting Billbo's shoulder, "How are you holding up? Can you handle it?"

Billbo gritted his teeth and said, "Lord City Lord, I can do it!"

Ah, I knew the lad liked to put on a brave front. Da Fei laughed heartily, "Good, after you rest up back in town, we'll continue!"

Tachiusu sighed, "Are the Demons here endless? It's a shame, all these Demon corpses. If the Nasir Ancient Tree were here, it would be truly delighted."

Da Fei was suddenly shocked! Nasir Ancient Tree? Damn it! Why didn't I think of that? A being like it, unrivaled in the mortal realm, should definitely come here to show off its power! I need to have these Demons contribute to my prestige while alive, and to my fertilizer when dead!

However, there's a prerequisite. Can a construct creature like Nasir even be teleported? Even if it could, its Command Value is as high as 1000, which is not something that the current Nightmare Crystal can teleport. Anyway, first I need to fill up the Divine Artifact Crystal with energy in the Nightmare Space and give it a try. If it really can be teleported here, who knows how much it can be fattened up? Mwahaha!

Amidst the cheers of the Angels on the city walls, Da Fei's troops returned to Divine Punishment City.

Ror was already at the city gate with a beaming smile, "Warrior, you have now successfully taken down a Sealing Array. According to the agreement, you've earned a Crusader spot, but only Lord Sazer has the power to advance you. So, Warrior, you must wait until Lord Sazer is available."

Da Fei laughed heartily, "No problem, no rush, no rush. We still need to fight seven times in and out and gather more spoils of war to strengthen our military preparedness."

Ror smiled, "Exactly. Please, Warrior, rest up and prepare. When you're ready to strike again, come find me."

"Understood."

Now Da Fei had a lot to do. This time, after killing nearly a thousand Flesh Demons and obtaining over a hundred Demon Essences, plus the 400-plus from the Elite Demons killed in the morning, Da Fei could exchange for another Angel and still have some leftover. However, Da Fei had already resolved to take

the high-speed route, so he couldn't help but glance at the display in the neighboring blacksmith shop, which he had found quite impressive and expensive in the morning.

Blacksmith Will said pleasantly, "Welcome, our Warrior. Now, you will enjoy a 10% discount in our city. Is there any equipment you need?"

Da Fei cleared his throat, "I need to enhance my Attack Speed with some strategic equipment. Can I take a look at that type?"

Will laughed heartily, "Good question, Warrior! I do have the best Attack Speed gear, typically I don't even bother showing it to ordinary people. But you, Warrior, are different. You are worthy of this equipment. Let me find it!" Saying so, he eagerly started rummaging through his stock.

Sure enough, only when you have the right reputation will NPCs show players the good stuff that ordinary players can't see. Da Fei chuckled, "Take your time, no rush."

While Will was searching, Da Fei checked the Mercenary Army's hiring list again, pondering over how best to spend his precious 500 essences—well, 450 essences—to exchange for what kind of Angel. According to his original plan, he definitely needed the Stamina-replenishing Wisdom Angels and Power Angels in number to be effective. But now, the situation had changed. He had a team now, and he no longer needed to fight prolonged battles, so the significance of replenishing mana and stamina was gone. What he needed now was a powerful clearing force, like the long-axe-wielding Power Angels.

This made Da Fei hesitate.

In his moment of indecision, Blacksmith Will held up a pair of silver, shimmering gauntlets and laughed, "Found it!"

—Wind God's Strike: S-level strategic equipment, glove slot, Troop Attack Speed +3, Damage +1, Attack +10, Defense +10. (Price: 9000 Demon Essences)

Achoo! Da Fei sprayed blood from his nose! Holy crap, top-notch! Super top-notch! As a pair of gloves, just having +10 to both attack and defense is already pretty badass, and it even adds +3 Attack Speed! Not +1, not +2, but +3! And it comes with a bonus of +1 damage for the whole army! Mother of god,

who says gear that boosts Attack Speed always has trash attributes? That's because they haven't encountered the real deal! Worthy of Divine Punishment City, worthy of an Angel Level blacksmith, worthy of a hellish scene!

But the problem is, 9000 Demon Essences! Does that mean the original price was 10,000? Does that mean I just need to farm it a hundred times, a hundred times, and it's mine? The question is, should I expand my team with Angels first or save up essences to get Divine Equipment?

Oh heavens, oh earth, why did you have to show me such good stuff? The agony of indecision!

Chapter 702: Modifications to Titan's Grasp

Listening to Blacksmith Will's meaningful sigh, Da Fei was in agony, "So, warrior, what do you think? I dare say there aren't many people across Heaven and Hell who can forge a stronger S-class glove than mine. At my level, technique is no longer the decisive factor— it's inspiration and luck that are key to the success of a work."

Da Fei nodded repeatedly in astonishment, "I see, impressive, truly impressive!"

I swear, this has got to be a God-level blacksmith, so high-end! Suddenly, Da Fei's brow twitched. God-level blacksmith? Didn't I always have that unusable Titan's Grasp in my backpack? Now I have reputation here, and the technical conditions are met, perfect chance to try it out! Can I find a better blacksmith than this Angel Brother in the entire Mortal World? Absolutely impossible!

Da Fei hurriedly took out the lightning-flashing Titan Spear and asked, "Excuse me, sir, do you have any way to repair this dwarf Divine Artifact?"

Will was taken aback, "Dwarf Divine Artifact?"

At that moment, behind Da Fei came a "Huh," it was Elena, who had seen the Titan's Grasp!

Yes, ever since recruiting Elena, I have been focused on holding onto this beautiful lady without venturing into troublesome matters with this long spear. This must have triggered the storyline, so I might as well solve it all at once.

Da Fei hurriedly turned back, pretending not to know, and asked, "Elena, do you recognize this spear?"

Elena smiled wryly, "Of course, we initially got intelligence that the Titan Lord contracted the dwarves to make such a Divine Artifact for him, with the reward of forming an alliance. So, our Dark Elf Tribe, under the bewitchment of demons, launched a full-scale attack, destroying the Dwarf City where the Divine Artifact was being forged. I never expected this Divine Artifact to surface again!"

Da Fei quickly said, "No, no, this Divine Artifact is basically scrapped. The dwarves have no power left to complete it. To save face, they entrusted us, the Children of Destiny, to complete it. So, I've been looking for a way to repair it!"

Saying this, Da Fei's tone changed, flattering the Angel Brother before him, "I've scoured the Mortal World without finding a way to repair it— but now I have! Mr. Will, from this glove, I can tell your ability is far beyond mortals, you must have the power to repair this Divine Artifact, right?"

Will was astonished, then coughed lightly, "Mind if I take a look?"

He wanted to see the goods! The task storyline has triggered! Could it be this coincidental, or does this Divine Artifact trigger the storyline whenever it encounters a blacksmith? Anyway, you are the first blacksmith I've met, and hopefully the last!

In his excitement, Da Fei immediately handed the spear over. Just as Will reached out to take the spear— crackle! The combination of thunder and fire startled Will, making him drop the spear!

— Clang! The spear hit the ground with resounding echo.

The scene fell into a sudden silence, and silence itself felt more resonant than sound.

Da Fei stood frozen on the spot! Are you kidding me, even the Angel Blacksmith can't handle this gun, what's left to repair?

Will embarrassingly picked up the spear from the ground, grinning, "Sorry, my hand slipped just now..."

At this moment, the spear in his hand continued crackling with thunder and fire, yet his expression remained calm and composed. Da Fei couldn't help but give a thumbs-up, "Not bad for a God-level blacksmith!"

Will coughed lightly, "Well, it's lacking key materials..."

"Materials?" Right, materials! Da Fei hastily asked Elena, "I heard from the dwarves that you took the materials for the Divine Artifact. Do you know what they were?"

Elena smiled wryly, "At the time, it was total chaos, who would know? In fact, the demons had been eyeing the dwarves for a long time, they're the ones most likely to have snatched the materials first."

Elena doesn't know either? Looks like the Dwarf Prince was right, he said when issuing the jailbreak mission that he couldn't be sure Elena knew about any clues, his aim was merely to create chaos for the boss.

At this moment, Elena said, "Although I don't know exactly what the materials are, when the demons negotiated with my tribe back then, I heard a high-level Flame Demon mention a few terms I didn't understand: 'Heart of Earth Fire, Void Thunder, Eternal Soil'. I think those might be the key materials."

Da Fei's brow shot up, so Elena did know! Yes, as an NPC hero related to the storyline, she must know! But what on earth are these 'Heart of Earth Fire' things?

Meanwhile, whether due to exhaustion or the discomfort from the electricity, Will, with a complex expression, returned the spear to Da Fei, shaking his head and sighing, "These materials are extremely pure and rare, high-end materials. If it's missing these, there's nothing I can do either."

Nothing you can do?! So the key to completing this task is material, after all? Da Fei hurriedly asked, "Then, sir, where can I find these materials?"

Will sighed, "Hard to say, even we Angels might not be able to obtain those materials. But, warrior, I personally suggest you not spend time on these mortal-made weapons. If you put all your focus on our Divine Punishment City here, how could you lack excellent equipment or a promising future?"

Da Fei couldn't help but laugh! This was the first time Da Fei encountered an NPC advising to abandon a frustrating quest, indeed fitting for a high-level Angel NPC! Yet, he did make a point.

Da Fei had to laugh, "Actually, personally, whether I have a weapon or not doesn't matter, it's just that being a gunner without a decent gun seems off."

Will sighed, "Actually, honestly, even with its current attributes, this spear is quite good, a bit of a pity indeed."

Just then, the lady owner of the pharmacy next door, Reilly, couldn't help but mock, "What's to pity? Back then, our army spent a lot to kill the Demon King Bafongte, hoping you could use his Demon King Crystal Core to forge a pair of Divine Artifact gloves, but— warrior, you've seen the result!"

Da Fei was suddenly taken aback and hurriedly asked, "What is the Demon King Crystal Core?"

Reilly laughed, "Of course it's the Divine level of a Demon God! But our Divine Realm never acknowledged the existence of Demon Gods, so we referred to the Demon God Divine level as Demon King Crystal Cores."

Da Fei was stunned, realizing that his cherished gloves were a failed Divine Artifact! Indeed, calling a failed Divine Artifact the strongest S-class equipment isn't an overstatement!

Will hastily said, "It was just bad luck, I slipped!"

Reilly chuckled, "Well, at your level, only inspiration and luck matter."

Will quickly added, "If given another chance, I'm sure I'd succeed!"

Reilly shook her head disdainfully and then smiled at Da Fei, "Warrior, do you need a few Super Energy Potions? I'll give you three bottles for free. They can quickly relieve fatigue, reduce skill cooldown, and increase mana cap and stamina cap by 20% for a whole day!"

Da Fei snapped back to attention, "Thank you, Miss Reilly!"

Free stuff is my favorite, plus these potions are clearly prepared for the resting Billbo, right? Success comes with high renown!

Reilly chuckled, "Honestly, yes, Will's luck is a bit lacking, and he eagerly needs to successfully craft a Divine Artifact to prove himself. If the warrior doesn't care about this Divine Artifact gun, feel free to let him mess with it. Even if it's unusable, as long as it can be used even if it ends up completely altered, why not?"

