

God level 76

Chapter 76: Conditions for Repairing the Blood Eagle Flute

Ranger Guild, the place where Elf players switch to the Hero profession, Ranger. Elves are naturally vengeful, and the Ranger profession maximized this trait through Hate Strike.

Ranger, each time you level up a Professional Skill, your troops gain +5% damage, +5% move speed, and a 10% additional damage to their nemesis.

The so-called nemesis occurs after an Elf Ranger has killed dozens to hundreds of the same type of creatures. They can use the compulsory sub-skill “Hate Memory” to designate that creature as a nemesis. Other sub-skills specifically target nemeses, like “Hostile Slash” with a 30% chance of a double hit, or “Frenzy Arrow Rain” which shoots all nemeses at once. Nemesis skills require the presence of Elf Clan units to be effective.

It is because of such brutal damage bonuses against their nemeses that Elves are one of the fastest leveling races early on. In the later stages, combined with skills like Luck Skill, Elf’s Fortune, and Precision Shot, their attacks can deal double or even triple damage, breaking limits ruthlessly. Under the leadership of a Ranger, Elf Army units had extremely high mobility, making them perfectly suited for quick attacks and guerrilla tactics, the most dreaded opponent for Demons.

However, the shortcomings of Elves are also evident, few troops! They simply can’t afford to lose units, as a single defeat can mean a significant setback. An expert may gracefully command the Elves, but beginners should maybe reconsider, as a single loss can be devastating. Similarly, because Elves have fewer troops, they particularly fear mid-to-late-game magical battles, hence the Level 5 Soldiers, the Unicorn’s special skill “Anti-Magic Barrier,” serves as an essential protective measure for the Elf Clan. This is also why the “Unicorn Girl” hero from the U.S. Supernova Team is a rare and expensive hero.

In summary, the Elf Clan excels at mobility and burst, unsuitable for large-scale frontal battles, which is why, despite their strength, they had to rely on humans. Humans, naturally, sacrifice thousands of civilian soldiers without hesitation for personal gain. Therefore, rather than the Elves relying on humans, it’s more accurate to say they use humans. The alliance between humans and Elves is largely based on this interest relationship, coexisting peacefully for centuries.

Now Da Fei, accompanied by two beautiful female heroes, entered the Ranger Guild with the Mayor's party leading the way. The players at the guild's entrance made way under the guard's guidance. A group of Elf players turned their heads, murmuring among themselves.

Ha-ha, this is what prestige is, this is what standing is! Envious? Jealous? Resentful? You should be! My high-level approach is in a different league compared to you ordinary players grinding instances, slaying monsters, mining, and picking herbs. But this all hinges on the successful completion of this mission, I need to make it big! If not, I may still be a guest of honor in this city, but I certainly wouldn't enjoy such treatment. Damn, if I can't complete it, the huge debt of a billion would force me to delete my account! If I delete, these players would celebrate everywhere! Am I such a fool to sacrifice myself for everyone's joy? No! By any means necessary, I have to win this time!

On the top floor of the guild, the party met the Ranger Guild's president, Jilrien, a middle-aged Elf whose face was covered in camouflage paint. Upon entering, his sharp gaze made Da Fei's hair stand on end.

The Mayor introduced them briefly, and after a polite exchange, Auselman remarked, "I have urgent matters to attend to, take your time!"

Da Fei hurriedly laughed, "Take care, sir!"

Jilrien replied coolly, "Thank you for your efforts, sir, take care."

The Mayor's party left, leaving only Da Fei and the president in the room. The president's expression darkened, and the previous amiable atmosphere vanished instantly.

Da Fei felt a pang of anxiety, as if he seemed displeased?

Although Jilrien's age was not comparable to the elder from the Druid Guild, his status was undoubtedly high. The Mayor had to personally invite the elder with a formal card, whereas he himself was personally brought here by the Mayor. Meaning that whether willing or not, he had to handle the matter?

Sure enough, Jilrien's gaze was frosty as he said with displeasure, "Usually, only young Warriors with distinguished battle achievements get a personal audience with me. But you, just by investing in some

property, have gained such regard from the Mayor; even thinking you surpass all our national candidates is hard for me to believe.”

Hmph! This mission was a matter of survival for my account. Despite your disdain and dissatisfaction, the job still had to be done!

Da Fei smiled faintly, putting his arms around Catherine and the Little Nun beside him, “Perhaps my personal combat power isn’t the strongest, but my resources are certainly the most abundant. Right now, which young Warrior can match my formidable combat power? Which young hero has a ship as large as mine?”

