

## God level 731

Chapter 731: Capture the Coachman

With a grand gesture from Da Fei, the battle begins!

The Demon Wolf King once again leads seven wolves in a pouncing attack, unleashing a terrifying roar that catches the entire Demon Caravan off guard. Then, two hundred Forest Goddess archers suddenly appear on the hillside, unleashing a volley of arrows that whistle down towards the ram-headed demon guards.

At the same time, Tachiusu immediately activates her powerful skill, and a huge green Array suddenly appears under the feet of the trailer's giant beast, and thick vines burst through the ground like giant pythons, instantly entangling the giant beast of the trailer and several drivers on its back!

Yes, using the Holy Vine to ambush the drivers and the giant beast is the core of Da Fei's battle strategy. As for the other enemy troops, they are dealt with the same way as in the previous battle.

There are no surprises, no accidents; under the bombardment of Thunder Ice Bombs and arrows, and the rapid harvesting by Demon Wolves and Demon Foxes, several dozen caravan guards still couldn't fight back or even sound the alarm before being instantly killed. The other Demon Children are not worth mentioning. As for the drivers and giant beast that caused casualties and trouble for Da Fei in the last battle, they now became helpless prisoners in the Vine Jungle!

In just 10 seconds, a brief ten seconds, Da Fei's troops cleared the mobs and controlled the situation. This battle was clean and perfect!

Now, all that's left are the three drivers and the giant beast struggling and howling in the Vine Jungle; there's nothing much to say, just following the old rule: four Grandmaster Leadership Skill holders with full Stamina rush up together! The key here is the giant beast, since demons tamed it to pull carts, there's no reason it can't be tamed by us too? We'll keep trying to tame it, and if not, we'll kill it for fertilizer!

— System Prompt: You use the Master-level Leadership Skill "War Intimidation" on Hell Assault Dog, skill failed!

- System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Alicia uses the Master-level Leadership Skill "Diplomacy" on Hell Dog Tamer, skill failed!
- System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Serbia uses Master-level Leadership Skill on Hell Dog Tamer..., skill failed!
- System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Alina uses Master-level Leadership Skill on Hell Dog Tamer..., skill failed!

All attempts to tame in the first round failed!

But it doesn't matter, Da Fei's team has plenty of Stamina, and the current situation fully meets all advantageous conditions for taming. Even the wild boss Demon Wolf King was tamed by Da Fei, not to mention just a few drivers!

Da Fei clenched his teeth and said: "Continue!"

Failure, yet another failure, life slips away second by second, and as these few drivers are about to expire, Da Fei finally lost his composure! You are NPCs, right? You're not ordinary troops, are you? You have intelligence, right? Even fierce Demon Wolves cling to life; damn it, as cunning demons, wouldn't you take advantage of this situation? This is the annoying part about NPCs; they have intelligence, principles, and opinions, and heroes' skills don't necessarily work on them.

Alright, if you have principles and want to die, then go die. I'll focus on taming the cart-pulling dogs. To me, even the dogs' lives are more valuable than yours.

Da Fei then asked: "Last question, why won't you surrender? Answer me. If you don't speak, I will kill one! I want to see which stupid and unlucky demon dies first."

Well, I'm serious. The reason they might not surrender could be that the disparity in our military strength isn't obvious enough, so I'll just have to enlarge that disparity.

Just then, a driver spoke: "Ridiculous human, compared to your threats, we fear General Tasima more. It's death if we don't surrender, and death if we do. Just kill us if you want to!"

Another driver gritted his teeth and said: "Human, you won't escape General Tasima's pursuit, General Tasima will definitely avenge us!"

Da Fei was taken aback on the spot! So this was their reason for not surrendering? It seems intelligence in NPCs is beneficial, as it lets me know the reason. They firmly believe in this powerful being named Tasima, convinced that he can annihilate us, so they prefer to die heroically than dare to defy and surrender?

Now that I know the reason, it's easier to deal with. Anyway, I still have two nukes left in my Divine Power Staff. As long as Tasima is a demon, I can take him down without error! Let's stabilize them first.

Da Fei immediately said: "Well then, don't be in a rush to die. I'm not in a hurry for you to make a statement either. Just stay put honestly, and after I defeat that Tasima, you can choose to die or surrender as you wish."

"Defeat General Tasima? Just with you, a mere human?" The three drivers burst into laughter!

Oh my gosh, stop laughing, you're about to have all your blood sucked out!

Da Fei said indifferently, "Okay, since you have so much faith in that General, you might as well wait for them to come save you. Do you dare to live a little longer honestly?"

The drivers sneered coldly, "We're not even afraid of death, why would we fear living? We couldn't ask for more!"

Very well, at the end of the day, who doesn't want to survive? Da Fei nodded, "Alright, then please bear with it and don't make any moves. Don't let this giant beast act recklessly, otherwise you'll die in a way too unlike a Demon."

The three drivers were momentarily stunned: "What do you mean by 'too unlike a Demon'?"

Da Fei chuckled, "Because I've never seen such a stupid Demon!"

The three drivers' expressions darkened: "You'll regret this!"

Just then, a System Prompt beeped:

—System Prompt: Congratulations! You have successfully persuaded the enemy to give up resistance. You have comprehended the Leadership Skill's hidden sub-skill "Negotiation Expert"!

—Negotiation Expert: Greatly enhances the success rate of Bargaining Skill and diplomacy.

—System Prompt: Battle concluded! You gain Experience +112,600, Gold Coins +8,500, and discovered a large spoils of war "Hell Giant Siege Machine Component"!

The battle ended, and the whole army cheered!

Da Fei's jaw dropped in surprise! Negotiation Expert! Isn't this the same skill that Deirdre comprehended when she successfully bargained with the Mage Academy's Blue Fatty over the sale of Demon Eye Skin? Damn it, I just had a few words with these mere drivers and I've comprehended it? Indeed, giving up resistance doesn't mean surrendering, but it's still a successful change of the enemy's attitude—a docile prisoner is always better than a foe fighting to the death.

Hahaha! I'm thrilled! With my four additional Grandmaster skills and the newly comprehended "Negotiation Expert," isn't recruiting monsters going to be ridiculously easy from now on?

However, as thrilling as it is, the opponent, being an intelligent NPC, doesn't follow the surrender rules and refuses to surrender! Although resistance was dropped, the opponent still appears as a hostile red name, so the situation is still very pessimistic.

With such significant progress in the battle, it's time to write to Divine Punishment City for assistance, starting with obtaining a Legion Transmission Scroll. It's about achieving results first and then asking for subsidies. If there's no performance to show, talking won't help.

Even if I've achieved some results, I might not get the scroll, so I won't say anything. I won't recruit any drivers or confront General Tasima directly; I'll just burn down the convoy, collect the components, complete the mission, and then leave. That'll save me some trouble.

So Da Fei once again had the whole army gather bodies and clean up the battlefield to prepare for the next ambush. Then he called Alicia forward: "Prepare to write a letter to Miss Ror!"

"Write a letter? Great!" Alicia, overjoyed, immediately took out her stationery folder with enthusiasm.

Damn, typical! Da Fei said, "Just write, 'Respected Lord Ror, our forces have destroyed one transport vehicle on the front lines and have taken control of another transport vehicle along with its three drivers and one giant beast. I propose to transport these goods back to Divine Punishment City for assembly. This would allow us to attack from a higher position, shoot farther, and effectively counter the Demon's siege. It's crucial for our army's long-term defense. At the moment, I urgently need a Legion Transmission Scroll to return to the city. Please provide it at your earliest convenience. Additionally, we have also received threats from General Tasima. If Lord Ror doesn't have a way to deal with him, our forces will try to avoid confrontation...'"

Eventually, a verbose, eagerly written letter was completed, then packaged with a war machine carrying 14 parts to prepare for presenting a request for reward upon returning to the city.

After preparations, the Blood Eagle once again soared high into the sky from the volcano. When the Blood Eagle reached the Lava Blood Lake Pier, there were several more cranes on the dock, and the giant paddle ship had already finished unloading.

The Blood Eagle then reached Despair Plain and indeed saw a large team of workers installing a huge gantry—cannons were being mounted! Very good, this most likely meant my requests would be answered!

#### Chapter 732: Three Temporary Crusader's Tokens

When the Blood Eagle flew over that under-assembly Siege Machine, Da Fei realized just how tall and massive it really was; it was practically a construction tower crane for lifting high-rise buildings! No wonder it took three carts just to transport it all. If the city were hit by this crane, how long could Divine Punishment City withstand it, considering its small size? Moreover, the enemy was a whole convoy!

At this plot point, things were seriously getting intense, weren't they? The game wouldn't really let Divine Punishment City be annihilated, right? After all, it was a power not yet opened to players; it couldn't just die in its cradle, could it?

As the Blood Eagle approached Divine Punishment City, he saw from afar the anxious face of Ror, Will, and a group of Angels observing the enemy situation on the city wall. Humph, no need for you all to feel so troubled, I'm your savior!

Once the Blood Eagle entered the barrier and revealed itself, Will pointed excitedly at the Eagle: "The Warrior has returned!"

Ror was even more visibly relieved and waved eagerly at the Blood Eagle!

Ah, this feeling of being relied and trusted upon is really not bad at all! It seems like I've never experienced this feeling in real life. Da Fei shook his head with a feeling of admiration and commanded the Blood Eagle to land before Ror, while throwing out a letter and the package of war machines.

Will excitedly picked it up: "As expected, the Warrior has achieved a great victory!"

Ror was so eager that he opened the letter right away and his body trembled with excitement: "Fantastic! The Warrior's achievements have exceeded our expectations!"

Humph, knowing that I've got results, shouldn't you quickly cooperate?

Ror handed the letter over for Will and the others to read, and then excitedly said to the Blood Eagle: "Warrior, we do not have the Legion Return Scroll you requested. Due to the constantly shifting space in hell, and the High-level Demon Observers who are experts in spatial technology constantly disrupting Space Teleportation, the ordinary Legion Transmission Magic simply isn't reliable here!"

What? They don't have it! But seeing the pleased look on her face, there must be more to it, so Da Fei continued to listen.

True to the expectation, Ror continued: "But not to worry, we can create a Space Marker for you. Once the Warrior is ready, just activate the marker and we can locate you immediately. We'll then activate the enormous energy reserves of Divine Punishment City to overcome the interference, allowing us to teleport the Warrior back to the city before the Demons have any time to react. In essence, it works similarly to how Lord Sazer broke through the Space Barrier and opened up Nightmare Space. However, crafting a marker will take some time, so you must hold the front lines!"

Wahaha! After all that, isn't it just teleportation? Don't worry, I can hold my ground!

After Will finished reading the letter, he was even more excited: "Warrior, I've always been extremely interested in the Hell Race's colossal Siege Machines, and I've always wanted to obtain some components to study. I didn't expect the Warrior could actually capture an intact machine body; I'm deeply impressed!"