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat, realizing she was cleverly promoting her business. Yes, as long as it can be used, who cares about the attributes? Da Fei hastily turned to look at Will and saw him staring at her expectantly!

I see, a problematic Divine Artifact meets a problematic blacksmith, what a perfect match in heaven!

Da Fei responded joyfully, "Mr. Will, I don't mind this Divine Artifact gun, you can do whatever you like with it. My requirements aren't high, as long as it can be used. Do you have a way?"

Will became excited, "But warrior, my demands on myself are very high. I won't be satisfied merely with usability, and given the current energy leakage of the spear, even making it usable is a very difficult task. Therefore, if you really want to repair it, make up your mind! Leave the technical issues to me, and you handle the materials. How about it?"

I swear! Full of energy, I like it!

Da Fei beamed, "No problem, is there a time limit?"

Will laughed loudly, "As long as Divine Punishment City stands and I am alive! Oh, and doesn't the warrior want speed-enhancing equipment? Ever since making these speed gloves, I've accumulated quite a bit of insight in this area, and wind and thunder are one. This Thunder Gun is very compatible with speed attributes of the wind. I'm very confident in adding speed attributes to this spear! How about it, warrior?"

Wow, such good fortune landed right on me! Da Fei exclaimed gleefully, "Great, I don't have high demands, as long as it's usable and has speed attributes!"

Will took a deep breath, "Then, warrior, please leave the spear with me. I'll study its attributes carefully and then plan for the modifications."

Da Fei happily agreed, "No problem!"

He promptly handed over the spear, and this time, Will was prepared, managing to hold it steadily.

However, Will still said solemnly, "However, before that, I may need to craft a pair of gloves to isolate the electrical influence of the Divine Artifact. I'll have to think carefully about the glove materials. Warrior, I'll inform you once I figure it out."

Gosh, I need to procure the tools for him too? Now Da Fei realized the complexity of this repair quest. However, tasks involving Divine Artifacts have never been simple.

Chapter 703: Hell Heroes Appear

The Divine Artifact Weapon Gun that had been elusive finally found its footing, though one could imagine the future modifications would be problematic. However, as long as there was a target, Da Fei felt much more at ease in his heart.

With the grand goal of obtaining the Divine Artifact now set, a mere pair of gloves was no longer worth Da Fei's pondering. In any case, the plan was to recruit more Angels and continue to expand military power, focusing currently on the most urgently needed Power Angels. Everything was aligned with catering to current development needs and gaining more prestige.

— Power Angel: Large-sized Light Spiritual Creature, Holy Hall Level 7 Soldiers, Attack 38, Defense 35, Damage 50-75, Health 400, Attack Speed 12, Mana 300, Command Value 10, Special Skills: Flying Creature, Holy Body, Resurrection, Healing, Horizontal Slash, Crushing Attack, Heavy Weapons.

These are the attributes of the Power Angel. Although its attack, defense, and damage are not much stronger than other angels, it possesses crucial combat skills—horizontal slash, crushing attack, and heavy weapons which double damage against gate mechanisms. This means while other angels can only

deal with one enemy at a time, the Power Angel's long-handled war axe can swing broadly to chop down a swath of foes.

Moreover, in terms of damage, the Power Angel's is actually not much lower than that of the Unicorn Boss. After all, the main difference between a BOSS unit and regular units lies in their health.

Now, Da Fei had Billbo consume the free potion given by the Pharmacy owner, causing Billbo's complexion to turn rosy and his spirits to lift remarkably: "Lord City Lord, I'm well-rested now, can we attack again?"

Sure enough, after taking the potion, he became adorably spirited! Da Fei laughed heartily: "Of course, we attack, giving the Demons no chance to breathe!"

Tachiusu smiled: "I will never tire of slaying Demons, I hope there will be a chance for me to show my prowess this time."

Hehe, just wait until later when the blacksmith sets those annoying materials collection missions, you'll have your chance, don't worry.

With the gates of Divine Punishment City rumbling open, Da Fei's team once again swooped down to the Despair Plain. At this moment, in Da Fei's eyes, this vast plain was swelling with prestige!

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European Union Divine Punishment City.

Royal Ark Team Captain Lancelot was in the tavern playing cards and drinking with his future Angel Hero Elda. Successfully bringing this hidden hero from the small town here was already half the battle. But it was only half, as this Angel Hero had some unpredictable aspects in her personality, and keeping her playing cards daily was still part of maintaining closeness.

Looking at the Divine Punishment City's tavern, which was more rudimentary than the one in their previous small town and even without a single customer, Elda sighed helplessly: "The Divine Punishment

War ended ten thousand years ago, and the higher-ups might have already forgotten about this place. They won't send more reinforcements, and this is a war without end. What significance do your efforts here have?"

Lancelot shook his head with a smile: "War itself is meaningless, but through this meaningless war, we can discover outstanding warriors; that's the current significance of Divine Punishment City. Hence, this place is our stairway to Heaven."

Finishing his statement, Lancelot confidently revealed his final card with a smug smile: "Miss Elda, I win again!"

Elda shook her head resignedly: "Alright, you win. Just show me your so-called significance, as I don't have much time."

Lancelot stood up tall: "I'll be out. Soon, Miss Elda will see my achievements."

At this moment, the Royal Ark Team Command Center was bustling with discussions.

Prince George expressed his concerns: "Why does this Angel Hero seem even colder here than she was in the town?"

Lancelot frowned: "It's probably related to her character. This Angel Hero seems uninterested in war, but it's fine, she hasn't outright refused. As long as our friendship is strong enough and the achievements high enough, she'll compromise."

Prince George nodded: "Although the Angel Hero is immensely valuable, since she's not a war-oriented hero, we shouldn't hold too many expectations. It's even better if we can recruit her, but there's no need to be disappointed if we can't."

Lancelot nodded in agreement: "Understood, but I will still give it my all."

Just then, Gao Wen shouted excitedly: "Got the exam certificate!"

Prince George laughed heartily: "Excellent, our fifth Round Table Knight will advance to Crusader! Now that we've gathered five people's strength, are you confident we can bring a newbie through the exam all at once?"

Lancelot smiled: "Don't worry, with us veterans here, helping the newcomers advance to Crusader will only get easier."

Gao Wen laughed: "Now that we have established the task process for obtaining the exam certificate, involving 27 side missions, 156 NPCs across six Church Towns, from now on, we just need to focus on operating these 156 NPCs. It'll be easier and more streamlined for other team members to get their exam certificates too, and soon it's not impossible to produce dozens of certificates in one day."

Prince George was overjoyed: "Excellent, from now on, let's focus all first-line team members on advancing to Crusader. With such a substantial Crusader lineup, even a total attack from the Despair Plain on the Demon King Hall is not impossible!"

Lancelot laughed: "Dominating the world is not impossible!"

Gao Wen laughed: "Alright, I've finished talking. The barrier is about to activate; take me for the test."

Lancelot laughed: "Round Table Angel Knight Order, prepare to strike!"

Bedivere and others also laughed and responded loudly: "For honor, attack!"

The gates of Divine Punishment City boomed open, and the golden barrier began to expand downhill. Under the garrison officer's admonition, Lancelot's team of 5, totaling 30 angels, charged towards the Demon Sea at Despair Plain.

angels, this was all the military force that the Royal Ark Team had painstakingly nurtured in Divine Punishment City since the server opened. From the beginning when Lancelot arrived alone in Divine Punishment City, blasting out the first Crusader with several expensive Magic Scrolls, then receiving the reward of the first Angel Soldier, and helping the second team member with their test, they had developed step by step to this scale.

Now, the initial accumulation of the Royal Ark Team was complete, and the era of snowballing fame and forces had arrived!

Just as the entire command center was sending off the angel army with great excitement, Bedivere suddenly sounded the alarm: "Not good! The enemy has heroes!"

"Heroes?" Under the big screen's switch, indeed, at the rear of the Demon Sea, there was an NPC Hell Knight hero riding a Hell Warhorse, covered in blood-colored armor! The level was unknown, the strength was unknown, but just by looking at the opponent's cool appearance, it didn't seem like a weakling.

"Not just one! There's another one behind Divine Punishment City!"

Suddenly, the entire command center erupted in noise!

Prince George spoke calmly: "How could this be? Aren't these all wild monsters? How could there be heroes?"

No matter how strong wild monsters are, they are ultimately just monsters, meant to deliver fame and experience to players. But once led by a hero, even regular first and second-level soldiers should not be underestimated. Not to mention, these Flesh Demons with the strength of level 6 soldiers within the barrier, and level 7 outside the barrier.

"Retreat!" Faced with this sudden change, Lancelot immediately decided to retreat.

And this retreat meant Gao Wen's test failed, implying that this activation of the barrier in Divine Punishment City was a waste of precious energy, and it meant that Gao Wen would face the wrath of the NPC Angel Leader. However, without clear information on the enemy's capabilities, Lancelot, as the captain, wouldn't risk his entire army. After all, individual failures meant little for the Royal Ark Team that was about to mass-produce Crusaders.

Surprisingly, the NPC garrison officer not only did not blame them but was equally puzzled: "Warriors, it's extremely rare for the Hell Race to suddenly send heroes over in nearly ten thousand years. What

exactly is going on? Is the Hell Race amassing enough power to launch a general offense against our Divine Punishment City?"

The command center was in uproar again!

George spoke in a deep voice: "It must be us triggering a story event! Could it be related to this Elda's appearance?"

Everyone shook their heads: "It doesn't seem like it, perhaps it's because our army size has grown, provoking NPC retaliation?"

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Meanwhile, when the British were puzzled, Da Fei, who had just cleared waves of enemies back and forth, was likewise exasperated!

He thought the next few monster-hunting rounds would be routine and easy, delivering fame effortlessly, but the result was that the monsters on Despair Plain were endless like the tide, even mixing in numerous elite BOSSes immune to music and illusions!

Just then, as Da Fei's Army was about to break through to the Sealing Array, Da Fei's screen suddenly flashed an alarm, and the enemy's Heroic Legion appeared, with several knights riding Hell Warhorses, looking menacing and awe-inspiring!

Heroes coming was one thing, but several at once? What Da Fei feared most was battling against heroes, and he had no choice but to abandon the nearly reached Sealing Array and decisively retreat.

At this moment, Ror solemnly said at the city gates: "Warrior, I said that our army rescuing the Thunder Angel would definitely alert the demons and provoke a re-deployment, this situation is also within expectations. Therefore, warrior, our next move must be cautious, I suggest we mainly defend and first observe the enemy heroes' movements."

So, no more fame grinding? Da Fei, extremely vexed, nodded: "Understood, we at least need to know the enemy heroes' strength."

Ror nodded: "Correct, so we must have the Angel Leader decide. So, warrior, rest for a while."

"Understood!"

Da Fei couldn't help but sigh. He had planned for the whole family to grind for Crusaders, but plans couldn't keep up with changes, and only managed to secure two Crusader slots. Well, let's give these two slots to Tachiusu and Billbo, as they can't possibly stay away from home for long. As for Anlicia, Selvia, and others, there will be plenty more opportunities, no rush.

Chapter 704: Tachiusu Shocks the Players

Just as Da Fei was entangled with the Crusader quota, a flash of golden light emerged on the square, and Lord Sazer suddenly appeared.

Ror exclaimed, "Lord Sazer, you've come!"