Jilrien’s cold snort accompanied by an outstretched hand, “Bring it!”

Da Fei chuckled, handing over the flute, “Please do your utmost, sir.”

Receiving the Blood Eagle Flute, Jilrien coldly laughed, “This is our country’s national treasure. Restoring it poses no problem, but the guild has its rules, unbroken for centuries, and neither should you break them.”

Da Fei queried, surprised, “What rules?”

Jilrien scoffed, “Naturally, to complete missions, accumulate prestige and merit! Do you think you can receive such special services just for nothing?”

Crap! Deliberately making things hard for me? I’m playing at a high level and don’t need any mission or prestige!

Da Fei, astonished, asserted, “But just now the Mayor agreed!”

Jilrien retorted, “I met you only on account of the Mayor’s face, otherwise, do you think you are qualified to meet me?”

Damn it! I have not offended any players or NPCs, have I? Do we have a grudge?

Da Fei lamented, "I'm on the brink of departure, where's the time to take on tasks and accumulate merit."

Jilrien, caressing the Blood Eagle Flute, said coldly, "Guild rules cannot be broken. This national treasure must be officially gifted by our country's royal family during a major ceremony to grant undisputed ownership to the recipient. I don't know how you acquired it, but currently, you're unworthy of it. Thus, there's only one course of action!"

Da Fei exclaimed, puzzled, "Ah?"

Jilrien stated indifferently, "I can repair it, but after it's fixed, it won't belong to you. Without merit and prestige, gaining treasures like this is out of the question. For this mission, I can lend it to you; after the mission, success or failure, you must return it."

Da Fei's eyes widened in disbelief! Are you serious?

Jilrien continued, "Actually, you shouldn't have high hopes for this treasure. It can indeed temporarily elevate your Master-level Reconnaissance Skill to God-level, but this God-level is fake. You still can't learn the God-level sub-skills. The greatest use of this treasure is enlightenment."

Da Fei asked, stunned, "Enlightenment?"

Jilrien nodded, "Yes, helping you open the door to truly comprehending God-level Skills. Since you've grasped Master-level Skills, you must appreciate the wonderful feeling at the moment of comprehension, whereas comprehending God-level Skills requires a sense that many spend their lives never finding. This treasure's purpose is to position you temporarily at the God-level, allowing you to slowly find the feeling and comprehend. So, if you successfully comprehend a God-level Skill during this mission, this treasure becomes obsolete. How about it? I'm busy too, if you're unwilling, please seek help elsewhere!"

With that, he tossed the Blood Eagle Flute back to Da Fei.

Damn! How do I have the time or connections to seek help elsewhere! Whether or not I grasp it, if my mission succeeds, a mere flute is worth nothing! It'll just be a thank-you gift. If my mission fails, the account won't even be worth keeping, who cares about a flute?

Da Fei handed the flute back to the president, stating earnestly, "I accept the president's conditions, please do your utmost!"

Chapter 77: The Expedition is Imminent

Repairing the treasure required two in-game days. Exiting the guild, Da Fei let out a deep breath.

Everything that could be fixed was done. Whatever couldn't be fixed had been painted as a big picture waiting for me to solve. Players played by the game's rules, like step-by-step depositing into an ATM with NPCs. But if you wanted to play big without rules, NPCs turned into rigged slot machines. It all came down to who could outplay the other.

This time was definitely a bold move, but how big could it get? It's not like I'd go bankrupt jumping out of a window, right? Come to think of it, even if I lost, there's still a chance for a comeback. I have two strong female vice heroes. Even if I fell back and became a pirate robbing the world, I wouldn't worry about those debts. And if I really can't make it, I'll just sell the account. Surely some big shot will want to clear the debts to own those lovely heroine avatars. I'm not scared at all!

What is an ideal? An ideal is a big picture and for this ideal, one must strive hard. What does it mean to strive? It means willing to endure hardships. What does it mean to fight? It means daring to gamble! Life offers limited opportunities to gamble, and can merely enduring hardships fulfill ideals? I wouldn't know, but I do know time waits for no one. At least in the game, I dare to take risks.

There was nothing more to do now. After settling my beloved female vice heroes in the inn, I set up in-game task notifications, took off the helmet, and logged off.

It was already four in the morning, and even the cold wind of the Spring Festival couldn't stop the noise of the night-market barbecue stalls downstairs. While eating instant noodles soaked in steamed buns, I watched the smoke rising from the barbecue stand, gazing at the night sky. You could never see stars in a big city's night sky, but Da Fei still remembered the wish upon a shooting star back in childhood countryside days.