"Anyway, as long as we can get one cart back, I can figure out how to assemble and use it. The only reason this Siege Machine needs to be assembled from three carts' worth of components is to reach our elevation, but we may not need so many supports; from our current position, our range is sufficient to suppress all the Hell Siege Machines! Nevertheless, capturing more components and collecting more parts is still essential for repairs, should our machine be destroyed by the enemy."

Wahaha! Worthy of an Angel Level NPC, their thoughts align perfectly with mine. I like it!

At that moment, the mercenary boss Dor coldly waved the letter and said: "Aren't we all getting a bit too excited too soon? All this is predicated on the assumption that the captured Demon Drivers surrender. Without specialized drivers and beasts of burden, the Hell Cars cannot be operated."

The atmosphere instantly chilled.

Damn! Although it's unpleasant to hear, it really hits the issue I've been most worried about! Yeah, if they refuse to surrender, we can't recruit their carts, and we can't teleport the contents back, so what are we celebrating for, a watermelon?

Ror then shook his head: "Regardless, the Warrior has established such significant merit behind enemy lines, and indeed, we need a way to instantly return to town to ensure the safety of the troops' retreat. Moreover, the Warrior has contributed so much energy to Divine Punishment City, which we can

certainly use to reciprocate, so this Space Marker is very necessary. As for the surrendering Demon Drivers—"

At this point, Ror approached and fondly stroked the head of the Blood Eagle, saying warmly: "Warrior, if you can successfully bring back this cart of Siege Machines, the dire situation of Divine Punishment City could be immediately alleviated. So no matter what method you use, whether enticement or threats, you must find a way to make the Demon captives surrender!"

Ah poof! You stroke my bird's head so affectionately, can we not leave all these painful tasks to the players? You guys need to come up with some solutions, right?

Ror shook his head: "How about, we promise to give them an official title?"

Da Fei's eyebrows twitched, that's right, luring with an official position! I don't believe they'd rather face death than take the easy way out to heaven!

Will sighed: "Besides advancing to Crusader, what other titles can we bestow here?"

Ror smiled slyly: "Then just bestow the Crusader title! If word gets out, it means we have successfully unearthed believers from the Demon Camp, which is a great merit!"

Ah poof! Da Fei spat out a mouthful of blood! What's this? I've risked my life and still only an Intern Knight, and you're directly granting a Demon Driver a Crusader title, is there no justice or integrity? Wait, isn't a Crusader a Hero profession? Can it be bestowed on a regular NPC? Or is it just a title without the added hero abilities?

Reilly clapped her hands in approval: "What a great idea to unearth believers in the Demon Camp! Nice, that's a way to do it. From a lowly driver to a glorious Crusader, they will know what to do!"

Ror frowned: "We must discuss this with Lord Sazer, and as it happens, I need to see Lord Sazer to create the Space Marker. Please warrior, wait a moment. But don't worry, even if all our efforts fail, you've already completed your mission and you can return to join us in fighting the external enemy!"

Just then, a flash of golden light on the square, and Sazer appeared again: "No need to look for me, I've heard it all!"

Come on! In this teeny tiny place, you can even hear whispers, what's the fun in playing this way?

Ror quickly asked: "What does Your Excellency mean?"

Sazer sternly said: "The warrior's unconventional tactics have created unconventional merit behind enemy lines, so naturally we must also deal with everything in the war unconventionally!"

At this point, Sazer immediately pulled out a golden Treasure Bead and three silver Crusader's Tokens: "Time is of the essence. While you were talking just now, I have crafted the Space Marker. The warrior deserves energy transmission for their early contributions to Divine Punishment City, and about these three Crusader's Tokens infused with my conferring power—"

Here, Sazer shook his head: "This is a very serious violation of the rules. Let's guarantee everything with my merit and reputation. The power in the certificates will fade over time. Warrior, begin your return journey immediately! Also, prefer to retreat and try to avoid combat with enemy leaders as much as possible."

—System Prompt: You have received a "Space Marker" from Angel Leader Sazer, and three "Crusader's Tokens"!

—Space Marker: A quest item, capable of teleporting the player hero's troops back to town in the Hell Zone surrounding Divine Punishment City.

—Crusader's Token: A medal infused with the power of Angel Leader Sazer, using this medal allows you to obtain the secondary hero profession "Crusader". Non-hero units will receive the Crusader title. The certificate's effective use countdown: 3 in-game days.

Ror immediately said: "Warrior, this is the maximum support given by Lord Sazer, set out at once!"

A Crusader's Token! Da Fei was shocked! This thing is not a quest item? So in this game, you can advance to Crusader directly without using the Holy Court's Teleportation Array or even taking an exam?

That means I could sell one and allow another player to advance to Crusader while it's still valid? Holy cow! This thing is valuable! The system NPC just handed this over to me directly? Is this considered an early reward from the system, or does it imply that the later rewards will be reduced?

Holy cow! With this super valuable thing that could be worth tens of thousands, using it on three little Demons might not even be successful, wouldn't I be at a loss?!

### Chapter 733: Special Skills for Persuasion

Staring at these three non-mission Crusader's Tokens, Da Fei was instantly unsettled!

But with Da Fei's current realm and wealth, no matter how valuable these three temporary Crusader's Tokens were, he wouldn't give up the mission to sell them. It was just the thought of his entire family fighting tooth and nail only to barely become apprentices, and yet, these three measly Demon Drivers were advancing in rank with one leap—that kind of emotional contrast really made Da Fei's balls ache uncomfortably.

What was more ball-aching was that these three Demon Drivers might not even fancy the offer to join the Crusaders. Having Demons become Crusaders? Not to mention my disbelief, the Demons themselves probably couldn't believe it either, right? At the end of the day, this must be Divine Punishment City's desperate measure, right?

Fine! I'll take it as an early reward from the system. Even the usually rigid Angels can become flexible in desperate times, not to mention three crafty little Demons! Their surrender is just the first step—if I push harder, they will definitely submit!

But how do I make them submit? Recruiting them into the Crusaders doesn't seem reliable, and defeating this General Tasima guy seems even less so? Just now the Angel Leader reminded me not to engage Demon Generals, I must listen to NPCs at critical moments. With him being a General, there's no need to mention his Command Power—I have no idea how many troops he has, and even if I have the nuclear option of the Divine Power Staff, I might not get close to him and would likely be drowned by his army of troops.

Moreover, for mere insignificant Demon Drivers, who aren't peerless beauties, is it worth risking my life against a General to recruit them? Who do they think they are! It's probably them egging me on to go to my doom on purpose.

It seems even with the intelligence of these minor characters, I cannot underestimate them. Fine, I've been a minor character for many years, I'll just have to match them in a battle of the underdogs. With my Master-level Leadership Skill plus the hidden technique War Intimidation, and the newly acquired Negotiation Expert, I simply don't believe I can't outplay three drivers!

On the way back with Flying Eagle, Da Fei fell into deep thought.

During Da Fei's pondering, the third batch of the Demon Caravan entered the ambush ring. Da Fei's spirit was lifted—another delivery, haha, the feeling of breaking them one by one is so exhilarating!

Breaking them one by one? In that instant, Da Fei had another burst of inspiration!

Right, the combined smarts of three cobblers surpass that of a genius! These three Demon Drivers bolster each other's courage when together, making it hard to deal with them, but if I separate them and interrogate them one by one?

Exactly, after the police catch a gang, they question them one by one, mind games that cause distrust within the group, leading them to confess to each other—it's a common and effective interrogation method. Thinking this, Da Fei immediately came up with a plan to sow discord among them. Whether it works or not depends on how tricky this game is being.

But before that, let's take care of this batch of caravans. Tachiusu has used her big move, and the Holy Vine that was lying in ambush is still too fresh, unlikely to control the drivers and tow dogs for long, so it's time for a quick battle—direct kill! Right, I'll have to do it in front of these three to set an example, making them realize how fortunate and hard-earned their happy life is.

Da Fei then approached the three Demon Drivers guarded by Angels and warned, "Your comrades are about to enter the ambush, it's best if you don't do anything sneaky."

The three snorted coldly, falling silent.

Da Fei chuckled internally. Indeed, why would Demons care if it's not their own hide at risk? The more selfish and self-centered, the easier to sow discord!

The third batch of Demon Caravans entered the ambush ring, and this time's camouflage was even more convincing, with the tow dog that blocked the road of the second cart yawning and growling just like a real Hell Dog, even if it was only vaguely visible through the dust, the sound was unmistakable.

Well then, I'm not polite, hahaha!

Da Fei gave a big wave, and the Demon Wolf King led the pack of wolves and foxes in a dive attack, while the Holy Vine shot out beneath the carts—without any doubt, the same opening move, the same tactics, then, the same outcome!

—System Prompt: Battle ended! You gained Experience +157,500; you gained Gold Coins +13,200; you discovered large spoils of war "Hell Giant Siege Machine Component"!

The whole army cheered, while Da Fei just sighed, it's a pity the Holy Vine was too green to capture the drivers and tow dogs from this cart alive. Otherwise, it would be interesting to see if the drivers of this caravan were also stubbornly unwilling to surrender.

Okay, time for the show to go on. Da Fei approached the three drivers and said indifferently, "Did you see? I've killed them all."

The three snorted coldly, "We're waiting for you to kill us."

Da Fei nodded, "Good to know you're prepared. Now, I have good news and bad news for you. The good news is, I don't think I can defeat this General Tasima you mentioned, so I'm sure to run away before he arrives. The bad news is, you might no longer have any value—"

With that, Da Fei carefully watched their expressions, only to find that these three didn't change their faces at all? Damn, just three drivers, and they're unfazed in the face of death? Or did they not understand what "no longer having any value" meant?

So Da Fei continued, "However, there's still one important matter I need to discuss with you—"

At this point, Da Fei pointed at one of the drivers, "You, come with me!"

Thus, under the custody of a group of troops, the first driver followed Da Fei to a secluded area behind some rocks.

Da Fei took out a shimmering silver cross: "My superiors have instructed that those willing to surrender will be granted the title of Crusader! What do you think?"

The driver laughed uproariously, "Ridiculous! It's absolutely ludicrous! Bestowing a Crusader title on a Demon? This is the most laughable and absurd thing I've ever heard—"

"Shh!" Da Fei immediately gestured with his index finger and shushed him quietly, "Keep it down! I know you must find it absurd, and frankly, so do we. That's why the superiors decided to test the waters by issuing only one—meaning, only one of the three of you can survive. Have you thought this through?"

The driver kept laughing wildly: "No need to think, just kill me if you want!"

Da Fei raised his finger in approval and said, "Good, fearless of death, impervious to temptation, we really admire such talents!" Then Da Fei showed him the Space Marker, "Let me make this clear again, don't think that you Demons control this space, we can always escape at any time! In other words, the person who surrenders can safely return to our headquarters without fear of being executed. Either way, I will give each of you a chance to choose!"