Lord Sazer solemnly said, "The situation has changed and I need to instruct you on a few matters. The movements of the Demon Army are unusual and it's very likely they will change their long-term battle of attrition to a forceful siege. However, as long as our barrier energy is sufficient, we have nothing to fear. The tactical guideline from now on is to focus on defense or harassment. The rest is up to you."

Ror immediately said, "My lord, I have something to report. A Warrior brought some heroes, and I took the liberty of assessing them as Crusaders ahead of time without the official exam."

Lord Sazer was slightly surprised and then realized, "Although this is against the rules, given the current severe situation, it's not entirely unreasonable. Besides, now that the battle situation has changed, we should also change the content of the exam, although I haven't figured out what the new content should be. But in my view, any hero who has the capability to get here deserves to be promoted. Alright, I'll make a special arrangement now!"

As he spoke, a burst of golden light flashed on Sazer, and then a series of System Prompts flooded the screen!

-- System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Serbia has obtained the qualifications of Intern Crusader!

-- System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Alicia has obtained the qualifications of Intern Crusader!

-- System Prompt: Your team member Tachiusu has obtained the qualifications of Intern Crusader!

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Da Fei's eyebrows jumped with joy, Is Sazer getting wise? No explanations and everyone gets promoted! But what is this Intern thing about? Da Fei hurriedly checked the attributes, and they were indeed completely the same as those of a regular Crusader! Isn't this just like that Apprentice Lieutenant role Markal had appointed him to initially?

Then, Sazer continued, "Warrior, the so-called Intern Crusader is a temporary profession issued during wartime, possessing all the rights of a formal Crusader, but it only becomes official after passing mission assessments or receiving good reviews. I don't have the assessment details yet, but I believe it won't be something that could stump a Warrior. I must now return to the machine room to take care of the energy extraction, we'll talk more later." With that, he disappeared once again.

Da Fei suddenly realized, so this Intern Crusader is an accepted method of system—get on the bus first and then make up for the ticket!

At that moment, Ror said reassuringly, "Warrior, your flexible strategy is correct, you have the Intern Crusaders, could the position of Intern Grand Crusader be far behind? Now, please rest well and wait while I observe the movements of the enemy forces before arranging the next steps."

Exactly right, how could mere Crusaders satisfy him! Da Fei nodded repeatedly, "Understood."

Now Ror climbed the city wall, watching over the movements of the Demon Army from a high vantage point, while Will in the blacksmith shop squatted on the ground, deep in meditation over a long spear. With nothing else to do, Da Fei entered the Nightmare Space through the Space Gate on the square to see the progress of the Cultural Consultant Arong's painting.

By this time, Arong had already set up several easels and canvases on the floating chessboard, surrounded by a group of beautiful Guardian Angels, vigorously painting with great spirit.

Oh wow! With beautiful women watching, no wonder he's so motivated—has he set up so many easels to paint several pieces at once?

Da Fei immediately joined the spectators, and couldn't help but exclaim, as the painting in the center was already completed—a hyper-realistic oil painting, visually identical to the current scene with various toys flying over the Hell Sea. Then the paintings next to it depicted a swarm of Angels dancing above the Hell Sea, a picturesque island on the Hell Sea, a Cloud Castle floating above the Hell Sea, and several other fantasy themed works like the giant angel beasts on the chessboard.

So, NPCs are capable of creating too! This AI is indeed extraordinary.

When Arong saw Da Fei arrive, he smiled confidently, "Lord City Lord, here you are. Take a look, how are these paintings? I even have a title for them: 'Heaven in Hell.'"

Good grief, confidence for what! What differentiates this from a camera if it's just the same as photography? Do you think I've never seen world-famous paintings? How many angels or goddesses in famous paintings are clothed? Forget it, never expect to create an epic masterpiece and become famous.

Da Fei coughed and said, "It's still a bit conservative, lacking a bold imagination. The key is, it needs to resonate with most children."

Arong hesitated, "Let me think it over more carefully..." lost in thought.

Think what! The trick is curves, beauty, and less clothing! Well, now's not the time to point this out with so many angels around, better guide him slowly later.

Da Fei then asked, "How is the charging effect of the Nightmare Crystal now?"

Arong came back to reality and quickly took out the crystal, "My lord, please see."

Da Fei looked over, and the crystal currently stored 190 points of Nightmare Power. 190 points? Da Fei rubbed his eyes and looked again, indeed, it was 190 points!

Da Fei was startled, "This crystal is recharging too slowly, isn't it?"

The crystal has a total of 1000 points, with 850 points used for transporting troops and families, leaving only 150 points. Now, only 40 points have been added overnight, which means it would take at least two to three days in real time to reach the requirement to transport the Ancient Tree Nasir. What's the use then!

At that moment, Da Fei's Nightmare Fuzzy Bear responded, "Because the space lost the guidance of Nightmare Morpheus, the Nightmare Power in the space has weakened, meaning there are fewer children having nightmares, and the master should have noticed that the number of monsters in the space has greatly decreased."

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched, "Then what should I do?"

The Fuzzy Bear answered, "Of course, follow the master's plan; find a way to manage the Nightmare Space."

In the end, opening a school immediately is essential; otherwise, not to mention transporting the troops, even earning back the energy for self-transportation would be impossible. Plus, there's a break before the siege, so there should be enough time to handle this.

Da Fei immediately said, "Mr. Arong, can these paintings now be used as textbook examples?"

Arong sighed, "That depends on the quality of the students."

Da Fei nodded, "The quality of the students is absolutely no problem, I'll take you to Swamp Village to meet them, let's go back and start a school now!"

Arong was overjoyed, "Excellent, Lord City Lord, I've been dreaming of this moment!"

Da Fei chuckled, "From now on, you're only allowed to dream about this place, nowhere else."

Arong laughed, "Daytime thoughts lead to nighttime dreams, as long as the students and I fully immerse ourselves in this space, we're likely to dream about it."

Da Fei smiled, "That's exactly the effect I want!"

Arong then began to pack his bags and canvases, waving goodbye to the surrounding angel beauties. As for Da Fei, he started studying the use of the Nightmare Crystal for logging out. Forget it, using it would definitely consume the power of nightmares, this is damn sure a two-way charge, too rich for my blood, I'm sticking with the teleportation array.

As for Arong not being a hero, it doesn't matter, I've got a legion transmission quota with a Command Value of 500, I'll just treat him as a soldier to bring back. Since we are going back, it's essential for Alicia to pilot the ship. As an Intern Knight, she has all the privileges of an official Crusader to use the teleportation array.

As for the Nightmare Crystal, better not carry it on me, leave it here to recharge quickly, I'll delegate this task to Serbia or Elena, they can stay behind.

While Da Fei was arranging these matters, Tachiusu asked, "Lord City Lord, are you going back?"

Da Fei smiled, "Yes, just a short trip back, I'll return immediately after arranging things in Swamp Village."

Tachiusu oh-ed, "I'd like to go back too, I've been away from home for too long and I'm worried."

Billbo also hurriedly said, "Lord, Lord City Lord, I—I also wish to go back briefly, I need to reassure my grandfather!"

Da Fei was stunned! Damn, how can we achieve great things with such homesickness? But since Tachiusu is a clan leader and neither a vice hero of mine nor officially my subordinate's subordinate, I must follow their wishes, otherwise it would reduce friendliness!

Da Fei could only chuckle dryly, "Alright, let's go back to prepare some clothes and luggage and then return."

Billbo excitedly said, "Yes, Lord City Lord! This time I go back, I must let them know I'm doing something big, and afterwards, I'll work hard and won't cause trouble to Lord City Lord anymore."

Alicia laughed, "Is this your first day out that far, and you're so eager to go home and boast?"

Billbo blushed a little and chuckled sheepishly.

Da Fei, however, faced a dilemma, not for any other reason, but because Tachiusu is a rare Vine Demon beauty flying hero. Taking her through the teleportation array out in the open would surely attract a crowd of players! All my beautiful female heroes walking together probably wouldn't stir up as much sensation as her.

Alright, as intelligent heroes, I'll let them go back on their own, I don't need to accompany them, they should be able to handle this small task, otherwise how could they hold a clan leader position? That's the plan then.

With a flash of light, Da Fei's team reappeared in the backyard teleportation array of the Saint Paul Knight Order, startling all the guards on site.

A guard came forward and asked, "Respected Apprentice Grand Crusader, may I ask who these people are?"

Da Fei sighed inwardly, the players hadn't even started yet, and the NPC had already jumped the gun. Da Fei explained, "The situation in Divine Punishment City has changed, these are Intern Knights specially promoted by the Angel Leader, any issues?"

The guards then realized, "So that's it? It's hard to imagine how these sirs could have reached Divine Punishment City, please forgive our ignorance."

Can't we move through your formation without showing your credentials? But seeing their respectful treatment towards Intern Knights made Da Fei's heart skip a beat: since things were about to blow up anyway, why not try to make a show of it? Sometimes, making a big scene might lead players to think it's a normal NPC activity, and they might not even care.

Da Fei then solemnly said, "I have a favor to ask, I wonder if you could help me with something small?"

The guards were surprised, "May we know what matter the Apprentice Grand Crusader refers to?"

Da Fei solemnly said, "A small matter, could you escort these Intern Knights to the square teleportation array?"

The guards smiled, "This matter is not within our responsibilities, but we can ask a colleague to take over, would that suffice?"

Success! I'm also a man with the power to command NPC troops, full of authority! Da Fei exclaimed joyfully, "Thank you very much!"

"You're too kind, sir."

Now, under the escort of a squad of patrolling soldiers, Tachiusu, Billbo, and Arong took the lead, while Da Fei quietly stayed in the backyard waiting.

In just a while, the city channel erupted, "My God, is that the Vine Demon beauty hero?" "Come see, the Vine Demon beauty hero is on the streets!!!"

Just as expected!

Chapter 705: Bloodrose Develops Knight Order

Although Da Fei was aware that Tachiusu's appearance would undoubtedly cause a sensation, he still underestimated players' enthusiasm for a beautiful heroine. It seemed that Tachiusu had already left through the Teleportation Array, but the discussions and speculations in the city channel kept going for a long time.

Of course, it was not just because of Tachiusu, but also because of the combination of Tachiusu and Billbo, two Alien Race heroes. Both the "Flower Demon" heroine and the "Dwarf" hero were entities not heard of during the open beta, but now they had appeared escorted by the guards. Does this mean the introduction of these two races into the game? In any case, seeing the lively ongoing discussions on the city channel, Da Fei instead felt so annoyed that he dared not go out.

As soon as they left, Da Fei followed suit. Wouldn't that make everyone associate him with them? Although Da Fei has always been flamboyant and showy to display strength, showing off is not the same as exposing one's trump cards, right? For instance, Da Fei's Blood Eagle is never shown in public, whether it's PK or competition. There's no doubt that Tachiusu and Billbo, two yet-to-be officially affiliated forces, are Da Fei's trump cards.

Da Fei began to regret letting them use the Teleportation Array and even regretted letting them know he was returning. In the end, he decided to go AFK and wait; it seemed like noon was approaching anyway. He might as well call for the lunch delivery in advance. There was also just enough time to take a big dump in the restroom. Sigh, he's too busy; usually, he'd simultaneously eat breakfast while squatting.