Back then, my wish was to be a scientist and build a space fortress filled with giant laser cannons. The journey aimed for the stars and the sea! Later, I realized that was the director's role. So, my dream shifted to becoming a director, getting to know many actresses. Then I learned that even not every director could do that, but it was achievable in games! Thus, that year I entered the game and became the president of China's number one guild, the Dragon Slayer Guild, with countless followers beneath me, hahaha!

Who said I was a failure? I've been realizing my dreams all along! Tomorrow is a new journey for me, and I'm going to crush all demon players worldwide with absolute equipment advantage!

Da Fei, full of grandeur, gulped down the instant noodle broth, and went straight to sleep, without washing up.

Meanwhile, Da Fei was unaware that during his guild time, demon players worldwide were shocked. All demon players with over ten thousand merits, gaining the rank of Hundred Demon Captain (equivalent to the Human Race's Lieutenant), received a system message.

—System Prompt: The cross-service race national war is about to start. Heroes striving to answer the Demon King's call, please register at Demon King Hall.

After registration, they were told to stand by. Where was the battlefield? When would the fight occur? The system provided no further clues, leaving all demon players at a loss. Consequently, the global hero's forum erupted, and entertainment media from various countries scrambled to gather information. The preliminary conclusion was that this was a demon all-hands war!

According to the game's background for the demons' constant setting, this was the pace of demon world invasion! However, the game had only been online for less than ten days, making it hard to believe.

The country agents, faced with players' overloaded customer service calls, simply replied: "This is a result of the supercomputer's task process, and not an official event. The GM has no authority to alter or intervene in the game's self-running, so we ask players to await further system prompts."

Tokyo Akihabara, a world-famous electric town, anime town, and gaming town.

At 6 am Tokyo time, the 7th floor of the Akihabara Mitsubishi Software ABC building was brightly lit. This was the headquarters of the world-renowned professional esports team, the Mitsubishi Team.

Since the Mitsubishi Team acquired the Hell Gate Master and the Mobility Master, two God-level heroes of the Hell Race, the Mitsubishi Team had focused on developing the Hell Race, forming the group "Rashomon." This group contained thirty world-class professional players of the Hell Race, with a thousand supporting players in the periphery. It was indisputably the world's strongest professional Hell Race team.

Now, Igarashi Yoshiyuki, manager of the Mitsubishi Team, convened a meeting with the thirty core members of the Rashomon group. Around the long conference table, each team member wore a sharp, black uniform with a white armband bearing the three blood-red characters of Rashomon. Despite pulling an all-nighter, these members remained sharp-eyed and energetic.

Igarashi was pleased with the team members' spirit and nodded with satisfaction: "Gentlemen, the reason for gathering you here now is due to recent events. Hirata, please share your thoughts."

Hirata Hirao, a world-renowned esports player from Japan. Game ID: Ghost Slash Left, the famous user of the God-level hero Mobility Master.

A team member with nearly a shaved-head suddenly stood up, his expression grave and full of emotion: "President! If I don't return soon, all my troops will die!"

Igarashi's face darkened, and he just waved his hand: "Fight, young man!"

"Yes, President!" Hirata bowed and hastened out of the conference room like the wind.

Igarashi had no choice but to turn to the next person: "Mr. Tsukamoto, present your view."

A team member with a pompadour stood up, looking resolute: "Dominate the world! That's all!"

Tsukamoto Hideki, game ID: Shoji, the user of the God-level hero Hell Gate Master.

All team members suddenly rose, shouting: "Dominate the world!"

Igarashi, pleased, stood up and applauded: "Very good! This time, the camp national war is destined to be Japan's stage. The director just called me, urging that, regardless of the battlefield or adversary, all gentlemen must give their utmost to achieve victory! Let's encourage each other!"

All team members raised their arms, shouting: "Dominate the world, give our all!"

A new day began. The system prompt alarm woke Da Fei. He immediately jumped up, grabbed bread and milk, rushed to the bathroom, sat for 30 seconds, washed his face without brushing his teeth, and returned to the game in less than a minute, putting on his helmet, entering the game. A slew of system prompts appeared.

—System Prompt: The Blood Eagle Flute has been repaired, please collect it at the Ranger Guild.

—System Prompt: The agreed date to collect the Phantom Crossbow Cannon from Teacher Makar has arrived, please collect it at the Saint Paul Duke office.

—System Prompt: Your Flying has completed repair and modification.