Having said that, Da Fei then told Billbo, "Take him down and keep him in solitary confinement. Let him think it over by himself!"

The driver remained defiant, "No need to think, just kill me if you want!"

Da Fei put up his thumb again with a smile and praised, "Sacrificing oneself and giving chances to others, truly the selfless talent we admire most, I'm liking you more and more!"

Then, he waved his hand, "Next!"

When the second driver was brought over with a puzzled face, Da Fei repeated the same trick with the Crusader's Token, "Only one issued by the higher-ups, only one of you can survive..."

The second driver also responded with mockery and firmness, unshaken. Da Fei kept up the praise and patience and continued to have him taken away for solitary confinement. The same went for the third driver.

Right! Isolating prisoners for individual interrogations, not allowing them the chance to collaborate or conspire, puts each one of them under a huge psychological test and the immense challenge of whether or not to trust their comrades; it's a highly effective interrogation tactic. Few groups withstand this challenge.

And why did Da Fei mention only one Crusader's Token when there were clearly three? This is also an ancient and effective psychological tactic.

For instance, many businesses promote sales, like offering valuable gifts to the first 10 customers, which makes everyone rush for it, thereby naturally boosting the business's sales.

Take the famous idiom "Two Peaches Kill Three Warriors," if there was one peach per person, everyone would be content without much fuss, and the three might not even care for those pitiful peaches. The brilliance lies in having only two peaches for three people. Although peaches themselves are not a big deal, the challenge to one's pride means faces must be saved at all costs.

In short, the goal is to provoke competition, even for a pile of dung; it gains value as long as people compete for it. So, Da Fei considered that the Demons probably wouldn't even care for the Crusader title, and thus coaxing them to surrender wouldn't work well, which is why he claimed there was only one to incite rivalry! Moreover, Da Fei wanted to save the other two Crusader's Tokens. If there was time, it would be better to sell them off rather than waste them on the driver.

Now, the three drivers have been locked up separately, and Da Fei can only wait patiently. He couldn't believe that these selfish Demons would not be tempted at all. Even humans will vie for dog feces if it means saving their lives, let alone an honorary title from our army!

Seconds ticked by, and Da Fei continued to have the Demon Fox harass the caravan up front. The entire convoy was trapped in the mountains, unable to move an inch. Right, this was the desired effect; as long as the convoy behind couldn't keep up, there would be no pressure on the frontlines of Divine Punishment City. Brother could then harass in relative ease.

And while waiting, the fourth group of the caravan unwittingly entered Da Fei's ambush zone. Da Fei chuckled; this was almost too easy.

Speaking of which, Brother had just taken control of three vehicles. If these three drivers surrendered, that would be perfect to steal three vehicles and assemble a complete Siege Machine out of them! How much longer would these three drivers need to think it over? Were they really going to be stubborn until they saw the coffin?

Now there was nothing else to say but to continue dismantling the caravan below.

#### Chapter 734: The Convoy Successfully Returns to the City

In just a few short seconds, the battle, unsurprisingly, ended once again. In the narrow mountain hollow, four giant transport vehicles were already piled up. One was a wreck, and three were fully loaded.

If they continued with ambushes at this rate, it would only be a matter of time before Da Fei devoured the entire convoy behind them. Even if these three drivers didn't surrender, they could just burn all the cars and collect the parts, which would be a significant merit. By then, returning to the city to recruit soldiers wouldn't be a problem in defending against the Siege Machines under Divine Punishment City. Actually, under normal circumstances, it should be this latter method, right? With the enemy's Siege Machines destroyed so much behind, there was no reason to lose a head-on battle when going back.

Therefore, understanding this, Da Fei felt even more at ease. Once he calmed down, it struck Da Fei as the biggest waste to use the Crusader's Token on these drivers. It was fine if they didn't surrender; he could save those three Crusader's Tokens and sell them to someone else.

Ninth Heaven? That was indeed the first choice. Selling to a large guild not only guaranteed credit, but also enhanced relationships. Or perhaps sell to the Bloodrose Guild? Maybe exchange the three Crusader's Tokens for Deirdre's Banshee Contract? Would they agree to that deal? To be honest, after discovering the method to advance God-level Light Magic earlier, he did have a vague idea, which was to promote them to God-level as a trade. But now it seemed that direct transaction using the Crusader was more reliable and convenient. They had no reason to refuse.

However, there was still a problem. Once others advanced to Crusader, wouldn't they be able to come to Divine Punishment City too? He was not happy at all! And with the financial and material resources of a large guild, even if just one person could come in, surely there would be major actions, and that made him even more unhappy.

Absolutely, when expert players discover a hidden treasure land, they naturally want to keep it secret and not let anyone know. Da Fei had the same monopoly mentality. Not to mention, Da Fei had not yet established an absolute domination in developing Divine Punishment City, so he definitely didn't want other players to come in and join in the mix.

Fretful! Extremely fretful! What was even more troublesome was that Da Fei wasn't sure if the Bloodrose would bear grudges and deliberately make things difficult. After all, those ladies claimed to lack nothing and played the game based on mood, so it was impossible to use normal profit relationships to judge their actions. Maybe the more he asked for their help, the more they would stick their tails to the sky, possibly even letting the entire game world know—it was very possible that they already had a reporter ready to dampen his prestige and step on his face to rise!

Damn! The more Da Fei thought about it, the angrier he got, feeling that the Bloodrose ladies were up to no good.

Wait a minute! Fertilizer doesn't flow to others! Isn't my sister and my wife in Bloodrose? Damn it, I won't sell them—instead, I'll directly give them to Little Li and Little Fang to use, elevating them! Others coming to Divine Punishment City would make him unhappy, but having his sister and his wife come meant family reunion, and he couldn't be happier!

Right, first bolster my sister and wife's capabilities, then their status and discourse power in Bloodrose would rise. Even if they weren't aware of the situation and followed Bloodrose in making things difficult for their brother—well, this was indeed a sad story, but he wouldn't mind them and would let them know with his noble character that their brother was actually a good person.

Anyway, that's settled! So, the next step is how to hand the items to them? This matter is quite troublesome, indeed. Anyway, once the mission here is done, he'll call Little Li to check where she is doing missions and probe her a bit. Damn, it's really troublesome, he shouldn't have concealed that he was playing the game.

Just as Da Fei was pondering, the Blood Eagle Radar suddenly flashed red, and it showed a massive cluster of rapidly moving red dots! Their numbers were dense, at least several hundred!

Da Fei was shocked and stood up abruptly. This speed, this movement direction, clearly indicated Flying Creatures! Could it be General Tasima? Were all his troops Flying Soldiers? With their flying speed, there was no chance to burn the convoy and escape! Was he going to fight them? Not to mention, just their sheer number wasn't something he could contend with!

Just as Da Fei was rapidly considering his options, those hundreds of red dots suddenly stopped at a clogged section of road in front of the Blood Eagle radar, and the faint angry roar came through the volcanic ash.

They stopped! Thank heavens! It must have been a long-standing traffic jam, and the lack of timely transport alerted that General, but at least it provided Da Fei with time to retreat!

Da Fei hurriedly issued the command, "Billbo, bring the three captives over! Elena, prepare to burn the cars! Tamilia, immediately transplant the Holy Vine Seeds away! All troops gather and prepare to retreat!"

At this time, the three drivers, looking at each other, were brought to Da Fei. This was the last chance. In any case, Da Fei had already prepared for what was to come, so even if the recruitment was unsuccessful, it wouldn't be a big deal.

Da Fei sighed and said, "Gentlemen, I'm very sorry, but your General seems to have appeared, so I must retreat. Although I think you three are extremely brave, very upright, incredibly admirable, and someone I don't wish to part with, it's time to say goodbye—"

And at that moment, one of the drivers spoke, "Sir, you moved me. I've decided to follow you!"

—Oh hell! Da Fei was overjoyed to the point of sputtering! It turned out to be true—if you don't see a coffin, you won't cry—the breakthrough was achieved!

The other two drivers' faces changed drastically as they hurriedly said, "Sir, I, I, we brothers have been moved by your generosity and grace. Whether we become Crusaders or not doesn't matter, we'll all follow you!"

—System Prompt: Hell Dog Tamer Sergeant Ogis, Sergeant Omira, and Sergeant Otto wish to follow you, do you accept?

Hahaha! I knew it, from the moment you abandoned resistance; it was only a matter of time before you surrendered! Accept!

At this moment, the red names above the three of them collectively turned green!

Da Fei laughed heartily, "It's time for you to show your prowess, quickly start the vehicles, you know what to do!"

The three quickly said, "Sir, watch us!"

After saying this, the three of them climbed onto the front and back of the trailers, then cast spells on a certain handrail on the trailers, and the cars' magic arrays flashed. Da Fei's system prompt followed with a ding!

—System Prompt: Your team has acquired three special vehicles, "Hell Bearer"!

Oh yes! Da Fei laughed hysterically to the sky! This was what he had been waiting for, the key to breaking through easily in Divine Punishment City!

Now, enough said, better escape quickly before anything else happens! Da Fei immediately took out the Space Marker, "Is everyone ready?"

Tachiusu hurriedly said, "Lord City Lord, transplanting the Holy Vine requires time!"

Da Fei was suddenly startled, indeed, Tamilia was still transplanting the Holy Vine! Right, hadn't he buried eleven Holy Vines in the convoy rear that hadn't been utilized yet! What to do? Also, he still needed to explore the volcanic cavern to find that Earth Dragon! There were still many things to do, he couldn't just go back!

Da Fei quickly made a decisive decision and handed the Space Marker to Alicia, "Miss Deputy City Lord, you lead the Forest Goddess Army and convoy back to the city, then assist Lord Will in assembling Siege Machines to guard the city. Such a daunting task is yours to handle!"

Alicia raised an eyebrow, took the Space Marker without wasting words, "Alright, then I'll go ahead!"

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Alicia has left the team for an Independent Expedition, 200 members of the Forest Goddess Army, and three Hell Bearers have left your team!

Absolutely, as long as the convoy was taken back, that would be the major victory deciding the war, and the Forest Goddess, a weak, regular troop with only 35 health points, wasn't effective here and could easily be wiped out by a single Magic blast. Moreover, large teams are prone to exposure, so better take them back together.

As for why to have Alicia lead, firstly, it was to cultivate her independence, and secondly—well, it was awkward to say in front of her—it was because she likely wouldn't be much help in the following adventures. After all, for gathering resources, Billbo was a must. To control the Holy Vine, Tachiusu was a must. Heavy firepower Elena was also a must. In short, utilizing everyone's talents was what he was doing!

As Alicia activated the Space Marker, a golden light suddenly burst forth and enveloped her commanded troops. Then, a massive fluctuating Space Gate appeared above the team!

With a flash of light! Alicia's team and the convoy instantly disappeared!