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In the meantime, while Da Fei was AFK, Bloodrose Studio was also abuzz. As the "landlord" of Saint Paul City, Bloodrose Guild had recorded the entire process from the appearance to the departure of the "Flower Demon" hero squad.

As female players, the first instinct of the beauties from Bloodrose was: "Why is it the Knight Order again? Does the Knight Order have a lot on its plate today?"

Bloodrose Qiqi was more forthright: "Could it be related to Da Fei? He's been messing around in the Knight Order for over an hour this morning."

Bloodrose Xiaoyu was surprised: "Could everything be related to him?"

Just then, a report came from the watchmen ahead: "The Flower Demon and Dwarf heroes appeared in the Farolan World Tree Square Teleportation Array and then vanished again after teleportation."

The studio erupted into an uproar, and Bloodrose Qiqi shouted: "It's Farolan Square again, it must be Da Fei!"

Bloodrose Holy Spear commented: "It seems very likely. But as far as I know, hasn't he been at sea or in the Elf Kingdom ever since the game started? I didn't expect him to have such a high starting point upon returning to the human side."

Bloodrose Qiqi indignantly said: "Anyway, no one has seen where that rat-like guy is developing his plans, but now we have seen him, so what do we do? Surely we're not going to just watch him poach right under our noses?"

Bloodrose Holy Spear turned and asked Zhou Qing: "Big sis, should we also focus on developing the Knight Order?"

Zhou Qing frowned: "Our core members all have tasks; we can delegate it to external assistance."

Bloodrose Holy Spear smiled: "I think there are a few particularly great characters in our fan club, like Zhan Liuxing, why not them? Whoever performs well could be recruited into the Guild."

Bloodrose Xiaoyu added: "Zhan Liuxing isn't from our fan club, are they? It's their subordinate."

Bloodrose Holy Spear chuckled: "What's the difference? Men, trying to appear aloof and proud is what makes them more noticeable, and he has succeeded."

Zhou Qing smiled faintly: "Alright, let's do that."

Bloodrose Xiaoyu continued: "Why bother with all external assistance, isn't our guild featuring the flashy dual-talented Brother Junxiang? He's a newcomer and can focus on tasks for the Knight Order. As for the farm, we can easily assign it to someone, even an NPC to take care of it, right?"

Zhou Qing nodded: "Okay, you discuss it with him. Tell him there's a bonus wage for such clear guild tasks, and if he's unwilling, there's no need to force him. Oh, and pay bonuses to other external assistants willing to take up tasks according to guild standards."

Bloodrose Holy Spear nodded: "Got it. If he's willing, we can find a way to gather information from all aspects for him."

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On University Road in a rented room, with noon approaching, Little Fang, who had worked the night shift, was still fast asleep, her joy from receiving the Sandworm Mining Machine surprise from Da Fei still lingering on her drool-covered sleeping face – no doubt she'd woken up smiling in her dreams several times.

Responsible for the day shift, Little Li was simultaneously managing two machines and operating 5 accounts. These included the main accounts Fleeting Blossom, Harem Beauty, and the three smaller accounts blended into Bloodrose Guild.

Although it seemed like a hefty task, the two main accounts' primary job was to AFK at the canal excavation site, no need for leveling tasks, which was quite relaxing. The big brother's account was AFK in the leveling group of the Bloodrose Guild, quickly reaching close to level 30 in just over two days, which was also quite relaxing. In the end, it was just Blood Sea Fragrance, the two small accounts at the Monastery doing guild tasks by guarding the old nun.

The reason for taking on this tough and unreliable task was, of course, that Bloodrose Guild seemed to be stimulated by Da Fei's high-end performance and wanted to follow in exploring advanced technology. Although there has been no progress with the task so far, there still was a weekly subsidy of 500 yuan from the guild. If the task achieved a breakthrough, it wouldn't just be 500 yuan – it could even increase tenfold.

I must say that after spending just over two days at the Bloodrose Guild, Little Li deeply felt that making money at Bloodrose was extremely easy, indeed the so-called "non-profit" guild. And the more non-profit it claimed to be, the higher the income of the Bloodrose Guild was, evident from their efficient and well-placed management. Many people wanting to join the Bloodrose Guild wasn't entirely due to their lust for beauty.

Even though earning money at Bloodrose was easy, the tough part was that joining the Bloodrose Guild was extremely difficult. The biggest reason why she and Little Fang could join was probably because they rode on the coattails of that Vice President Lin. Wouldn't it be great if Little Fang hadn't fallen out with Bloodrose with her main account? Actually, as long as Little Fang could put aside her pride and cooperate with Bloodrose, everything would be easy to talk about, but it doesn't matter anymore. The feeling of playing undercover is quite good now.

Just as Little Li was spiritedly keeping track of the work progress of the sandworm excavators at the canal construction site, a message from her friend Brother Junxiang came through, undoubtedly an instruction from the guild leaders.

Little Li switched to check it out, and it was from Bloodrose Holy Spear. The mission this time was to have Brother Junxiang's character lead the attack on the Saint Paul Knight Order, with a weekly subsidy of 800 yuan for taking on the mission, and a salary to be paid depending on the situation once they achieved a breakthrough.

Little Li's heart was set alight; indeed, this was the Bloodrose style! Just by accepting the mission, there was a monthly subsidy of 3200 yuan. Where else could one earn this income from playing a game? Not to mention the monastery mission subsidy, this was certainly the income of a mid-level white-collar worker in Shendong City. And to top it off, Bloodrose was offering to buy Brother Junxiang's account's farm for 100,000 yuan; wasn't this easy money?

In any case, she accepted it, not to mention the cordial and polite attitude of Bloodrose Holy Spear which was really hard to refuse. However, thinking about it, she already had the monastery mission to contend with and no progress to speak of; taking on this knight order mission might be a bit too much? Although it was easy to get by on Bloodrose's payroll, after all, she was a "local" who would eventually get to know everyone—wouldn't it be bad to keep up the charade?

After thinking it over, Little Li decided to give Da Fei a call: "Hey! Brother, still on a business trip?"

Da Fei hurriedly replied on the other end of the phone: "Yes, yes, yes, I still have a few days out, and the situation has not been settled yet."

Little Li made an acknowledging sound: "Then Brother, is it tough? Have you had lunch?"

Da Fei laughed: "Not tough, not tough at all, it's like touring, I'm about to have lunch now. Are you guys okay?"

Little Li hesitated: "We're quite good, the guild's missions are a bit tight, but the treatment is still pretty good. If Brother is having a hard time, then—then take some rest."

Da Fei chuckled: "Definitely, definitely."

Although Little Li wanted to persuade her brother to give up his tedious and dull job to help earn some quick money playing games, on second thought, as a man, isn't it right to venture out and establish one's social network? Brother is working so hard outside, so what does it matter if she's multitasking in the games? In any case, hang in there.

Just then, Little Li suddenly remembered something and warned: "And don't mess around with prostitutes, alright! Be careful of catching diseases!"

Laughter erupted immediately on the other end of the phone!

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At that moment, Da Fei, unable to help but wryly smile, hung up the phone. What the heck, is my sister managing whether I find prostitutes now? Could Brother's high moral character really allow that? When I was poor before, I'd rather resort to masturbating than find prostitutes. Now, Brother is so busy I barely have time even for personal needs, let alone to become a "kidney warrior."

Anyway, as long as they are doing well, that's fine. Brother will 'return from his business trip' once he's settled everything here!

After finishing lunch, Da Fei logged on again, only to feel that most of the screen in front of him was dark and the entire world seemed to be shaking!

Da Fei was suddenly shocked, what on earth is this—

"Hey, hey, hey! Are you there yet or not?" At the same time, the impatient voice of Anlicia came through his ears.

It was then Da Fei realized that blocking his view was the sole of Anlicia's shoe; to be precise, she was stepping on his face and shoving him incessantly!

— Achoo! Da Fei burst out a nosebleed again! What's this about stepping on someone's face? This is it, right?! It's absolutely turning the world upside down, if you're going to step, you should at least be wearing silk stockings and a thong!

Da Fei immediately stood up: "I'm here!"

Anlicia sighed long with complete indifference: "So tell me, where are you off to? I've already asked the guards, this teleportation array can reach all the Church Cities."

Da Fei was suddenly surprised, damn! So this teleportation array is that profound? Why didn't you say so sooner! Otherwise, I wouldn't have needed Tachiusu to make such a fuss. But then, it's hard to say, maybe the Church Cities wouldn't be open to her.

Alright, let's take a detour back through this Holy Court teleportation array, otherwise if Brother suddenly appeared at the Knight Order it would cause another sensation and crowd. It's really tiring being a celebrity.

Da Fei opened the map, picked a Church Town just a bridge away from the big city, and then with Anlicia proceeded through teleportation transfers, finally returning to Radiant City without causing too much of a commotion.

When Da Fei returned to Radiant City, Tachiusu, Billbo, Arong, and others were waiting at the dock playing cards.

Da Fei chuckled in surprise, realizing that even poker had its uses here. He smiled and greeted, "Sorry for the delay."

Arong excitedly tossed his cards aside and exclaimed, "Lord City Lord, we've been waiting for you a long time. While you were away, we did a lot of preparation work, just waiting for your approval!"

Da Fei was surprised. "I need to approve it?"

Billbo enthusiastically said, "Lord City Lord, Arong Advisor can open an art school in our village. Our village has a school too!"

Da Fei's eyebrow twitched. "Your village has a school?"

Billbo quickly replied, "Yes! Arong mentioned it, and I remembered that we do have a school. If Arong can teach there, won't that solve the problem of too many classes in the city school?"

Arong added, "So I hurried to reserve some painting supplies and beginner painting materials in the city. As long as you approve, they'll be shipped immediately!"

Oh my! Dealing with intelligent NPCs is really rewarding! Da Fei rejoiced, "Approved! And buy a few orders of candy on the way!"

Arong was delighted. "Alright, I'll handle it right away!" He said, rushing through the Teleportation Array.

Da Fei was filled with amazement. So Habbit Village also had a school? Yes, that made sense. The standard of system villages was that all facilities combined needed to be level 10, so having a school wasn't surprising. The more classes a school had, the worse the teaching quality. As long as there was a school in Habbit Village, they could focus all efforts on opening an art class, thus alleviating the city's school burden.

And even more remarkably, Arong, a dignified Kingdom Advisor, was willing to be dispatched to a remote swamp village to teach? What dedication! A true paragon! Da Fei was genuinely moved.

Da Fei touched the corner of his eye where there were no tears and continued to ask Billbo, "What other facilities does your village have?"

Billbo smiled, "There's a large cafeteria, a warehouse, a clinic, and that's it. Oh, and a blacksmith shop, but without iron, it's always been used to repair tools. Right, now there's also a dock."

A large cafeteria? What's this building? Without thinking much, Da Fei nodded. "I see. Don't worry, with me here, Habbit Village will have everything it deserves in the future."

Billbo excitedly asked, "Just like the bustling cities outside?"

"Uh..." Da Fei cleared his throat. "That will require us to work hard together!"

Billbo was invigorated. "I'll do my best! I'll definitely follow Lord City Lord's lead and work hard!"