—System Prompt: The Elf Kingdom's Mage Group is about to arrive, please get into position.

—System Prompt: Epic Quest "Purify the Pool of Radiance" countdown 2.4 hours, please make the final preparations.

Gosh! The last day is indeed the busiest day!

Da Fei first rushed straight to the Ranger Guild nearby, where he met Jilrien, who blandly said: "Use it well, don't damage it!"

Damn! He really knows how to be a boss! With the item in hand, Da Fei couldn't be bothered with further chitchat and then rushed to the teleportation array to Saint Paul Port. Under the leisurely guidance of a steward, Da Fei finally had the time to inspect this God-level treasure.

—Blood Eagle Flute: Auxiliary equipment, S-rank treasure. Raises the level cap of the Reconnaissance Skill by one, summons a Spiritual Eagle that shares vision with the user for scouting. (Task loan item cannot be traded, cannot drop)

Loan item! Tsk!

—System Prompt: You equipped the Blood Eagle Flute, and your Reconnaissance Skill temporarily elevated to God-level!

—God-level Reconnaissance Technique: Your mini-map gains radar capabilities, any moving targets within your vision will be displayed on the mini-map.

Sure enough, Da Fei's mini-map was full of densely packed moving green dots, all sorts of players and city NPCs! What use does this have? Hmm? Why is the dot in front of me red?

Da Fei looked up to see the guiding steward Riel. At this moment, Da Fei suddenly discovered an additional description box under his name: Riel, Vampire Leader, Attack? Defense? Life? Speed?

Vampire! Da Fei was suddenly startled! How could there be a vampire? Damn, being a servant of Death Lord Makar, a vampire is no surprise, meaning under God-level Reconnaissance Technique, his true form was exposed? This God-level skill is indeed amazing!

At this moment, the steward suddenly stopped in his tracks and turned around abruptly. Damn, he noticed? Da Fei quickly unequipped the Blood Eagle Flute and feigned ignorance: "Sir, what's the matter?"

The steward also smiled and nodded, bowing slightly: "Sorry, my bad, please continue, sir!"

Da Fei was in a cold sweat. Damn, even a servant is so badass. This thing must not be equipped in front of Makar, just like that Voyagers' sword.

Still in the Magic Library, Da Fei met again with Santa Makar: "Greetings, Teacher, happy holidays!"

Makar chuckled: "You've come just in time, the Phantom Crossbow Cannon you needed is ready for you, loaded with 100 magic crossbow arrows. They're expensive, please use them sparingly. I also have a medical tent and a siege machine as extra gifts." A golden sparkling Advanced War Machine Space Bag appeared in Da Fei's hand.

—System Prompt: You received an Advanced War Machine Space Bag.

—System Prompt: You received a medical tent.

—System Prompt: You received a special war machine "Phantom Crossbow Cannon" (Task loan item, not tradeable, will self-destruct if lost.)

—Advanced War Machine Space Bag: Can carry a crossbow cannon, medical tent, and siege machine simultaneously.

—Phantom Crossbow Cannon: A Crossbow Cannon with added special skills ignoring Mist Barrier and special arrow features.

Ignoring Mist Barrier! Just this one extra attribute makes it God-level. The difference between Crossbow Cannons and Mortal Crossbow Cannons! With it, one shot could wipe out a BOSS! Haha, hahaha!

Da Fei excitedly said: "Thank you, Teacher, for the generous gift!" But teacher, just giving a regular medical tent and siege machine is kind of embarrassing, never mind, I've been tricked by NPCs enough, better not randomly ask for things.

Makar chuckled: "It's borrowed. Ready to set out with confidence?"

Da Fei sighed: "Teacher, you foresaw it accurately, the Elf Kingdom is indeed too naïve!"

Makar chuckled: "Only tough challenges can showcase a hero's value, go forward and face the tests bravely."

"I assure you, Teacher, I won't disappoint!"

Chapter 78: The Guide from the Kingdom

Elorin Shipyard Pier, the guards were on high alert, with NPC guards forming a human wall to prevent any players from Elorin City from getting close.

The unusual situation made the entire city's players curious, and they crowded outside the guard circle, discussing animatedly.

"It seems they're investigating the scammer Da Fei's ship?"

"Investigate? You're kidding! Weren't you online yesterday? He's got connections with the mayor helping him with ship repairs."

"It must be that trash scammer using his swindled money to fix the ship."

"It's not that simple, why make such a big fuss for ship repairs?"