Oh yes!!! Finally, at this point, Da Fei couldn't help but shout out loud! From now on, he had completed all his tasks; every extra moment he spent here was just extra profit.

And perhaps it was the massive fluctuation of the Space Gate that caught the attention of the Demon General, for hundreds of red dots on the Blood Eagle Radar immediately flew towards Da Fei's direction.

The hide-and-seek game begins!

#### Chapter 735: The Giant Dragon Beneath the Volcano

When Alicia's teleportation gate activated, the demon general's quick reaction was beyond Da Fei's imagination. Now he couldn't care about the Holy Vine, just hoping that the vine buried underground could evade the enemy's search. Da Fei's heroic group immediately fled the scene, sneaking and hiding at the base of a cliff.

There was no choice; although Da Fei's remaining demon wolf and demon fox units were flying troops, Da Fei himself was infantry that could only ride a hell horse. If he could fly, he would have run as far away as possible long ago. As it stood, he could only play hide and seek with the enemy.

A swarm of red dots roared in on the Blood Eagle radar. Only then did Da Fei see that these flying units were Blood Armor Knights riding red flying dragons, and leading them was a massive Blood Armor hero astride a red giant dragon far exceeding the size of the Demon Wolf King!

A hero! Damn it, I'm most afraid of fighting heroes! This lineup, this style—it's the legendary high-level Dragon Cavalry! No wonder those three drivers had such confidence in this general; if a fight broke out, I might get insta-killed!

Da Fei regretted not running away with Alicia. However, human thinking often has blind spots; perhaps the enemy also thought our entire army had fled, so they wouldn't search thoroughly? But the enemy isn't human; they're system NPCs! If the system is screwing with us, no matter where I hide, it won't work!

Now, the demon general flew to the scene, and his truck-sized mount sat directly above the ambush point of the Holy Vine. At this moment, Da Fei was so tense he could feel his heart pounding in his throat!

The demon general surveyed the scene, the mess driving him into a furious roar, "A bunch of trash! Send orders to deploy more troops, have each squad enhance vigilance and searches in the mountains!"

"Roar!" Hundreds of followers responded in unison, the echoes thundering through the valley like rolling thunder.

Then the blaring sound of alarm horns rose and fell, echoing throughout the mountainous area. With that, Da Fei felt things were getting serious. Did this mean that the next step was going to be a carpet search? Would there still be a chance for me to blend in and escape?

Just then, the general's troops took flight once more, heading along the road to inspect behind the convoy.

Da Fei was stunned! They just left like that? Damn it! Indeed, riding a flying dragon is like a quick survey; isn't this an opportunity?

With a sigh of relief, Da Fei hurriedly turned to Tamilia, "Let's go, let's quickly transplant the Holy Vine!"

"Understood!"

Tamilia immediately flew back to the scene to complete the work that had not been finished earlier, while Da Fei quickly pondered the next step of the plan.

Tachiusu suggested, "Lord City Lord, now that our actions have alarmed the demons, they will surely emphasize strengthened vigilance along the road, and I'm afraid there's no chance for us to transplant the eleven Holy Vines at the back."

Da Fei smiled wryly, "Then what should we do? Leave those Holy Vines in danger?"

Tachiusu shook his head, "Compared to those Holy Vines hidden underground, we're actually in more danger."

Da Fei said solemnly, "In that case, let's go to the underground tunnels where the Earth Dragon hid earlier. This way, we can avoid the general's search and maybe find the Holy Vine seed that the Earth Dragon took." Of course, the key was to see if there was a chance to eliminate that boss.

Tachiusu nodded, "No problem, I remember the location where the Earth Dragon went underground, and I can detect the underground entrance."

Before long, Tamilyia finished transplanting all the Holy Vines back into seeds. Da Fei's team immediately began a Phantom March towards the boss's previous area.

At that moment, the alarm horns throughout the mountains sounded continuously, and red dots filled the Blood Eagle radar as a dragnet-like alert began to unfold.

Da Fei's heart tightened; what Ror said was indeed correct. Once the enemy was alarmed, they would inevitably strengthen their defenses, and it was indeed high-level Sky Cavalry! However, fortunately, I had already accomplished my major objective and felt unburdened. But how long would their alert continue? Until the convoy finished transportation? Until the war ended? Whatever it was, don't mess with me. I still have 3 temporary Crusader's Tokens, and time is of the essence.

Now, the team returned to the previous Corpse Mountain Dragon Slaying Valley. Tachiusu once again extended her vine-wrapped arm into the sand to probe and said gravely, "The entrance is just ahead. The tremors from the powerful creature are very strong and regular, suggesting that the opponent's strength is extremely formidable. We must proceed cautiously."

Da Fei's heart sank. This was already the second or third time Tachiusu had warned that the boss's strength was formidable. Could it be on par with that nightmare, another God-level boss?

There was no time to think further. Under Tachiusu's direction, the team passed through the thick smoke and indeed found a large lava stone cave behind the valley boulders. The cave walls were as smooth as glass, clearly formed by volcanic lava melting the rock, and a hot wind rushed out from the cave.

Da Fei was amazed; this map really was a hidden gem! If not for the guidance of the escaping Earth Dragon, who would know there was such a large, deep cave here on a first visit?

In any case, in a place like this, the Blood Eagle had to explore first, and the team followed slowly. The Blood Eagle then discovered several paths at the junction ahead. This was clearly designed to mess with players, but it didn't matter; Tamilia could track the life imprint of the Holy Vine.

The team descended all the way without encountering a single monster. The hard, smooth glass-like cave walls essentially eliminated the possibility of collapse and ambush from underground enemies, making Da Fei's progress very smooth. The less covert the opponent was, the more confident they seemed in their own strength.

From afar, Da Fei seemed to hear the sound of muffled thunder coming from underground. Everyone's expression changed, and Da Fei had an inkling of what kind of entity they were about to face.

Finally, a red light approached, and the Blood Eagle's vision suddenly cleared. A massive underground hall rolling with magma appeared, and on the small yellow island in the center of the magma pool lay a gigantic Earth Dragon in slumber. The Earth Dragon that had escaped earlier was surprisingly struggling and gnawing on the yellow soil of that very island; it hadn't died?

The size difference between the two was at least three or four times; this was definitely the difference between a boss dragon and a regular dragon! Furthermore, the boss dragon's skin was like glazed rock, and its tail was immersed in the magma yet it slept unaffected. How could such an existence be defeated by players?

Upon closer inspection of the yellow island, Da Fei realized it was actually a sulfur mine! And this bright yellow sulfur was indeed Refined Crystal Sulfur, with purity ten times that of ordinary sulfur!

Damn it! Sure enough, a superpower guards a rich mine! Does this mean the small Earth Dragon is healing itself by eating the sulfur mine?

Da Fei quickly stopped and informed the team of the Blood Eagle's discovery ahead. The whole team was momentarily stupefied.

Tachiusu said gravely, "I originally thought the detected vibration was some sort of powerful creature moving. Now, it seems it's the heartbeat of this giant Earth Dragon. The strength of this being is definitely something we mortals cannot contend with."

Angel Alifel also said, "If it's truly such a powerful existence, even if Selvia has two opportunities to use Divine Suppression, it might not actually harm it."

Da Fei was surprised, "Isn't Divine Suppression supposed to impact its soul?"

Alifel shook her head, "After all, an Earth Dragon is not a pure demon, and this would only drive it mad. Such a powerful creature in a frenzy state is even more unimaginably dangerous."

Da Fei frowned, "Our main goal on this trip is to recover the Holy Vine from the small Earth Dragon to gather information for Tamilia's advancement. In short, we cannot provoke the large one, but we shouldn't miss the small one. Let's rest here for now and observe the developments."

"That seems to be our only choice."

Now, Da Fei's team rested and waited in the cave while Da Fei controlled the Blood Eagle to carefully observe the dragon cave and the giant dragon.

Facing this one goal he had been set to defeat from the start, Da Fei felt that all his preparations were in vain. Not to mention using the Holy Vine against the boss; now they couldn't even retrieve the Holy Vine. What was I doing here? Moreover, as a dragon cave, shouldn't treasures be piled up here, so my Blood Eagle could secretly swoop down for a grab? Yet all there was was sulfur! Could I get a break here?

At that moment, Da Fei suddenly noticed numerous small magma holes of various sizes on the cave walls and ceiling of the molten hall. Some were large enough to be a small room, while smaller ones seemed to be able to hold a person?

In an instant, Da Fei had a flash of inspiration and felt he had made a significant breakthrough, immediately falling into deep contemplation.

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European Union Zone, Divine Punishment City.

A sharp whistling sound descended from the sky, and a massive stone, blazing like a meteor, trailed long smoke as it crashed above Divine Punishment City!

Boom!!! A loud crash, a flash of golden light, successfully blocked this attack with the barrier encompassing Divine Punishment City. But it also meant that the city's energy was being successfully depleted by the Demon Race.

At this time, on the Despair Plain, the first siege machine had been successfully assembled by the demons, and they were starting to assemble the second one.

The garrison officer of Divine Punishment City, nearly roaring, shouted at Lancelot, "Warrior! Please permit me to call you a warrior once more; you have missed the best opportunity to destroy the first siege machine. How long will you wait? Must I forcefully command you to battle?"

Lancelot was sweating bullets, continually shouting in the command center, "Hurry! Hurry, hurry! The NPC is going to go mad and demote me!"

"This time, it's really here, rocket launch~~~~!!!"

At that moment, the teleportation array in the Divine Punishment Hall glowed repeatedly, and over forty members of the Royal Ark Team finally completed the entrance exam mission in a rush to reach Divine Punishment City.

Their appearance brought a huge sigh of relief to Lancelot and uplifted the spirits of all NPC angels in the city!

Lancelot finally puffed out his chest and said proudly, "Sir, now is the time for us to attack! Let our Chamber of Commerce warriors use their lives and blood to build a new Great Wall for Divine Punishment City!"

The garrison officer patted Lancelot on the shoulder with satisfaction, "Go, warrior, bravely advance into the enemy's artillery fire!"

## Chapter 736: You Forced Bro to Fight the BOSS!

Now, Da Fei gazed at the small melt caves on the walls and ceiling of the melt cave hall, each the size of a room, and inspiration struck him. Could he stand in a small melt cave to fight the BOSS?

This was called positioning. Whether a professional player or a casual player, everyone knew a common strategy in games called "positioning," where the player stood on a badass terrain, allowing them to hit the monster while making it hard for the monster to hit back. Take the BOSS Earth Dragon, for example. It might not be able to spray the melt cave ceilings over its head, thus creating a positioning spot.

As soon as the idea of positioning came up, Da Fei's mind began to race.

First, could he stand on the small melt cave? Yes! He had the climbing artifact, Cliff Walker, and Tachiusu was naturally a flying hero and could go anywhere. After using Cliff Walker to reach the positioning point, Da Fei could have Tachiusu hand the Cliff Walker over to Da Fei's Vice Hero, allowing everyone to reach the positioning spot.