Da Fei couldn't help but laugh heartily! Then his laughter abruptly halted. Under normal circumstances, didn't this mean a hero was practically offering themselves to be recruited by a player? But, my rule was only to recruit female heroes, so you better not be like that. Plus, you're the future village chief, and ultimately the leader of the Habbit people, practically a Legendary Hero, how could you be recruited by a player? In any case, it's all good as it is now, yes, just like this.

Anlicia, unwilling to be left out, laughed and asked, "Billbo, if you become an official Crusader this time, wouldn't you be the first Habbit to do so? You know what that means?"

Billbo was taken aback, "It means the Great Crusader is not far from me?"

"Ice Fruit!" Anlicia gave a thumbs-up, praising, "But it's not just that. If you really advanced to the Great Crusader, the Holy Court would definitely look at you, and even at your village, uh, our village, with a

new perspective. By then, the Holy Court would certainly try to win you over with rewards. What would you do then?"

Billbo without hesitation replied, "I don't know about the Holy Court. I only know Lord City Lord... and Miss Deputy City Lord!"

Oh yeah! That's the kind of talk I genuinely love to hear! Da Fei laughed even more exuberantly. "We're rolling directly with the Great Angel, the Holy Court? Don't know them!"

Billbo immediately echoed, "Right, don't know them!"

Amidst the chatter and laughter, the Teleportation Array flashed, and Arong returned with dozens of boxes of goods. So, there was nothing else to say—let's set sail!

Amidst the sky full of fireworks and children's cheers, the Flying arrived at Habbit Village.

Da Fei pointed to the lively children on the dock and laughed, "How about it, Mr. Arong? Clever enough, right?"

Arong nodded excitedly, "Indeed, they're much smarter than those soldiers, real untapped talent!"

Da Fei sighed inwardly, these NPC children were indeed incomparable to any military unit in terms of intelligence. It's just too bad, you're not a God-level painter, I feel that potential is being wasted here!

Under the Old Village Chief's welcome, the Flying docked. Billbo eagerly jumped off the ship, chattering animatedly about the day's journey, astounding the nearby little friends with his tales. Indeed, the greatest joy in life was returning home in glory and boasting!

The Old Village Chief came forward with a chuckle, "Lord City Lord, Billbo's been causing you trouble."

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Old Village Chief, this time it's my turn to trouble you. I have something important to discuss with you." He then turned and pointed at Arong, "Let me introduce, this is Arong, the Cultural Consultant of our city!"

Arong quickly bowed, "I'm but a humble Master Level painter, Arong, pleased to meet you, Village Chief!"

Billbo shouted, "Grandpa, Mr. Arong is here to teach art. In the future, our village's youth will be artistic geniuses in both art and music! Nowadays, only musicians struggle outside, working odd jobs in taverns without any social status!"

The Old Village Chief uttered an "Oh," "So that's how it is!"

Da Fei continued, "Plus, learning to paint this time is related to the construction of the Nightmare Space, and it concerns Billbo's progression to Crusader, and even the Great Crusader in the future."

The Old Village Chief was shocked, "Billbo actually progressing to Crusader? How is that possible? The Holy Court has always looked down on us Habbits!"

Billbo exclaimed, "It was a direct promotion by the Great Angel, nothing to do with the Holy Court!"

Da Fei smiled, "The thing is..."

After a detailed explanation by Da Fei, he finally clarified this grand educational plan concerning the century-long objective of Habbit Village to the Old Village Chief.

The Old Village Chief was incredibly excited, "Good! Great news! Since this is a mission from the Angel Leader, and it concerns the future of Habbit Village's children, from today, our school will cancel cooking classes and fully focus on learning art!"

Arong was overjoyed, "In my unworthiness, I will give my all to live up to this great trust!"

Da Fei was suddenly taken aback, "So the school used to teach cooking?"

The Old Village Chief laughed, "I was the teacher. It's just the classes weren't in a classroom, so the kids didn't realize they were in class. But now that Lord has opened the path to endless food sources, cooking can take a backseat."

Billbo also laughed, "Exactly, if Mr. Arong hadn't mentioned it, I would've forgotten that our village actually has a school."

Da Fei's eyelids twitched wildly in surprise—teaching without a trace, even to the point of people overlooking the existence of a school, what level had this Old Village Chief achieved? The level of "Which place's cooking school is the best, from computer programming to cooking machine operations!" Cooking is truly the Habbits' treasured heritage that must not be lost!

Da Fei hurriedly said, "Old Village Chief, right now learning art is a stopgap measure, cooking must not be abandoned. In the future, when the conditions are right, we must continue to focus on cooking, grasp both hands well, and both hands must be strong!"

Arong also agreed, "Correct, an upscale gourmet is an even more upscale artist. We need to ensure every young Habbit that ventures out is stunningly remarkable!"

Anlicia exclaimed anxiously, "Please, stop! I can't cook or paint, and I'm no high stature!"

Billbo hastily interjected, "You're the noblest Miss Deputy City Lord!"

The Old Village Chief laughed wholeheartedly, "Alright, since Lord City Lord is so mindful of our village's future development, I can't retire these old bones just yet. And Billbo, you have more to learn, we can't slack off."

"Got it, Grandpa!"

The Old Village Chief laughed, "Come, come, today let's welcome Mr. Arong and let him taste our village's specialties!"

Arong laughed, "I appreciate it very much."

Da Fei smiled, "By the way, let's invite all the village's children to come eat and listen. There are some key matters everyone should know about, this isn't just painting, it's dream painting!"

The Old Village Chief was elated, "Wonderful, a dream in each stroke!"

Thus, amidst laughter and chatter, Da Fei completed the most crucial plan for developing the Nightmare Space. Whether it would succeed was uncertain, but even if it failed, it would cultivate a significant number of painters and create an industry. If in fact Habbit youth were nurtured into gourmet and artistic nobility, it would indeed be a delightful surprise.

Then Da Fei took a look at the ongoing construction of the Hydra Fortress site; very satisfying. In short, another significant achievement accomplished, allowing focus to be shifted toward dealing with Divine Punishment City.

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European Union Zone, Divine Punishment City.

At this moment, a large number of Demon workers and construction machinery appeared on the Despair Plain below Divine Punishment City. They began digging trenches encircling Divine Punishment City at the former site of the Sealing Array. While trenches were useless against angels, they would undoubtedly complicate things for players who couldn't fly, as those without flying units wouldn't be able to travel far, even if they had angels.

And trenches were surely just the beginning. To address the upcoming situation, the British Royal Ark Team held a brief seminar and concluded with the most primitive yet often most effective response: human wave tactics!

Following the official strategy for getting exam certificates, the plan was to send all hundred-plus main and secondary team members into Divine Punishment City in a short time frame. This way, they could

counterattack the demons at the base of the mountain without care for sacrifices, covering the main forces with troops to secure crucial victories.

The Royal Ark Team members quickly mobilized, and their movements inevitably caught the attention of players from other countries within the European Union Zone. The stormy European Union Zone was about to witness yet another wave of upheaval.

Chapter 707: Big Brother-in-Law's New Friend

Saint Paul City Knights, the players handing over missions were as bustling as ever.

Little Li's dual-logged Junxiang was also at the Knight Order, queuing up behind other regular players waiting to get missions. For Little Li, a complete newbie who hadn't even been playing online games for a month, not falling behind regular players was already quite a feat. To get a breakthrough that surpassed regular players was really difficult. But it didn't matter, everything would be easier once Little Fang woke up or when the Guild sent some strategy guides. As for now, gradually earning NPCs' favor by taking regular missions was always the right move.

At this time, the blazing red emblem of the Bloodrose Guild above Junxiang's head was particularly eye-catching in the crowd. It immediately caused a buzz of whispers among the surrounding players.

"Hey, isn't the Bloodrose Guild supposed to be the Beauty Guild? Why would there be a guy?"

"You haven't been online these past two days, have you? Bloodrose began recruiting male players the day before yesterday, but ordinary folks can't meet their standards."

"What standards?"

"The standards of an Emperor seeking a Prince Consort, you get it?"

"Holy shit! So you're saying this Junxiang guy is impressive?"

"Damn! You're so OUT of the loop. Do you know what Junxiang's nickname is? Big Uncle!"

"Big Uncle?"

"Yeah, I heard he gifted two girls to Bloodrose and then they recruited him!"

"Hell, that's a good deal. Trade two girls for a whole bunch of them!"

"Hey hey, are the two girls he gave away his biological sisters? Are they pretty?"

"Isn't that obvious, otherwise how could he be called Big Uncle! How could ugly ones possibly get into Bloodrose?"

"Dammit, so unjust! He actually has two beautiful real sisters! Why is life so unfair, if I had beautiful real sisters I wouldn't give them away for anything! No number of girls could compare, non-biological sisters are meaningless!"

"Get lost, you sick siscon freak!"

.....

At this moment, a few players with bright and fancy armors in the crowd were watching the center of attention, Junxiang, with a cold gaze.

A player named Starrain Wind scoffed, "So this is the legendary dual-talent account? Doing missions in such a place? Utter nonsense!"

Another player named Blood Cross sneered, "Well, he's got the backing of a large guild. Even a pig would do well in his position!"

Starrain Wind retorted, "What's so great about a large guild!"

Blood Cross laughed coldly, "What do you know? Do you even understand what a large guild is? It's the kind that can shell out money to bribe game company insiders for strategy guides. Why else do you think large guilds are always so well-informed?"

Just then, another player, who was fat and also named Fat Man in the Rain, shook his head and sighed, "You know why you guys can't do well? It's because you're too arrogant, thinking you're something special and looking down on others."

The two sneered in response, "Shut up, fatty, as if you're doing any better!"

Fat Man in the Rain hummed coldly, "Now, let Fatty teach you what you should be doing at this time!"

After saying this, the fat man rubbed his face, put on a big beaming smile, and greeted Junxiang, "Brother Junxiang, hello! I'm part of the external team participating in the guild's mission. Let's add each other as friends and look out for one another."

However, Junxiang did not respond to him and continued to queue up on his own. At this time, Little Li was busy managing five accounts on two computers and was also searching for Knight Order mission information on the official website. Amidst the hustle and bustle and the noisy gathering, how could he notice someone talking to him?

Seconds passed, one after another, and Fat Man's smile began to stiffen in the wind. Not far away, Starrain Wind and Blood Cross, who were watching with amusement, chuckled coldly, "What an idiot, trying to mutually look out for each other. Does someone from a large guild need your concern?"

"Yeah, warming up your face to stick to Big Uncle's cold ass!"

After waiting about ten seconds, Fat Man repeated with a stiff smile, "Brother Junxiang, hello..."

Junxiang still remained indifferent. By now, Starrain Wind and the others were rolling on the floor laughing, "Fatty, you've really outdone yourself with that obsequious attitude, we're impressed!"

But Fat Man still didn't give up, continuing to smile and greet for the third time, "Brother Junxiang..."

At this point, even the regular players around who were just there for the show started to notice. Starrain Wind and the others finally couldn't laugh anymore, "Damn it, Fat Man, let's stay away from him, don't let others think we know him."

Just then, Junxiang finally reacted, "Ah, I'm sorry, I was looking up information just now and didn't notice!"

Fat Man finally let out a sigh of relief as if a tremendous weight had been lifted, his smile now even more radiant: "Not at all, not at all, I knew Brother Junxiang must be very busy. I was worried about troubling you!"

Junxiang smiled and said, "Sorry about that, my bad!"