"Have you heard? Yesterday, Da Fei snatched the boss and the female hero of Bloodrose Studio, and now the whole server wants to hunt Da Fei down."

"No wonder! I did say there's no way a male player like Da Fei could hire a nun! Offending Bloodrose is big trouble. One word from their beauty and countless player fans will chase him down."

“Damn, this is too annoying! Trash scammer, rich and having beauties, even if the whole server hunts him, what of it? Just let him sell his account, he’ll make at least 1 million to start! If a large guild buys his account, they’ll clear both new and old scores in a single stroke.”

“You don’t understand, the big studios are hunting him down to force him to sell.”

At this moment, behind the crowd, a level-10 Druid player named Invincible Soldier and a level-10 Ranger named Invincible Wei were standing on their tiptoes looking towards the dock.

Hearing the discussions, Invincible Wei exclaimed in surprise, “Hey, Da Bing, there really are game accounts that can sell for 1 million?”

Invincible Soldier snorted coldly, “1 million? We’re talking about US dollars! You think the game’s riches come easily? Come on, let’s get to the instance and rush to level 20. If I hadn’t spent days lending money to buy you a setup, I’d probably be level 20 by now.”

Invincible Wei gave an awkward smile, “Who told me to bring you food and shoutouts all these years, brother? Oh right, didn’t you say we could get a seafaring permit and start trading at level 10? Why rush to level 20?”

Invincible Soldier shook his head and sighed, “Running what business at level 10! What’s the point of those small ships with only 10 cargo spaces? Get to level 20, learn Hate Strike and max out Arrow Skill and Luck Skill, then you can go PK Undead Beastman players for fame and Gold Coins! With enough fame and money, just buy a medium ship with 50 cargo spaces directly! PK is the first pot of gold! Rangers are specially meant for PK... Ah, you won’t understand now. I’ll teach you how to hunt a few people to get the hang of it, let’s go.”

“Oh, okay.”

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At this time, the Flying was fully refurbished, and now completely covered with fluffy moss, perched in the dock, and all repair ladders had been removed. The Mage Group sent by the Kingdom was orderly arranging a Teleportation Array around the Flying’s slipway.

Da Fei, in the midst of a group of officials, saw the Great Elder. Although it had only been one day in real-time since they last met, it felt like a long time since.

The Great Elder introduced to the following officials with a chuckle, "This is the hero we have selected."

The officials nodded in approval, "Not bad, indeed stronger than the average person."

Stronger than the average person? I'd kick you all flying! That's nonsense! Da Fei chuckled and bowed, "You flatter me, sirs."

With a chuckle, the elder replied, "My young friend, I wasn't wrong about you. You not only accepted the purification task but also took on new challenges. I believe you have the capability, as long as you return victorious, I will strive to secure your merits. Everyone here is a witness."

Da Fei laughed and said, "Elder, rest assured, I will not let everyone down."

The mayor laughed, "Let me introduce someone to Mr. Da Fei. Since the new operation involves space teleportation, the Kingdom has sent over a guide proficient in arcane, Lady Anwen."

A lady! Looking at the petite silhouette shrouded in a black robe emerging from the crowd, her face and figure unseen, Da Fei couldn't help but be overjoyed internally! They actually assigned a female hero to me! Mayor, you scammed me of a hundred million, but finally a twinge of conscience?

Lady Anwen approached with an indifferent tone, "Pleasure to work with you, sir."

Hearing her old and weak voice, Da Fei was suddenly shocked. No way? They wouldn't assign a Nanny Rong to me, would they? In my eyes, all Elf women are beauties! I can't imagine what an Elf Nanny Rong would look like!

—Task Hint: Anwen has joined your team as your temporary Vice Hero.

Da Fei hurriedly opened the Vice Hero panel to check her attributes.

Anwen: At the Farolan Magic Academy, Lady Anwen has seen off one cohort of students after another over the years. Although she has retired, she's not content with a leisurely life of beekeeping and gardening. She wants to make the most of her remaining years by doing something meaningful.

Level: 30.

Profession: Master-level Druid.

Talent Specialty: Hive Queen. The hero's "Swarm Disturbance" magic increases in damage with level and has a chance to cause blinding.

Professional Specialty: Healing Rain

Command Power: 400

Attack: 12

Defense: 26

Magic Power: 40

Knowledge: 58

Life: 22

Damage: 4-6

Attack Speed: 7

Move Speed: 5

Equipment: Great Druid Robe (adds 5 to Magic Power, 5 to Knowledge), Great Druid Wand (adds 10 to Magic Power)

Stamina: 12 (in a state of extreme weakness)

Skills: Master-level Arcane Magic, Master-level Meditation Skill, Master-level Defense Skill, Master Leadership Skill, Master Level Luck Skill, Master Level Archery, Master-level Logistics Skill.