Moreover, the BOSS was asleep, making climbing very safe.

In short, the first prerequisite for positioning was met, that is, they could reach the positioning point. Now, for the toughest and most critical part, how to determine the positioning spot?

Whether Da Fei's position was the positioning spot was not for Da Fei to say, it was for the BOSS to decide! Even if Elena happily blasted the BOSS a hundred times and the BOSS finally found a chance to counter spray once, Da Fei would be doomed! He could not afford the slightest mistake.

Indeed, the positioning spots detailed in various leveling and monster fighting strategies were determined by experts through repeated practice and sacrifice. Could Da Fei really settle it with one chance?

Moreover, the BOSS could also spew fire from a distance. Usually, attempting to position against a ranged monster was practically impossible; if you could hit it, it could hit you. The only hope was perhaps there was a dead angle in the BOSS's fire, not reaching overhead. But who could say for sure?

Even a cornered dog would jump over a wall. Who's to say the BOSS wouldn't jump up and spray at Da Fei?

Da Fei was immediately conflicted. It would be best not to try such unreliable things; trying would only embarrass oneself. However, not being able to fight now didn't mean he couldn't fight in the future, right? Besides, for the refined crystal sulfur beneath it, he might gather a large army to wipe it out in the near future. Therefore, studying it more and recording the terrain video was still necessary.

So, how should this BOSS be fought under normal circumstances? While it slept, should Da Fei fill the hall with troops stacked in formation, then swarm in? Only to be sprayed to death in one breath, and have the second tier, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth tier from the passage head in? How tragic that would be! Moreover, it was sleeping over a lava pool, a natural defense line that directly blocked the assault of ground troops, making it indeed tough to fight.

Speaking of which, isn't this the second Super BOSS Da Fei encountered, starting in a sleeping state, after the Hydra? Such BOSSes, besides giving players enough time for troop deployment, might also have a fatal weakness like the Hydra, right? Could it be that by constantly watching its backside, Da Fei could trigger the God-level Reconnaissance Technique's Intelligence Analysis Skill to find its weakness?

Just as Da Fei pondered, Tachiusu suddenly alerted, "Lord City Lord, there's a lot of ground shaking. A large number of troops are pursuing from the passage behind us."

Da Fei jolted with surprise, "No way, how do they know we're here?"

Tachiusu frowned, "Perhaps footprints..."

Elena sighed, "Or perhaps the scent, the Hellhound's tracking ability is incredibly strong."

Damn it! As a top-level player with God-level Reconnaissance, could Da Fei no longer enjoy guerilla warfare happily? Moreover, who would have thought that Tachiusu would be so sensitive to the ground, who could ever sneak up on her? God-level Stealth was probably useless against her, her presence was truly a great boon for the army's early warning!

So, what to do now? Since the other side already determined Da Fei's position, surely they'd pursue from all sides, adding a blockade at the entrance, wouldn't Da Fei become the fish trapped in a barrel unable to escape?

The team was full of heroes unafraid of death losing Experience, but it would be a pity for the dozen or so Tiger Wolves Da Fei recruited, plus the two Angels! Not workable, couldn't sit and wait for death.

The only place to hide now was the small melt caves on the BOSS's ceiling. Then there's no discussion needed—gotta hide in there. Da Fei refused to believe the Demon Army would risk disturbing the BOSS's sleep to catch him. If they dared, Da Fei would go all out—wake the BOSS and perish together, believe it or not?

In short, with so many melt caves, big and small, there was enough room for the Demon Wolves and Demon Foxes to reside. As for the Demon Wolf King, too big, no choices, squeeze in. Then was the hiding spot for Da Fei's whole family, Da Fei had noticed a few larger melt caves on the ceiling during his observation earlier—there it is.

So, after quickly instructing everyone, Da Fei took out the long-missed Spiderman Artifact 'Cliff Walker Backpack,' equipped it, then shot a web to the ceiling, pulled, and bounced, expertly soaring over the giant dragon's head—playing a round of aerial gymnastics. Naturally, Tachiusu flew up and down, passing down the artifact. Before long, Da Fei's team all reached the melt caves at the hall's ceiling.

From the vantage point in the melt caves, they had a clear view of the entire giant dragon below. If this were a positioning spot to attack, would that be unbelievably cool or what?

Just then, the sound of clicking footsteps came from the distant passage, indeed pursuers arrived! Da Fei's heart tightened, holding his breath and not daring to look down. As for the Blood Eagle, it was quickly reeled back, not flying anymore. In short, extreme hide-and-seek!

The footsteps got closer and slowed and softened, clearly, the Demon pursuers were also quite afraid of this sleeping giant dragon.

Then a voice came from the entrance of the hall, "Master, the prey is hiding in the holes in the wall!"

Whoa! Da Fei's heart shattered! Could there be any suspense at all? Da Fei's game of hide-and-seek had just begun and already ended in failure, discovered? Could Da Fei not enjoy playing happily? Fine, Da Fei would wake the giant dragon and perish together!

The so-called master snorted coldly, "They can't escape. Seal all exits and watch them, starve them out!"

"Yes, Master!"

Damn! Da Fei's heart shattered again, seriously sealing off, already prepared for a protracted war to starve Da Fei out, you guys were impressive! At this point, Da Fei had to admire the Demon pursuers' strength, once they caught on, his proud infiltrating abilities behind enemy lines were utterly insignificant before their powerful tracking capabilities.

Looks like this time, he had seriously overplayed. Fine, since they were doomed anyway, might as well study how to fight this BOSS before dying, if they could manage to defeat it in one attempt—great. Even in failure, it would at least prepare for future strategies.

Da Fei hesitated to provoke it, but they forced him to fight the BOSS!

#### Chapter 737: Hydra Cannon Takes the Stage

Now that Da Fei was trapped in the Melt Cave, he had no choice but to fight. The sooner he died, the sooner he could resurrect and hurry up to get rid of the three temporary Crusader's Tokens.

But the small Earth Dragon hadn't been dealt with yet; he couldn't just die for nothing, right? Oh, he had been thinking about positioning, but hadn't asked about the small Earth Dragon yet.

So Da Fei hurriedly asked Tamlilia, "What's going on with this Earth Dragon transplanted with Holy Vine Seeds? Why isn't it dying?"

Tamlilia solemnly said, "Currently, the Holy Vine is continuously absorbing the Earth Dragon's life, while the Earth Dragon constantly consumes minerals to sustain life, leading to this standoff. Once the Earth Dragon can't replenish its life, it'll die. Similarly, if the Earth Dragon manages to suppress the growth of the Holy Vine seeds, the Holy Vine will be digested by the Earth Dragon's body. However, with Lord City Lord here, the latter situation won't occur."

Da Fei nodded repeatedly in astonishment, "I see! Yes, the latter situation won't occur. So, when can we finish here?"

Tamilia shook her head, "I suggest observing a bit longer to gather more information about this situation."

Da Fei nodded, "Alright, no problem, and it gives the Holy Vine more time to absorb nutrients and grow."

Tachiusu couldn't help but exclaim, "Having such a situation occur is truly marvelous. This should be the latest discovery of the Holy Vine's uses."

Da Fei's eyelid twitched, "So, does this mean as long as we encounter powerful large creatures in the future, we can plant Holy Vine on their wounds to deal with them?"

Tamilia shook her head, "No, it must be that the Earth Dragon's body is very special and suitable for plant growth."

Elena chuckled, "I agree too. In fact, when I saw the soil-yellow flesh in the Earth Dragon's wounds, I thought of a poisonous underground spider with a moss and glowgrass-covered back. This spider consumes minerals, and its body's flesh is packed with mineral-rich soil color, making it very suitable for parasitic plants, thus camouflaging itself and luring herbivorous prey. Since the Earth Dragon consumes minerals too, it's highly likely that it supports the growth of strong parasitic plants like the Holy Vine!"

Tamilia came to a sudden realization, "So that's where Miss Elena got the idea of transplantation!"

Elena laughed, "Exactly, and given Lord City Lord has plenty of seeds, it's worth a try."

Da Fei's heart trembled, "Then, what would happen if we planted all the remaining seeds on this sleeping giant Earth Dragon? This giant dragon's outer skin has formed into rock, making it even more suitable for plant growth, right?"

Everyone was startled!

Elena cleared her throat, "This sleeping giant dragon doesn't have suitable wounds for planting."

Tachiusu said gravely, "I think the giant dragon is too powerful to be suppressed by the Holy Vine."

Tamilia also exclaimed, "Lord City Lord, though theoretically—uh, I still need to recover the Holy Vine from the small Earth Dragon to refine the theory!"

Da Fei nodded in agreement, "Okay, let's recover the small Earth Dragon first, and we can discuss it while everyone rests and waits."

Thus, some meditated, while others rested and observed. After exploring the new use of the Holy Vine, Da Fei's thoughts became more active.

In short, along with the Divine Suppression Technique and the positional technique, he had another new method to deal with bosses. Even if none of them were reliable, what if the three methods combined? That would be the legendary "Life-taking 3000," right? Surely one of them would work?

Wait a moment! Let's not discuss bosses; when I reclaim the small Earth Dragon, what method should I use? Should I just charge in with a large force? Damn! This is fighting a boss on its bed; if the small Earth Dragon shouted, "Mother, help!" it would wake the boss, and I'd be screwed!

Oh no! Does this mean I'm not even confident in taking down the small one? So what's the point? In the end, it's still about positioning, or else there's no safe way to attack. Can someone tell me which of the small and large Melt Caves has the best spot for positioning?

Speaking of which, Da Fei suddenly recalled that he still had a weapon he hadn't used. Da Fei hurriedly took out his War Machine package:

—Hydra Cannon: Divine Artifact, War Machinery, Basic Attack 20, Basic Defense 20, Basic Durability 1000, Basic Damage 1-2, Move Speed 1, Special Skill: Knockback, Piercing, Nine-Headed Wide-Angle Shooting, Self-Durability Recovery. Each level increase in War Machine Science adds +10 points to Hydra

Cannon's attack and defense, +1 point to basic damage, and increases life limit by 200 points. Can be carried by player units and equipped on Arrow Towers, ship's bow gun positions.

—Nine-Headed Wide-Angle Shooting: The Hydra Cannon has nine rotatable barrels and can load nine rounds simultaneously, capable of shooting at a 270-degree angle. It does not support "Crossbow Master" and "Crossbow Cannon Triple Shot" skills.

—Self-Durability Recovery: After the Hydra Cannon's durability depletes or gets entirely destroyed, it can recover and repair its durability on its own.

That's right; this was one of the Divine Artifact rewards Da Fei received after slaying the Divine Beast Hydra. Calculations showed that a single shot from this cannon equaled nine times the firepower of a standard crossbow cannon! Of course, because it didn't support rapid fire and took time to reload, its actual power might only be two or three times that of a standard crossbow cannon. But the key was its God-level special trait, "Nine-Headed Wide-Angle Shooting"! It could shoot at a 270-degree angle; what does that mean?