— System Prompt: Player Junxiang wishes to add you as a friend. Would you like to accept?

Success! Fat Man turned around, triumphantly flipping the bird in the direction of Starrain Wind, only to realize they were gone. Where did those two dogs go?

At that moment, someone shouted from the side, "Fat Man, where are the others?"

Fat Man said with surprise, "Brother! Brother, let me introduce you, this is Brother Junxiang from the Bloodrose Guild I've just made friends with!"

Then he turned to Junxiang and introduced, "Brother Junxiang, this is our Brother Zhan Liuxing, the retired member of the National Team—"

Zhan Liuxing waved his hand to interrupt Fat Man and then reached out to Junxiang, "Nice to meet you, Fat Man told me about the mission from Bloodrose. Whatever the case, it's an essential step forward. Let's work hard together in the future!"

Junxiang hurriedly shook his hand with a bashful smile, "Sure, sure, I'll be looking forward to everyone's care in the future."

Zhan Liuxing asked with a light smile, "What's your take on your guild's mission, Brother Junxiang?"

Junxiang shook his head, "I have no clue at the moment."

Zhan Liuxing made a thoughtful noise, "A headache doesn't always have to be cured by treating the head. I do have a few immature ideas. We could go to the border battlefield to fight a few battles and gather some merit, would Brother Junxiang be interested in joining?"

Junxiang hesitated, "I don't have troops on the border, and I'm not good at fighting."

Zhan Liuxing laughed, "Who isn't weak at times? Just treat it like you're AFK in an instance leveling team; you don't need to lead any troops."

AFK in instances is Little Li's specialty, how could he refuse? So Junxiang finally relaxed, "Okay, okay, then I'll have to trouble you."

Zhan Liuxing chuckled, "No trouble at all. Maybe in the future, I'll need your help. Let's get ready to depart; I'm still waiting for two others."

At that moment, Starrain Wind cursed quietly from the corner, "Damn, is this big brother-in-law just a clueless idiot who got in through connections? Is Brother gonna drag us down in experience?"

Blood Cross sneered, "You know nothing, Brother is using the big brother-in-law's connections to climb the ranks and then crush Bloodrose, to see if each and every one of these women are 'diamond-pussy' worth a million per shot."

"Damn! Don't use your filthy thoughts to guess what Brother would do!"

"You know nothing. Else why do you think Brother would rely so much on a dead-weight like Fat Man?"

"Can't be bothered with your bullshit, Brother is waiting for us, let's go."

At this moment, the entire city channel erupted into clamor again: "It's happening again! The Flower Demon Hero and Dwarf Hero who disappeared earlier after using the Teleportation Array are back online!"

"They're visiting the Knight Order again!"

Right then, the street became noisy once more, the Flower Demon and Dwarf Heroes, who had just made a mysterious reappearance, were once again followed by a crowd of players as they entered the backyard of the Knight Order and disappeared from sight.

With the mysterious heroes appearing twice in one day, all players knew that something significant must have happened in the Knight Order.

At this time, Zhan Liuxing asked the newly acquainted Brother Junxiang with a smile, "What do you think could be the reason behind this situation?"

Junxiang cleared his throat, "It probably has something to do with Da Fei."

Zhan Liuxing's eyebrows raised slightly, "And why do you think that?"

Junxiang chuckled, "That's what everyone in the guild seems to think. Da Fei also mentioned something on TV this morning, didn't he? He was weeding the garden in the backyard of the Knight Order and got honey as a reward, and the Flower Demon is likely related to the garden, right?"

Fat Man said in surprise, "Are you saying that the garden in the backyard of the Knight Order is the home of the Flower Demon Hero?"

Junxiang said with a laugh, "I'm just guessing wildly."

Zhan Liuxing was taken aback, "It does seem to have some connection. And here I thought Da Fei was just spouting nonsense." Then he smiled lightly, "But this also shows that the Knight Order really has depth. We must hurry up. Now that everyone is here, let's set off."

Junxiang hurriedly said, "Sure, sure!"

Fat Man quickly added, "Right, Brother is correct."

Starrain Wind and Blood Cross just laughed mysteriously, not quite getting the implication.

Chapter 708: Destroying the Hell Gigantic Siege Machine

Da Fei, having finished matters in Swamp Village, continued his journey to Divine Punishment City. Of course, Tachiusu and Billbo went ahead first, while he and Anlicia followed the previous route, passing through a certain Church Town to the backyard of the Saint Paul Knight Order before reaching Divine Punishment City.

One had to admit, the independent teleportation array in Church City was both a hassle and a convenience. The deeper meanings here were undoubtedly profound, but to Da Fei, who directly entered Divine Punishment City and mixed in under the Angel Leader, the meanings of mortals were no longer worth the time to study.

When Da Fei returned to Divine Punishment City, Ror had been waiting for some time, "Warrior, the demons have started digging trenches at the foot of the mountain. Their next step will surely involve mobilizing siege machines that pose a real threat to us. We can't let them complete their deployment so easily. We must take the initiative to harass them, infiltrate their rear, and find and destroy their giant siege machines. This arduous task is entrusted to you, Warrior."

Finally, a mission! Going deep behind enemy lines was Da Fei's favorite. He nodded and said, "Leave this task to me!"

—System Prompt: You have received the Divine Punishment City Meritorious Mission "Destroy the Giant Hell Siege Machine." You have obtained the "Map of the Surrounding Area of Divine Punishment City."

—Task Hint: The location, number, and mobilization time of the Hell Siege Machines are unknown. The more machines you destroy, the more merit rewards you will receive.

Da Fei was stunned on the spot, so much was unknown?

Ror reminded, "Please note that the Angel's Wings granted by the Angel Leader can only be used near Divine Punishment City. Once you stray too far, you will lose flying ability. Also, this map was drawn many years ago and only roughly reflects the surrounding terrain. You will have to make all decisions yourself, so start preparing, Warrior."

At this point, Blacksmith Will also ran over to Da Fei, pulling out a golden shimmering space bag, "Warrior, as Crusaders, you have a high chance of acquiring spoils of war, and the giant siege machine is considered very advanced technology of the Hell Race. If you come across intact parts, please use this space bag to bring them back."

—System Prompt: You have received Blacksmith Will's collection mission "Collect Parts of the Hell Siege Machine." You have obtained the quest item "Space Bag for Storing War Machine Parts."

Da Fei raised an eyebrow, holy cow, a golden shimmering war machine space bag! No wonder the Angel Blacksmith is well-stocked! And being able to pique the Angel Blacksmith's interest means the Hell Siege Machine must be extraordinary. Is there any need to ask about the reward? Sure, taking on two missions for one task is what I love most.

Da Fei nodded, "Alright, leave it all to me!"

Will said with satisfaction, "Warrior, if you can complete this task, it shows you have the ability to delve into the depths of Hell. This means the materials to repair Titan's Grasp will be guaranteed. I'm looking forward to your performance. Well, I'll continue working busily now."

Holy cow, indeed, I have to venture deep into Hell to find the materials. The repair of this Divine Artifact is indeed troublesome.

Da Fei opened the map to inspect it, Divine Punishment City was at the center of the map, surrounded by a stony Despair Plain. Beyond the plain were lava-producing Blood Lakes, and outside the lake was a vast expanse of Hell's Volcano Group. This indicates that Divine Punishment City was situated on a plain surrounded by mountains. The outer area of the mountains on the map had a vague mark indicating the Demon King Fortress. This means there's definitely a Demon City there. So, the most likely direction for demon troop movement is from there.

In short, although much about the mission was unclear, for Da Fei, who possessed the Reconnaissance Blood Eagle, God-level Reconnaissance Technique, Phantom March, and was a Stealth Master, this mission seemed almost tailor-made for him. Time to assemble the team and prepare.

However, as this was the Hell Battlefield, the difficulty was undoubtedly beyond normal. To be safe, it was better not to bring troops on the first mission. This way, even if the team was wiped out, the losses would be minimal. Right, Selvia was still in the Nightmare Space recharging the Nightmare Crystal; I should call her out.

Da Fei arrived in the Nightmare Space where Selvia was sitting in meditation on a chessboard, while Remy was still sound asleep.

Da Fei suddenly remembered, if he called Selvia out, who would recharge the Nightmare Crystal? He then fixed his gaze on his Nightmare Plush Bear.

—System Prompt: The Nightmare is a summon unit and cannot carry items.

Damn, Fuzzy Bear can't carry equipment! For a unit to carry equipment, it at least needs to reach BOSS-level, just like the Blood Eagle with three item slots. So, it's up to the NPC Remy?

Da Fei approached Remy and called, "Remy, can you hear me?"

A nearby Guardian Angel smiled and said, "Warrior, if you have matters to convey, you can tell me and I will relay them to him once he wakes."

Oh, come on! This is a Divine Artifact, how can you relay this? Da Fei could only ask helplessly, "Could you help me hold onto this Nightmare Crystal?"

The Angel smiled, "Of course, you can be assured, Warrior."

Assure me, my foot! I'm entrusting such an important Space Divine Artifact to an NPC that's not even a subordinate, and I don't even know their name? But there's no other way now; thankfully, this is a game, and players' most trusted entities can only be NPCs.

Da Fei handed over the crystal with a bitter smile, "Alright then, I'll be counting on you."

The Angel saluted, "It's my honor to serve you, Warrior."

Da Fei sighed silently, after all, he had too few hands in the Nightmare Space to fully exploit its resources.

With nothing more to say, Da Fei left the Nightmare Space with Selvia, assembled all his heroes, and prepared for the sortie.

He then summoned the Blood Eagle for reconnaissance. The Blood Eagle circled once over the demon-infested Despair Plain, discovering nothing resembling siege machines. It then reached the fiery Blood Lake where a large number of newly sprouted Flesh Demons were emerging. Still, no siege machines were in sight.

This left Da Fei in a bind. Under normal circumstances, reaching the Blood Lake was already the flying limit of the "Angel's Wings," wasn't it? If not even there, this mission's difficulty might be beyond imagination.

Time to delve further into Hell!

At that moment, the Blood Eagle's vision caught sight of several hundred large Flesh Demons gathered around a rocky Lava Lake. So many demons concentrated in one place definitely meant something significant, so the Blood Eagle flew closer and saw a huge stone platform next to the Lava Lake.

Da Fei raised an eyebrow, what is this? There's no marker on the map! It looks like a dock? A dock on the Lava Lake? Damn, what kind of ship could possibly sail on a Lava Lake? Just then, Da Fei noticed among these Flesh Demons, there was a hero riding a Hell Warhorse!

What the heck! A hero specifically stationed as a guard, this must be a dock, right? Is he feeling cool and flashy riding his horse huh?

Da Fei suddenly remembered the achievement reward "Nightmare Space One-day Tour" he received for defeating the Divine Beast Nightmare, which also included a Nightmare mount, right?

Alright, now isn't the time to see who's cooler, Da Fei now noticed that outside the Lava Lake was a broad Lava River, stretching towards the distant mountain range, which was approximately in the direction marked as the Demon Fortress on the map.

So, surrounded by mountains and inconvenient transport, the Hell Race must have relied on "water" transport for large cargo, right?

Fine, then I'm keen to see exactly how the Hell Race conducts "water" transport.