The legendary corner cannon! Yes, there indeed are some urban-combat-specific guns in movies with comically bent barrels that completely overturn urban combat concepts. I can hit you, you can't hit me; this is positioning too!

Da Fei's heart pounded wildly. It was feasible! With this corner cannon, many unsuitable positioning spots would become workable, and maybe the result would be even better! So why wait any longer? Quickly assemble the Divine Artifact Crossbow Cannon!

When Da Fei overcame the biggest positioning difficulty, his passion burned uncontrollably like a flame! As for possibly losing the crossbow cannon if he failed, Da Fei didn't even consider it. Right, since the battle had reached this point, victory was mandatory; failure was not an option!

...

European Union Zone, Divine Punishment City.

Prince George, Lancelot, and other Round Table Knights fell into deep contemplation. The first wave of launching out of the city to destroy the siege machine had ended in a near failure.

Though the advisory group's attack tactics were effectively implemented and the Royal Ark Team's new members played their cannon fodder role well, Lancelot's main force Angel Army finally succeeded in reaching under the siege machine and struggled to chop off the 10,000-durability machine components. However, Demon Hero's reinforcements retaliated promptly. To preserve his troops, Lancelot was forced to retreat with regret.

In this battle, all 40 new cannon-fodder cover members perished in the enemy lines and were now squatting in Divine Punishment City's plaza, awaiting the end of the 10-minute post-death weakness period.

Where did it go wrong? During the 10-minute wait, Prince George convened an emergency meeting for the battle strategy team.

Gao Wen sighed, "Obviously, our troop selection was flawed. We recruited mainly Blazing Angels who throw crystal spears, only the melee Power Angels have the 'Heavy Weaponry' special skill, which grants an attack bonus against siege machines and walls. If it had been Power Angels perhaps—"

Lancelot sternly interrupted, "—If the main force were melee Power Angels, we couldn't even get close to the siege machine. Our Blazing Angels' strong firepower blasted open our path; the troop type wasn't the main cause!"

Bedivere shook his head, "Things might not be that simple. I've always found it odd, why did Divine Punishment City's difficulty suddenly escalate? First, demons dispatched heroes, then siege machines? During the public test, Divine Punishment City was a place for farming reputation and accumulating angels, right? Back then, even when we had 50 players in Divine Punishment City and 500 angels, the demons didn't react so aggressively."

Gao Wen wondered, "Could it be due to Fallen Angel Elda? Ever since she appeared in Divine Punishment City, weird stuff has been happening."

Bedivere smiled wryly, "You mean to say this Fallen Angel is a demon collaborator?"

Lancelot smacked the table in anger, "Nonsense! Is this how a professional player talks?"

Prince George shook his head and sighed, "I'll have to ask our friends from the United States about what's really going on."

Lancelot urgently said, "Your Highness, you mustn't! The Americans don't want allies developing ahead of them. Perhaps our current predicament is exactly what they are pleased to see."

Prince George sighed deeply, "We cannot rule out the possibility the Americans secretly altered Divine Punishment City's setup after the public test ended."

Lancelot resolutely stated, "The difficulties are temporary. As long as we keep sending reinforcements to Divine Punishment City at this scale, we'll surely overcome the difficulties. Of course, our second and third-line members may have to make more sacrifices in lost experience and levels."

Prince George said gravely, "All sacrifices will be worth it."

Just then, a secretary came in to report, "Your Highness, the £5 million acquisition fund has been fully spent, and the gathered mission materials can now enable 116 team members to advance simultaneously."

The entire command room erupted in cheers, "116 members are enough to solve any problem!"

Prince George suppressed his heartache and energetically said, "God bless Britain!"

The Round Table Knights stood up and shouted in unison, "God bless Britain!!!"

...

Ten minutes later, Da Fei successfully assembled the Hydra Crossbow Cannon and began adjusting the direction of the cannon barrels.

Under normal circumstances, an ordinary crossbow cannon couldn't possibly bombard targets directly below at this angle, but the Hydra Crossbow Cannon could! Not only could it, but all nine snake-headed shapely barrels were uniformly pointing downward, targeting the large body of the giant dragon. Da Fei was so excited he could hardly resist firing!

#### Chapter 738: Half-Mechanical, Half-Living Entity

Now, the crossbow cannon with an exotic and resplendent design like a Hydra statue has been assembled. In the dim light of the Melt Cave, the entire statue emits a hazy and eerie dark glow. Looking at its nine snake-head barrels that can rotate flexibly, and the refractive glass beads of the scope that resemble the eyes of a chameleon, the whole team is amazed, and Da Fei is even more thrilled.

Billbo exclaimed in surprise, "Lord City Lord, I never thought a crossbow cannon could look like this; I always thought they were just like what was illustrated in the book you gave me."

Da Fei couldn't help but reflect, "The world is so vast, filled with wonders. Just like the sandworm mining machine I used to harvest timber in the Black Forest, these are not creations that mortals can craft. I don't even know what materials were used to make the parts of this crossbow cannon."

Billbo nodded and said, "Right, right, I've always been puzzled about how that mining vehicle of yours works. It's like a giant bug. My grandfather always said that vehicle is actually an animal."

Da Fei was astonished, "Old Village Chief thinks that vehicle is an animal? That can't be right; the vehicle's attributes are clearly that of a special vehicle, aren't they?"

Elena shook her head with a smile and said, "Actually, there exists in this world a kind of half-mechanical, half-life form. Whether it's the mining machine from Lord City Lord's last time or this crossbow cannon, they have both transcended the category of ordinary machinery. For instance, the mining machine needs to devour mineral crystals, while this crossbow cannon has the capability of self-healing, which are clearly characteristics of a living being. So, the Old Village Chief's words are not wrong."

Da Fei couldn't help but twitch at the thought. Half-mechanical life forms? This is another encounter with a half-life form after the Ancient Tree Fortress, which is a mix of building and life form.

Da Fei then asked in surprise, "If it's a life form, does that mean it can grow?"

Elena nodded with a solemn expression, "Of course, high-level Titans are such terrifying entities. Mechanical structure allows Titans to upgrade and modify endlessly, while the biological aspect allows Titans to evolve and grow without stint. When one growth path encounters a bottleneck, it can be overcome by developing another, with no limits or restraints. This is also the reason our Dark Elf Clan fears the Titan Species!"

Titans? That's right! Titans are essentially gods not recognized by the divine! Da Fei hurriedly asked, "Then Miss Elena, how do you think this crossbow cannon of mine can grow?"

Elena gave a bitter smile and said, "Lord City Lord, I'm sorry, I don't know. However, I've heard long ago that the Mage Academy is very proficient in researching Titan Species and Puppetry Technique. Perhaps, Lord City Lord, when you have time, you could ask your Lamp God friend at the Mage Academy."

Da Fei nodded, "Right! I'll ask when I have the chance."

Indeed, War Machine Science, although a terrifying boss slayer and a monster-clearing expert in the early game, would face a very awkward problem in the later stages: war machines do not benefit from hero attack, defense, and most skills. A Master-level crossbow cannon only has 35 Attack, and even for players with Hero Special Abilities like "Siege Master," which increases the crossbow cannon's Attack by 1 point for every 2 levels the hero gains, it becomes quite difficult to deal damage against later-stage troops of other players who have defense stats in the hundreds.

Thus, by the time of the official release's later stages, the main role of War Machine Science shifted to siege machinery like the Catapult and the First Aid Tent. This was indeed a very awkward situation for the crossbow cannon, unless players developed special crossbow cannons with greater power.

And now, Da Fei is in Hell, having already entered the late game early, and he is starting to face this awkwardness. Although the Hydra crossbow cannon is flashy and equipped with bizarre special skills, each shot's basic damage is still only 1-2, no different from an ordinary crossbow cannon!

Thus, Da Fei aimed the nine barrels at the small Earth Dragon that was frantically gnawing at the sulfur and then began to calculate the damage this shot could deal.

The damage of the crossbow cannon = Basic Damage  $\times$  Total value of hero's Basic Attribute Points. The basic damage of the Master-level crossbow cannon is 7-8; with my own attribute points total around 300 after deducting equipment bonuses, the unmodified damage for a shot would be around 2100-2400. Such damage is absolutely extraordinary in the Mortal World, but it's a pity that this is Hell.

Under the Master-level enhancement, the Hydra Crossbow Cannon could reach 80 Attack, and from the previous battle analysis, this small Earth Dragon's Defense could be as high as 200, similar to a level 2 city wall. With an Attack-Defense difference of 120, over 80% of the damage would be reduced, leaving around 450 damage per shot. Even if all nine barrels fired simultaneously, the damage would only be around 4000. It might barely suffice to take out a small hell creature, but to attempt to finish off a boss with tens of thousands of health and unknown defense would be extremely difficult.

Not to mention, the boss's outer skin had already turned into thick rock. It wouldn't be surprising if it had 500 Defense. A few hundred cannonballs in my Space Bag might not even be enough to pin down this boss. What else could be relied upon were my Luck Skill and the Ranger Demon Slayer Sub-Skill, as well as the support from the Divine Artifact Necklace Effect on the crossbow cannon's damage. However, the boss could also eat sulfur to heal when it's low on health.

The situation still looks very grim!

At this moment, Da Fei finally couldn't help but start to consider his retreat plan. This was an unreliable battle with a high chance of defeat, and what would failure mean? It would mean the players' transport vehicles and war machines—the large items you can't take with you—would all be lost. That is to say, if I lose, I would lose the Divine Artifact Crossbow Cannon with enormous potential for growth. Can I afford that loss?

And even if I use up the remaining two Divine Suppressions and all the Holy Vine Seeds, what chance do I stand to win? Not to mention there are Demons blocking the entrance. Even if I defeat the giant dragon, will the Demons allow me the time to collect Holy Vines, dismantle and pack the Crossbow Cannon, or skin and harvest? Unless I defeat the giant dragon and it drops an incredibly powerful artifact, there's no way to come out ahead. And the loss would be total if I fail!

In fact, if I maintain the status quo, even dying and going back would mean a profit, so why gamble so much on this uncertain challenge to the BOSS?

For a moment, Da Fei's mind is twisting into knots, growing more and more conflicted and frustrated. Just when Da Fei's confidence wavered, Tamilia, who had been intently observing the Earth Dragon,

spoke up: "Lord City Lord, the situation has changed! The Earth Dragon has stabilized its injury; we must take action now!"

Da Fei then snapped back to his senses! Alright, no more hesitating! Let's test the blocking effect on this small Earth Dragon. If I can't even pin down the small one, there's no need to struggle further; I might as well pack up and head home to die.

Da Fei took a deep breath, preparing to pull the trigger at the small Earth Dragon he had targeted—wait! Will starting a battle alarm the big BOSS? If it does, won't I be completely ruined?

In a split second, Da Fei hesitated once again, torn and trembling! A feeling of unease and fear towards the unknown adversary surged once more. It felt like I had missed some critical points. The hell with it, am I playing this game or not? With my current wealth and status, can I not afford to lose? I'm going all in!

— Bang! The first shot roared out! "-523!"

— System Prompt: Battle initiated! You have attacked the Volcano Earth Dragon, and your Basic Reconnaissance Sentinel "Stealth Master" skill is activated. Your troops are still in Phantom March state.

(Note: — Stealth Master: Enhances the hidden effect of your Stealth Skills with the improvement of your Profession Level. When your troops enter a combat state, there is a certain chance you will not be revealed. Prerequisite for learning: Master-level Reconnaissance Skill, Stealth Skill.)

The Earth Dragon trembled! Da Fei was also taken aback, the shot wasn't a Lucky Strike nor a Dragon Slayer Strike. The damage from the Crossbow Cannon was higher than expected—did I overestimate the defense of the Earth Dragon? Or was its defense lowered because it's now in a parasitic state?

And what does the activation of the Stealth Master skill mean? Does it mean that my troops are still in Stealth March mode? In any case, as long as the big BOSS isn't alarmed, that's good.

As Da Fei's mind raced, the attacked Earth Dragon turned and raised its head, attempting to locate its attacker. Even though Da Fei was still in Stealth State, he instinctively ducked his head back: "Everybody hide! Don't let it see you!"

This was essential—if you want to block a ranged monster, you can't let it see you! And at that moment, a red light flashed in the hall, and a giant Fireball exploded with a bang!

— System Prompt: Your 1 Volcano Demon Wolf troop was discovered by the Hell Volcano Earth Dragon, the Phantom March effect disappeared, and that Volcano Demon Wolf was attacked by the Hell Volcano Earth Dragon and died, you lost 1...

Damn! It didn't see me, but it saw my troops? Alright, rest in peace. If I end up winning, I will definitely resurrect you. The fact that the enemy didn't attack me first indicates that my first attack successfully completed the first element of safe positioning—I can see you; you can't see me! This tricky cannon positioning is really low-key!

Wait! No, it's not just the cannon being low-key. During the flash of the Fireball explosion, Da Fei suddenly realized that the Hydra Crossbow Cannon was also in a sort of fuzzy state! At first, because the light in the cave was dim, I thought the light from the cannon was dim, but it turns out it isn't—it's also affected by my Phantom March Skill and has entered Stealth State. Even though the Stealth effect is weak, this blurry appearance is indeed Stealth!

Under normal circumstances, transport vehicles and cannons like this would absolutely not be able to stealth. Isn't it peculiar?

In an instant, Da Fei immediately thought of the half-mechanical, half-lifeform we discussed before! This means—could this be the hidden property of the Divine Artifact Crossbow Cannon being a semi-lifeform? Only lifeforms can receive the leadership and attribute boosts from a hero's skills! And this also seems to explain why the damage from that one shot exceeded expectations. Could it be that the Cannon's Attack and Defense are also invisibly boosted by Hero Attributes?

Damn! At this moment, Da Fei finally deeply understood the meaning of being a semi-lifeform! Da Fei's confidence surged in that instant; perhaps I can win this battle!

### Chapter 739: The Awakening of the Dragon King

Now, the Hydra Crossbow Cannon, as a semi-living entity, received the boost from Da Fei's hero skills and entered an incomplete Stealth State. In a normal face-to-face situation, it would be easily spotted.

However, in this dim Melt Cave, snugly tucked away in a corner with its barrel peeking around the bend, it was rather sneaky and hard to detect, at least visually. The cave reeked of sulfur, likely dulling the sense of smell. As for hearing, the rumbling of the boiling Lava Pool conceals any noise the crossbow might make, and the footsteps of the Demon Army soldiers in the hallways mask its position.

In short, the Hydra Cannon had become an invisible machine that could continuously fire undetected! With proper control, the Earth Dragons would be utterly lost!

Da Fei locked onto the Earth Dragon's position through the reflective sight on the cannon barrel and pulled the trigger again! In the sight's view, the Crossbow Arrow whistled out, striking the Earth Dragon's neck—bang! "-516!"

The Earth Dragon let out a low growl, swung its head, and launched a massive Fireball into the Melt Cave ceiling!

Da Fei felt a nervous pang, thinking one of his subordinates would have to be sacrificed again!

Boom! The fireball splattered onto the cave wall, far from its target, and Da Fei sighed with relief. Luckily, it left the Earth Dragon utterly confused!

At this moment, Tamilia's invigorated voice declared, "Lord City Lord, the Holy Vine Seeds have gained the upper hand and can sprout at any time!"

Tachiusu nodded, "Indeed, the Earth Dragon is becoming mentally confused, making irrational judgments."

Da Fei was momentarily stunned; the experiment with his position wasn't complete. Was it perhaps too soon to kill it now?

Elena chuckled softly, "That's right. Miss Tamilia can control the Ancient Tree Fortress by planting the Holy Vine upon it. Why not try controlling the Earth Dragon? This might fulfill Lord City Lord's wish to recruit it earlier!"

Da Fei's heart skipped a beat—yes, he needed reinforcements for the BOSS fight. However, recruited troops weaken in Attack and lose Life Limit when recruited. The Demon Wolf got obliterated by a single cannon shot, proving this. Recruiting a weakened entity wouldn't help against the BOSS!

What would actually help?

At this moment, Da Fei remembered the battle against the Divine Beast Hydra! How was that battle won? Wasn't it through Mind Control on a brain-dead Ice Head to cause internal strife? He didn't need to recruit it, just let it remain in a mental frenzy to bite a sleeping giant dragon! Preferably targeting its vulnerable throat, replicating the bleeding effect caused by the Ice Head. This would create opportunities to use the Crossbow Cannon to target the wounds and audaciously plant the Holy Vine in its neck.

But the issue was no longer about keeping the Earth Dragon frenzied, but rather directing its bites accurately.

Da Fei said to the deputies, "Remember how we took down the Hydra? I want the Earth Dragon to attack each other. Any ideas?"

Elena, without missing a beat, replied, "That victory was due to Miss Deirdre's Dark Master-level Mind Control Magic 'Puppet Master.' Though I can perform Puppet Master Magic, the effect wouldn't match Miss Deirdre's, being a Banshee. However, it's not entirely impossible."

Tachiusu nodded, "Indeed, as long as Tamilia directs the Holy Vine to grow into the Earth Dragon's brain, it could be tricked into submission during its mental breakdown."

Elena laughed, "No, it will definitely comply. I need cooperation from Miss Tamilia."

Tamilia, surprised, asked, "Could Miss Elena explain?"

Elena solemnly replied, "When I unleash my magic, Miss Tamilia should halt the Vine's growth to lessen its pain. Should the Earth Dragon resist my magic, Miss Tamilia should resume the Vine's growth, ensuring it suffers extreme pain and naturally succumbs to my Mind Control."

Tamila nodded, "Understood. Lord City Lord, what is your directive?"

Da Fei froze on the spot! Wow! I just mentioned the start, and they immediately devised the battle plan back and forth. What remarkable intelligence! What could be more fitting than to execute this plan?

Da Fei nodded, "Excellent, very good! Proceed whenever you feel the timing is right."

Tamila nodded solemnly, "I shall begin. Miss Elena?"

Elena smiled, "Ready when you are!"

Now, Tamila began casting her Spell. The Earth Dragon's neck suddenly bulged with a large mound. It screeched in agony, rolling on the ground as a series of "-141!" "-136!" Damage Values leaped from its neck.

But it wasn't over yet; the bulge started extending toward the Earth Dragon's brain, escalating the Damage Value from the hundreds to over three hundred. Meanwhile, the Earth Dragon, with a mass comparable to a bus, returned to the sulfur mine to gnaw on sulfur.

Wow! Witnessing the Holy Vine's savageness, Da Fei cringed but couldn't look away. Watching the Earth Dragon devour sulfur, Da Fei's heart ached—it's all his sulfur!

Then Elena broke the silence, "Miss Tamila, be ready. I'm casting now!" With a commanding gesture, a black ring encircled the Earth Dragon's head! Simultaneously, Tamila halted the Holy Vine's growth, calming the bulging mound.

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Alina cast Master-level Dark Magic "Puppet Master," successfully gaining temporary control over the Hell Volcano Earth Dragon.

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Alina successfully used Dark Magic to control a powerful creature and gained information on Master-level Dark Magic!

Oh yeah! Da Fei clenched his fists in excitement! Not only did it work on the first attempt, but she also unlocked Master-level information—truly the tactics and intelligence of an Epic Hero. If the conditions are met, success is likely!

Elena laughed heartily, "Lord City Lord, shall we act?"

The final showdown had rushed upon them! He needed the unfiltered impact, not the neutered combat power that the system restricted. Yes, although smaller than the BOSS, a biting mad dog was still deadly! Go, he believed in it!

Da Fei took a deep breath, waving his hand, "Go!"

Elena's expression hardened as she waved her slender hand, and the Earth Dragon under the Black Ring roared madly, charging relentlessly at the slumbering giant dragon!

—ROAR!!!

A mighty roar resonated through the Melt Cave, and the sudden blast of hot air pinned Da Fei and his team against the cave wall. Da Fei's ears buzzed, and only flames illuminated his vision!

—System Prompt: . . . The Puppet Target Hell Volcano Earth Dragon perished. . .

—System Prompt: Your 3 Volcano Demon Wolf Army units perished from the Hell Volcano Dragon King's Dragon Breath!

—System Prompt: Your 2 Volcano Demon Wolf Army units perished from the Hell Volcano Dragon King's Dragon Breath!

—System Prompt: Your 4 Volcano Demon Fox Army units perished from the Hell Volcano Dragon King's Dragon Breath!

....

The Little Long got instantly killed! Unrestricted dragon breath engulfed all! Da Fei couldn't see anything, relying solely on system prompts to assess the situation, and at that moment, he was utterly lost! How does one combat such a BOSS!? If he wasn't conveniently positioned on the ceiling, the entire team would have been wiped out in an instant!

Da Fei regretted it intensely. This place was Hell, with even small beasts exceeding the standards of the surface world. Here, the BOSS was a godly entity! Using mortal tactics against a divine BOSS was utterly naive and laughable.

Then, a red alert flashed on Da Fei's screen!

—Reconnaissance Skill Warning: The Hell Volcano Dragon King has sensed your presence; you are facing imminent danger!

Gah! Da Fei spat blood in frustration—a ridiculous mortal! What can be said now? Thanks, Brother Long, for teaching him humility!?

At this moment, Selvia stepped up with the Divine Power Staff, "Elifel!"

Elifel instantly responded, "Yes, Lord Selvia!"