Thus, the Blood Eagle proceeded along the Lava River. Various fiery giant beasts occasionally roared and rolled out of the river, their intimidating presence causing Da Fei's eyelids to twitch violently. Eventually, he reached the Hell's Volcano Group upstream, where dense, scorching smoke and red clouds filled the entire area, making visibility poor.

Such an ominous scene inevitably made Da Fei hesitated. Without a doubt, according to the system's usual shenanigans, this kind of obvious special terrain surely had insidious negative effects. However, since he was already there, there was no reason to turn back, especially since the Blood Eagle was a Spiritual Creature in otherworldly stealth mode, it should be less affected by the fire smoke, so he decided to venture in and take a look.

When the Blood Eagle flew into the red cloud, Da Fei's vision turned completely red, and sure enough, as expected, came the ominous messages.

—System Prompt: Your Reconnaissance Blood Eagle has entered the Volcanic Flame Zone, vision reduced by 80%, stamina decreases by 1 every 5 seconds, loses 1 health per second.

Damn! But no worries, for the Blood Eagle with God-level Reconnaissance Technique, even with an 80% vision reduction, it's still better than an ordinary person's vision. As for health and stamina, ignore it for the time being.

The Blood Eagle continued its flight through the red cloud. After flying over a few canyons, it heard uniform roars ahead, and a large cluster of red dots appeared on the radar, promising some action!

Finally, he saw it, a huge crystal-clear rowing ship docked at a giant stone platform at the canyon's edge. On the platform, hundreds of demons of various sizes were chanting loudly and carrying items.

Holy shit! Da Fei was amazed; there actually was a ship that could sail on a Lava River? Made of ceramic or crystal stone perhaps? Certainly not wood! Da Fei finally recalled the metallic assault ships like those the demons had used during the Pool of Radiance National War.

Of course, now that ship wasn't the point; the point was that the siege machine had finally been found and it was transported via the river. The question now was, how to make a move?

It seemed he could only engage in a fierce battle with that dock-guarding Hell Hero at the end point? And the Angel's Wings' flying limit was precisely there as well. But if so, I'd have to mobilize the troops for a head-on clash. Moreover, they might summon reinforcements everywhere, and if I fail, I might lose all my troops! Besides, brawling head-on obviously wasn't a guerilla harassment strategy, and I'd definitely be at a disadvantage!

Attack from the middle of the river? Damn it, the Lava River's so wide! How do I board the ship?

While pondering, Da Fei noticed in the Blood Eagle's view a slow-moving convoy on the winding mountain path. Could it be I'd ambush directly at the starting point on the mountain road?

Meanwhile, in the European Union Zone, Divine Punishment City.

The Angel Leader summoned Lancelot and the Crusader Warriors with a stern expression, "Warriors, the battle situation has changed. All signs indicate that the demons are preparing for a siege attack. Your mission is to find ways to destroy as many of their giant siege machines as possible..."

The entire Royal Ark Team Command Center was stunned! Destroy siege machines within a million-strong Demon Army? Just how powerful must a player be to accomplish this?

Chapter 709: Deep into Hell

The Blood Eagle circled among the volcanoes, capturing the arduous transport of the demon convoy in Da Fei's view. Da Fei then began to contemplate the possibility of an ambush in this location.

First, could he get here? No problem, he possessed the God-level Reconnaissance Technique and Phantom March, which allowed the entire group to be in Stealth State. By walking along the river, it should be possible to arrive, although the only annoyance was having to walk.

Moreover, he had obtained the S-grade accessory, Demon Eye, from killing the Demon Eye Governor, reducing the negative impact of mist and darkness on vision by half. This meant that in that vast expanse of volcanic ash, he could see others, whereas they couldn't see him. Furthermore, misty environments were more conducive to Stealth.

Additionally, he possessed the Six-headed Snake Recovery Ring, and the Nash's Tooth accessory that restored 1 point of life and stamina every 10 seconds, rendering the negative effects of volcanic ash on life and stamina depletion completely negligible.

So, the only remaining question was whether he could win the battle.

Now, Da Fei had clearly identified the composition of these convoys. The two-headed fire-breathing Demon Beasts, as large as elephants, were pulling the wagons, with numerous imposing goat-headed demons wielding long whips escorting them, along with a large number of Level 1 Demon Children handling miscellaneous tasks.

Seeing so many Demon Children made Da Fei feel overwhelmed. In short, this was not a convoy that his small hero team could easily defeat by themselves, especially considering this was hell. Besides, his hero team's main output was Elena, and if she encountered any accidents, such as having her Mana drained by the Demon Children, it would be quite a headache.

This meant he must bring the Forest Goddess Army there, a flying and long-range unit, supplemented by the Divine Artifact Bow's range bonus, which would be perfect for shooting down these ground units

crawling like turtles on the mountain roads. Otherwise, it would be a waste of such advantageous terrain and environment.

But if he brought troops, Da Fei had a bit of worry and reluctance. What if they failed? Damn it! Although they say that one who is merciful should not lead troops, is it really necessary to be so troubled when playing a game?

Da Fei, feeling troubled, reported his findings to Ror.

Ror, encouraged, said, "As expected of a warrior, you immediately discovered the enemy's whereabouts. Then what are you hesitating for? The enemy would absolutely not expect you to attack directly from behind!"

Da Fei, feeling conflicted, said, "But the environment there is treacherous, and the possibility of defeat is high." Speaking of which, won't you provide some martyr's compensation for players who lose troops?

Ror shook his head solemnly, "Warrior, when the rewards for winning far outweigh the sacrifices, all risks and sacrifices are worthwhile. For a place as strategically critical as the City of Divine Punishment, ordinary siege machines pose no threat. But the giant siege machines of the Hell Race can hurl tons of firestones here with massive impact. But this also means these machines are extremely valuable. Successfully damaging or even capturing them would be a huge victory for our army and a significant merit for you, the warrior!"

Da Fei couldn't help but shake his head and sigh. Compensation for troop loss doesn't align with the system's character. Even the NPCs say this, so he had to come to terms with it. After all, he had been accustomed to victories without any troop losses for too long, and had a psychological obstacle to sacrificing troops.

Da Fei finally made up his mind, "Alright, I'm ready to set off."

Ror advised, "The first wave of attack must give the enemy a major blow with all your strength and catch them off guard to achieve the greatest results. Otherwise, if the enemy is alerted and strengthens their defense, it will be more challenging for future actions."

Come on, all your strength? Are you implying that I should bring all the troops? Da Fei gritted his teeth, alright, the battle has come to this point, I'll bring the entire Flying Army!

Thus, Da Fei organized the troops on the square: a total of 200 Forest Goddesses, 1 Power Angel, 1 Authority Angel, 1 Elite Intelligence Angel, 5 Heroes, accompanied by Vine Forest Master Tamilia. The entire army was at full health and stamina, with no abnormal states.

There was nothing more to say, activating the Angel's Wings, activating Phantom March!

As Phantom March was activated, the figures of the troops on the square instantly blurred, then under Da Fei's lead, the entire army took to the sky, flying over the Despair Plain, reaching the Lava Lake land.

—System Prompt: Warning! The Angel's Wings have moved away from the City of Divine Punishment and are about to lose flying stunts, please land immediately.

It finally came to this, if only they could fly all the way to the destination! Da Fei, with a sense of loss, cautiously chose a landing spot with fewer demons. From now on, they would march along the riverbank, and this was where the real test of skill began. If the troops were discovered here or provoked into a fight, it would be extremely troublesome.

At the moment of Da Fei's landing, Da Fei, Anlicia, Selvia, Elena, and Billbo simultaneously had a red "-1" damage appear above their heads!

—System Prompt: You have entered Scorching Earth, your march speed is reduced by 50%, and your Life Value will continuously decrease.

Da Fei's frustrations reached their peak! Damn it, anyone with two feet on the ground gets hit! This is beyond troublesome, it's even more troublesome now! The health loss is not the issue; the key is that the march speed is also reduced by 50%! Not to mention how long it might take to reach those volcanoes, if his team were discovered, they wouldn't be able to escape but would have to fight to the death! Does this damned place in hell not allow players to have fun?

In the end, it was the infantry-like heroes that were slowing down the entire army! Infantry? Suddenly, Da Fei recalled his achievement of defeating the Nightmare! Didn't he have a mount? Da Fei hurriedly opened his achievement reward bar:

—Nightmare Playground One-Day Trip: Upgrade any Master-level skill to Grandmaster level and obtain a Hell Horse mount.

No more words needed, this was the critical moment for the full force assault, whatever could be used, should be used quickly!

—System Prompt: You have claimed your Nightmare Playground One-Day Trip reward, you obtained the A-level strategic item "Hell Horse Reins," and you have gained the opportunity to upgrade any one Master-level skill to Grandmaster level, please choose the skill to upgrade!

—Hell Horse Reins: A-level strategic item, mount, using this item allows all your vice heroes in the team to summon a Hell Horse mount, with the special skill of Fear Aura for transportation purposes. Note: Hell Horse has an additional 50% speed increase in Lava Land and an additional 50% decrease in snowy terrain.

Da Fei's eyebrows raised in delight, so this was the Hell Horse mount, which all team heroes could ride, just as all team heroes could fly with Angel's Wings! And the most crucial part was, with this, he could leap from a 50% speed reduction handicap in hell to an extra 50% speed boost on the highway, without infantry lagging behind!

Fantastic, absolutely fantastic! Haha, how damn fantastic! Angel's Wings that allow for flying, now that's truly great!

As for upgrading to a Grandmaster-level skill, there was no need to consider much. Now was the pivotal battle, and lacking maneuverability for guerrilla warfare was the issue!

—System Prompt: You have upgraded your Master-level Logistics Skill to Grandmaster-level Logistics Skill, congratulations! You have obtained Grandmaster-level Logistics Skill, increasing your march speed by 120%.

Da Fei was pleased and sighed, after many years, he finally had another Grandmaster-level skill! The essence of Grandmaster-level Logistics Skill lay in its sub-skill, "Pathfinding Master!"

—Pathfinding Master: Reduces the impact of adverse terrain on marching by 30% to 100%.

The terrain impacts the land mobility of various races accordingly. For instance, on grassy plains, any race moves at normal speed without impact, while human logistics have a skill for "homeland" allowing for an additional 20% speed increase on grass. In some extremely challenging terrains like jungles, swamps, mountains, etc., a speed reduction of 90% is possible. (Note: The 90% reduction begins after considering total speed with Logistics skill.)

The purpose of the Pathfinding Master is to minimize these negative impacts as much as possible.

And Da Fei was about to enter the mountains: if the mountains reduced the speed by 90%, Pathfinding Master could mitigate the negative impact by at least 30%, making the actual mountain speed reduction $90\% * (1 - 30\%) = 63\%$. This was a significant improvement. And the volcanic terrain was also the optimal terrain for the Hell Horse, providing a speed bonus further diminishing the terrain's adverse effects.

Da Fei immediately took out the Logistics Skill Book, clicking to learn Pathfinding Master, and then used the Hell Horse Reins. In an instant, a circle of dense dark flames rose under everyone's feet, and amid the shrill neighing, six imposing black Hell Horses appeared, instantly transforming the entire infantry hero team into cavalry!

The entire group erupted in a hubbub.

Da Fei deeply inhaled and sighed with emotion, having exactly what was needed just when he lacked it! If this were still troubling, then he might as well quit the game! Move out!