Da Fei's heart tightened—was she risking everything? Was there any point in such a hopeless battle—Da Fei was speechless. If he were her, equipped with a nuclear bomb, perhaps he would do the same. So be it, without hesitation or orders, everyone gives it their all!

A flash of gold, and Elifel transformed into a blurred light overlapping Selvia's body!

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Selvia used God-level Light Magic "Angel Descent," achieved Angel Possession, increasing all attribute values by 4%, gaining the Holy Body, duration: 10 minutes.

Then, a golden shockwave burst from the staff, engulfing the arena!

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Selvia cast the Divine Arts "Divine Suppression" on the Hell Volcano Dragon King, reducing its Life Limit by -96 points!

Under the sweeping gold light, the roaring within the Melt Cave ceased abruptly. Firelight cleared, and Da Fei finally saw the Dragon King's immense figure waver before collapsing against the cave wall!

In that instant, Da Fei's breath stopped. He remembered the Ultraman battling colossal humanoid monsters! Yes, this creature could stand upright! Positioning tactics—he was so naive! But no choice, they were driven to this by the pursuing army!

But it wasn't over; another golden wave streaked across the field!

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero Selvia cast the Divine Arts "Divine Suppression" on the Hell Volcano Dragon King, reducing its Life Limit by -96 points!

Da Fei's jaw dropped—Selvia used up both nuclear strikes at once? Ultimately, the colossal creature fell under the second wave of golden light!

#### Chapter 740: The Legendary Gatling Gun

With the Dragon King's massive body crashing to the ground, Da Fei's entire group let out a collective sigh of relief.

However, Da Fei knew well that the Divine Suppression couldn't even kill the Demon Wolf King, who had been drained by the Holy Vine for a long time, so it surely couldn't kill this Dragon King at its peak state. The Dragon King's collapse must have been due to a temporary unconsciousness after dual Divine Suppression soul impact.

What to do next didn't even need questioning. Da Fei immediately located the corner of the hall where the little Earth Dragon had been instantly killed. At first glance, it looked like a wrecked bus smashed into an iron pancake by an excavator at a car accident site! Damn, the Dragon King's strength was terrifying, no excavator could match it!

Da Fei hurriedly said to Tamilia, "Quick, retrieve the Holy Vine!"

Tamilia immediately responded, "Got it!" and eagerly swooped down.

As for Da Fei, of course, he was busy dismantling the Crossbow Cannon! This was called correcting a mistake. This wasn't really a place where the Crossbow Cannon could be used, he realized his mistake. By recovering the Holy Vine, Tamilia could advance, while preserving the Crossbow Cannon through timely correction meant this battle was the most profitable. Moreover, discovering the Hydra Crossbow Cannon's purpose was a major gain from this battle. Ultimately, installing the Hydra at the bow of the ship was its real place to shine.

At this moment, Billbo exclaimed, "Lord City Lord, are you dismantling the Crossbow Cannon?"

Da Fei coughed and said, "Yeah, the Crossbow Cannon has fulfilled its mission. After all, in front of a giant dragon, there's nowhere to hide."

Billbo quickly said, "Then let me help you, Lord City Lord. You taught me War Machine Science, and I watched you assemble it earlier. I can help you."

Da Fei's eyes widened in surprise. Dismantling a machine could use help? Without thinking much, Da Fei nodded instinctively, "Alright, alright!"

Billbo was overjoyed, "Alright, watch me." He eagerly joined to assist with the Crossbow Cannon.

At that moment, the countdown on Da Fei's dismantling time suddenly sped up, reducing from a 10-minute countdown to just 5 minutes!

Damn! The efficiency truly doubled, and Da Fei couldn't help but want to jump up. Billbo was undoubtedly a genius! Truly, heroes emerge in youth, and powerful Hero Skills must be developed early. Why weren't you a girl?

In Da Fei's bittersweet moment, he was filled with relief and gratitude. Good! Very good, he was worried about time.

Meanwhile, Elena exclaimed, "Lord City Lord, the Earth Dragon's attack was effective earlier, this giant dragon has a wound on its neck, we can continue to plant the Holy Vine in it! Now is a perfect chance while the giant dragon is unconscious—now or never!"

An opportunity, my foot! Da Fei felt utterly distressed; now was the time for everyone to prepare to die and return home to cut losses!

Tachiusu excitedly nodded, "It looks heavily injured, no wonder the giant dragon unleashed such furious power earlier!"

Elena praised, "Thankfully, Miss Selvia's decisive attack controlled the giant dragon. It's awe-inspiring strength."

Serene and glowing with Angel Possession, Selvia said solemnly, "This is divine power, even powerful demonic creatures struggle to resist!"

Tachiusu added, "Tamilia will soon complete the information retrieval. With data from the ordinary Earth Dragon test, our success rate of transplanting the Holy Vine onto the giant dragon is very high!"

Damn! Da Fei's patience wore thin. Did their endless chatter annoy them, wasn't he the Commander, not them? But since the subordinate heroes were eager to fight with Morale Like a Rainbow, he couldn't just say they'd retreat and die?

After all, Death Return City was a player's strategy; NPC heroes wouldn't know it. NPC heroes treat every battle with utmost intensity. If he didn't cooperate, it would lower morale, loyalty, and might even lead to splitting paths! After all, these were intelligent and individualistic Epic Heroes.

Da Fei let out a long sigh. There was no other choice. They must fight! He originally didn't want to be so awesome, but the subordinates and wife pushed him to it—this was the burden of being crowned.

Da Fei nodded resolutely, "Alright, let's wait for Tamilia to return!"

Even though the battle awaited, the Crossbow Cannon had to keep being dismantled. After all, he had dozens of Holy Vine Seeds; losing ten or twenty was okay, but there was only one Divine Artifact Crossbow, so it needed to be protected at all costs.

At that moment, footsteps and clinking armor sounds came from the hall's passage—the Demon Army arrived!

Da Fei's brow twitched. As expected, the demons would come to clear the area. If they stormed in, Tamilia wouldn't have time to retrieve the Holy Vine.

Certainly, Tachiusu exclaimed, "The Demon Army is here; we must block them, or Tamilia's recovery will fail!"

Da Fei waved his hand, "Demon Wolf King Army, move to block the door!" This time Da Fei hesitated not at all, for he had already prepared for the Demon Wolf Army's sacrifice.

Now, Da Fei's remaining Demon Race Unit consisted of a Demon Wolf King, a Demon Wolf, and three Demon Foxes; their numbers already dwindled. But blocking the door wasn't an issue. The attacking Demon Race soldiers with long spears and heavy armor weren't weak either. In mere moments, amidst the rain of spears and flying spears, the Demon Wolf King's 15,000 HP dropped by a third like bloodletting!

Da Fei's jaw hit the ground. His 180 strategic defense combined with the Demon Wolf King's near 100 defenses, plus his Master-level Defense Skill with 50% damage reduction, should be absolutely wall-like! Getting chopped like this only meant one thing—the enemy's infantry also had strong hero leadership, neutralizing his defenses easily!

Indeed, a voice called from the distant passage, "Charge! Kill them all, and the master rewards!"

Damn! Such a powerful hero's attribute, yet only a servant? His master must be General Hassima? God knows how strong this Hassima was? No time to think; if they wanted every last one dead, they'd have to fight through the pain!

The Demon Wolf King let out a Horror Howl, then entered a Bloodthirsty Frenzy state to strike back, barely stabilizing the situation. But it wouldn't last long. If it couldn't hold any longer, they'd let them into the hall for Elena's God-level Magic to strike. Since subduing the Demon Wolf King, over a day had passed, and Elena's cooldown time had recovered.

At this moment, Billbo asked, "Lord City Lord, are we dismantling the Crossbow Cannon now?"

Da Fei's mind tightened. Were they intent on making things difficult without giving him a chance to move? Fine, he'd fight to the end with them! If they defeated him and took the Crossbow Cannon, he swore he'd come back one day to reclaim it!

Da Fei gritted his teeth, "Assemble the Crossbow Cannon immediately!"

Billbo excitedly declared, "Yes, Lord City Lord, don't worry, I saw you load it earlier. You just need to shoot, and I'll reload for you!"

Da Fei was astonished again! No way? The biggest problem with the Hydra Crossbow Cannon was reloading, and doing it while firing? That must be a Hero Skill! It must be what he mastered after being given the Crossbow and Skill Book, a self-learned unique skill!

Da Fei laughed heartily, "Alright, let me see your reloading skills!"

Da Fei hadn't dismantled the Crossbow Cannon for long, so reassembling it didn't take much time. By then, the Demon pursuers regrouped and aggressively charged, the Demon Wolf King's health dropped below a third, and Da Fei immediately pulled it back, "Elena, heal the troops!"

Elena quickly waved a "Dark Light," instantly restoring 2,000 HP for the Demon Wolf King, with the spell restoring an additional 100 HP per second. It had to be said, although Elena's specialty wasn't Dark Healing, with her 300 magic power in her Divine Equipment, the effects of any spell she cast weren't weak. But even with such amazing healing ability relative to the Demon Wolf King's 15,000 total HP, it was still like dousing a cart with a cup of water.

Just as the Demon Wolf King withdrew from the front line, the Demon pursuers' vanguard finally stormed into the hall!

This was the moment he'd been waiting for—to hit the protruding bird with a cannon!

Bang! With a cannon shot, the recessed cannon barrel in the ceiling fired its first shot - "Repel!" "-1053!"

Da Fei's brow twitched in surprise. Over a thousand damage? His Crossbow Cannon's unmodified damage was 2100-2400, now halved by the enemy's defense—suggesting the enemy's defense compared to his attack was just 20 points apart?

With no time to think, Da Fei pulled the trigger again!

Bang! Another shot from above—"Pierce!" "-147!" "-976!" The protruding soldier fell, pierced through, hitting the soldier behind!

At that moment, Da Fei felt utterly crushed! Holy crap, these soldiers had high attack but only 100 defense and a mere 1200 HP! Were such low HP soldiers level 8? If only his Crossbow Cannon had 10 more attack points, no, just 5 more, it could one-shot them! Damn, so close!

In anger, Da Fei rapidly pulled the trigger—bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!!!! "Pierce!" "Repel!" "Lucky Strike" "Crushing Attack!"

Da Fei was no longer disappointed. With high-frequency shooting, spectacular effects appeared, and at the hall's entrance, corpses piled up, but it didn't matter. What was important was that Billbo fulfilled his role perfectly, quickly loading the cannon after each shot, allowing Da Fei to keep firing without pause!

This was truly the legendary Gatling gun!

Da Fei finally realized that this skill of reloading was only possible for Hobbits with such a small build! For normal-sized humans, the Crossbow Cannon's operational space was restricted—this was the Hobbits' racial talent!

Ha ha ha ha! Da Fei laughed aloud, "Great, I'll shoot to my heart's content!"

—Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!!!!