Now, Da Fei's Hero Knight Order was racing phantom-like along the riverbank in the Lava Land. The monsters encountered along the way were timely avoided thanks to Da Fei's God-level Reconnaissance Skill, and even the keen-eyed demons that sensed Da Fei's group couldn't catch up with the Grandmaster-level Logistics Skill-enhanced Hell Horse's pace. As for the small groups of demons that couldn't be bypassed, there was nothing more to say, the entire unit focused fire to eliminate them.

Da Fei couldn't imagine how troublesome it would have been if he had actually walked all the way here. But this did not mean Da Fei could relax, as the real threats were not just demons!

At this moment, a sharp and piercing sound came from the sky. Da Fei hurriedly looked up. It was a meteor blazing fiercely, passing right above him!

—Boom! A loud bang sounded not far away, and magma splashed as the entire ground beneath Da Fei trembled and roared.

That's right, this was hell. No place was safe, and there was never a moment without trouble! Who knows when a meteor could fall from the sky and hit them on the head.

And even for demons, life in hell might not be easy — the Blood Eagle ahead had discovered a new situation. A volcano erupted suddenly, with massive rocks rolling down with molten lava, blocking the path of the demon convoy, throwing it into chaos.

Da Fei's heart rejoiced, quickly activating the logistics sub-skill Rapid March to speed up. In hell, it seemed like it was a contest of who was more unlucky! Prepare yourself, because here I come!

Chapter 710: Holy Vine Ambush Plan

After more than ten minutes of marching, Da Fei's troops arrived at the smoky volcanic area without any mishaps.

— System Prompt: Your troops have entered the Volcanic Flame Zone, visibility -80%, every 5 seconds Stamina -1, every second Life -1.

The inevitable has finally arrived. Fortunately, Da Fei is equipped with the Eye of the Demon, so the impact of the volcanic smoke is far less significant than that on the Blood Eagle. Being there in person, he could clearly see the fine, soft red sandstone ground that wasn't much different from the sandy soil of deserts.

Now Da Fei finally understood why even the Demon Caravan found it so difficult to navigate through these mountains. It turns out that this volcano is a combination of three annoying terrains: lava, desert, and mountain! Such bizarre topography is probably only encountered in hell. Considering the frequent seismic eruptions of this volcanic cluster, it would be tough for demons to build any decent roads here.

At this moment, Lady Tachiusu reported: "Lord City Lord, while testing the life energy here, I detected unusual vibrations in the sand, possibly an enemy ambushing beneath it. Please be very cautious."

Da Fei was startled. To set up ambushes on such extremely challenging terrain really befits hell—it's the epitome of treachery! But does Lady Tachiusu actually possess a Divine Skill for scouting underground?

Da Fei asked, "What does testing life energy mean?"

Lady Tachiusu sighed, "It means testing whether the soil here is suitable for the Holy Vine to combat. Unfortunately, the land of Lava is greatly restrictive to the Holy Vine and Natural Magic. I am very ashamed."

Da Fei frowned, "No worries, Lady Tachiusu. Identifying underground enemies is the greatest contribution."

Lady Tachiusu nodded, and with a wave of her hand, a vine from her arm penetrated the sandy soil. Then she seriously said, "Please be cautious, my Lord. There is an enemy lurking right in front of you."

— System Prompt: Your team hero, Lady Tachiusu, has detected a lurking danger.

Then a red light blinked on Da Fei's radar. A faint red dot did appear on the hillside ahead, and it was still outside of Da Fei's visibility.

Da Fei was thoroughly impressed. This once again proved the severe limitations of reconnaissance skills that rely purely on sight.

Vice Hero Alina chuckled, "Leave it to me. The death of an enemy hidden in the soil will be much more painful once discovered, and it won't be able to escape."

Da Fei was thrilled, "Good, let's pretend we haven't noticed it and go ahead to take it down."

Da Fei's team began climbing the mountain "totally unprepared". Even though Da Fei possessed a Master-level Logistics Skill and the Pathfinding Master, the speed of the Hell Horse was still significantly reduced—the terrain was indeed formidable!

At this moment, the red dot on the radar moved towards Da Fei, its underground speed already far surpassing the Hell Horse. Needless to say, this must be something like a sandworm. Da Fei couldn't help but tense up.

It's getting closer and closer! Now within the battlefield range, within shooting range of the troops, but of course, they couldn't hit it while it was underground.

Finally, Alina made her move. The sandy patch where the red dot was located began swirling like a vortex, and rows of damage numbers "-150!" "-160!" burst forth.

— System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Alina has cast "Quicksand Technique," imposing a binding effect and additional continuous compression damage on the target!

Da Fei was shocked. Although Quicksand Technique is not a Destruction spell and doesn't benefit from Destruction Skill level enhancements, such astounding Magic Power only amounted to such little damage—what incredible Magic Resistance!

Meanwhile, a muffled roar came from the quicksand vortex, the red dot on the radar abruptly became clearer and enlarged, and a shiny black massive body surged out of the dusty sand!

There was no time to see what it was; Anlicia's bowstring sounded, and 200 ready Forest Goddesses launched their Flying Spears with a whoosh, countless damage numbers "-7!" "-8!" erupted.

Seeing these damage figures, Da Fei knew that the enemy's Defense had completely negated his Attack, just like the sandworm he encountered during the competition! But no matter, under the rotational restraint of the Quicksand Technique, the exposed monster now served as a live target, and he wanted to see just how much blood this casual hellish creature had! He wanted to measure the strength of a random monster encountered deep in hell!

Da Fei didn't have to wait long. After the Forest Goddesses' second volley, the exposed monster let out a painful scream and collapsed thunderously.

— System Prompt: Battle is over! You have killed a Volcano Demon Scorpion, gained Experience +15,000, obtained 1 Volcanic Essence of the Demon Scorpion, and your Reconnaissance Skill has collected incomplete information of the Volcano Demon Scorpion.

Da Fei hurriedly checked the information on the Demon Scorpion: Defense 190, Life 4320, special skill Ambush, other information unknown.

Da Fei was astonished, damn! No wonder it withstood two volleys from 200 Forest Goddesses plus the Magic damage from the Quicksand Technique. A regular monster with over four thousand health is far superior to those 300 to 400 health so-called level 7 Flesh Demons from Despair Plain! Even an 8th level soldier with a thousand health is nothing compared to it. Really worthy of being a creature from hell.

If even these wild monsters are so strong, could this mere squad of two hundred people take down the protected caravans? Although he has Vice Hero Alina, Alina is like a Human Cannon, not a Hell Cannon! The high Magic Defense of this Demon Scorpion was just a glimpse of that.

At this moment, Billbo excitedly said, "Lord City Lord, the skin of this Demon Scorpion is stronger than any creature in the swamp, we shouldn't let it go to waste, may I collect it?"

Da Fei was surprised, "You can collect?"

Billbo nodded, "Of course, we're always short on resources in the swamp, and collection is a skill any warrior must learn. Plus, I'm at Master Level, so it should be quick and won't take much time."

The so-called collection skill, like mining and forging, is a lifestyle skill needing practice to upgrade, which is different from hero skills as it doesn't require Skill Points, making it painfully slow to learn. Even the music, medical, and art skills taught in Da Fei's school are lifestyle skills.

At this point, Da Fei couldn't help feeling irritated. It was a critical moment for marching, how could he care about this? But since Billbo wasn't his own Vice Hero and to maintain a good relationship, he allowed him to try.

Da Fei responded, "Alright, but make it quick."

Billbo immediately pulled out a Skinning Knife from his backpack, excited, "Watch me, warriors in our swamp are always competing with giant lizards for spoils of war; if not quick, the giant lizards would snatch the corpses!" While speaking, Billbo had already rushed to the Demon Scorpion's corpse and started working.

Snatching the corpse? It was at this moment that Da Fei remembered that he could transport corpses too, yes, the Corpse Carrying Technique imparted cross-professionally by the Nasir Ancient Tree!

Corpse Carrying Technique? Da Fei's heart skipped a beat, he hurriedly asked Lady Tachiusu, "Miss Tachiusu, I recall that your ultimate move, Vine Jungle, can be triggered by corpses, right?"

Lady Tachiusu nodded, "Yes, I can parasite ordinary vine seeds on corpses on the battlefield, and after brewing for some time, activate—"

Realizing suddenly, Lady Tachiusu exclaimed, "Lord City Lord means, using these corpses to cultivate the Holy Vine to ambush the Demon Caravan?"

Oh yeah! Now that you mention it, my plan is even clearer! Da Fei excitedly said, "Exactly, we can transport the corpses to the unavoidable route of the Demon Caravan and activate Holy Vine when they pass by!"

Miss Tamilia frowned, "That may require a lot of corpses; just one corpse may not be enough to unleash the power of Holy Vine under these conditions."

Anlicia, who had just enjoyed a great shoot, suggested, "That's easy, we just keep hunting these Demon Scorpions, clearing the path and collecting corpses!"

Da Fei was overjoyed, "Exactly! We search for more Demon Scorpions; Miss Tachiusu, is that okay?"

Miss Tachiusu smiled, "No problem, I am very honored to be able to help Lord City Lord!"

As they were speaking, the team channel pinged:

—System Prompt: Your team hero Billbo has successfully collected A-level material Demon Scorpion Skin +1.

Billbo excitedly shouted, "Let's also collect rare materials!"

At this moment, Da Fei couldn't keep his cool anymore! He actually managed to collect A-level material! This meant that if forging skills were high, equipment made from Demon Scorpion skin could reach A-level standards!

Nice! I like this! Da Fei waved his big hand excitedly, "Then let's proceed with the plan!"

For a normal profession, searching for lurking creatures in the slowly crawling gravel terrain is a very irritating task. But for Lady Tachiusu, a flying hero with the ability to detect underground, this task is much simpler. Hence, Lady Tachiusu left the team to explore the surroundings automatically, with Tamilia following for communication back and forth.

Da Fei's task was to identify, using the Blood Eagle, the best site to amass the bodies for an ambush on the Demon Caravan. Since the recent volcanic eruption blocked the caravan's passage, the caravan was busy clearing the road, giving Da Fei plenty of time for planning and deployment. Moreover, this mission wasn't about destroying all of the Demon's Siege Cars without exception; letting one or two escape wouldn't matter. The key was to ensure absolute success with a single decisive blow.

Just as Da Fei was checking and planning, Tamilia flew back to report, "Lord City Lord, the deeper into the mountainous area we go, the more lurkers there are underground, and Miss Tachiusu has already detected a particularly strong vibration from a creature, which we suspect is a Leader-level powerhouse! Miss Tachiusu asks for your decision, Lord City Lord."

A Boss-level Demon Scorpion! Da Fei exclaimed, "Does Miss Tachiusu think we can hunt this Leader-level powerhouse?"

Miss Tamilia solemnly said, "If we can ensure the power of the Holy Vine, we have a chance at winning!"

So that's how it is! Alright, Boss monsters are nutritious; then let's use regular monsters' corpses to nourish the Holy Vine to hunt the Boss monster, then transplant the Holy Vine on the Boss monster to ambush the Demon Caravan. This is like the small fish catching middle fish, and the middle fish catching big fish strategy I used when I rose to fame at sea!

Da Fei decided, "Please lead the way, Miss Tamilia!"