Troop Count: 100 Druids, 50 Jungle Shooters.

Da Fei was shocked, his eyes widened! Can it be? An old lady! But how could there be a Level 30 old lady? How could a Level 30 hero have so many Master-level skills plus fully maxed sub-skills? Even with equipment bonuses, her attribute points are certainly not that of a Level 30 hero. And what's with this fragile 22 point Life? What does being in extreme weakness mean?

Looking at Da Fei's dumbfounded expression, the Great Elder sighed deeply: "It seems you've spotted the issue, young friend. Indeed, this operation involves advanced space teleportation as well as venturing into unknown Demon Race domains, challenges not meant for young heroes. Therefore—disregarding her own health, Lady Anwen selflessly reduced her own level to 30 to be able to enter the barrier, all so she could join the young heroes in battle."

Da Fei suddenly realized! Self-castration! No way, even an NPC would do such a thing? Only players driven to extremes would resort to this. In some games, there are richly rewarding secret tasks or special instances that only low-level players can do. Thus, some high-level players, after learning the task process, will not hesitate to de-level to take on the quest—the so-called self-castration! In Heroic Creation Era, the penalty for de-leveling is the loss of all attribute points gained during leveling except for Skill Points, because knowledge learned does not vanish with failure.

Anwen chuckled: "I'm old, with not much time left. I wish to do one last meaningful deed for the Kingdom in my final days, and also to clear the path for younger ones."

The officials exclaimed in admiration: "Lady Anwen's integrity and lofty principles are something we cannot match!"

So that's how it is! The older the ginger, the spicier! With such a powerful hero around, Brother has even greater confidence!

Da Fei hurriedly bowed: "I'll have to ask for more guidance from you in the future, Teacher Anwen."

The mayor sighed: "Lady Anwen is very weak now and urgently needs to rest on the ship. That's why she won't be able to assist you with the task of purifying the Pool of Radiance."

She wasn't a task NPC in the first place. Da Fei quickly said: "For something minor like purification, I wouldn't dare to trouble Teacher Anwen. I can handle it on my own."

The mayor laughed: "Alright, let's go aboard and take a look now. The medical room, the Deputy Officer's office, and your soldier's barracks have all been fixed. Let's allow Lady Anwen to rest properly first."

The officials smiled: "Excellent, let's take a tour of the battle ship that the warriors will embark from."

Chapter 79: The Flying sets off on its journey

The group of kingdom inspection officials boarded the Flying and began their inspection and acceptance.

The hull and mast of the Flying were covered in a thick layer of green moss. Though no one knew what it was, it must have something to do with the ship's resurrection.

A kingdom official marveled, "Truly, a warrior chosen for greatness, such a young captain for such a large ship. It's just a pity that the ship's time is almost up, so this purification mission must succeed and not fail."

I'd kick you flying! Can you not talk nonsense? Da Fei chuckled and said, "The lord is absolutely right."

The mayor laughed, "Indeed, Mr. Da Fei, because the ship's time is nearing its end, the defense and durability limits are below alert levels. If attacked, the consequences would be unimaginable. So for this mission, the ship's craftsmen have made major modifications to the ship, converting the second layer of the cargo hold into a gun cabin. Now, Mr. Da Fei's ship has two layers of gun cabins, reducing its blind spots; it's fully armed and can blast enemies from a hundred paces away!"

Da Fei was taken aback, modified? He hurriedly opened the ship's attribute bar to check.

Ship Name: Flying (Task Reward Bound Player, Non-tradable)

Captain: Da Fei

Ship Special Skill: Divine's Blessing (Sailor's Luck +2)

Ship Model: Large four-masted, three-deck, high-speed sailing ship.

Ship Cargo Capacity: 500 units

Ship Gun Cabin: 32 gun positions (Port 16, Starboard 16)

Ship Usage Time: 10 years

Minimal Sailor Capacity: 30 people

Ship Durability 1690/1690

Ship Speed: 10

Ship Armor Defense: Port 80, Starboard 80, Bow 55, Stern 46.

Ship Room Configuration: Cockpit 1, Captain's Room 1, Deputy Officer Rest Room 6, Staff Room 1, Accounting Room 1, Treatment Room 2, Kitchen 1, Special Room 1, Entertainment Room 1, Sailor Dormitory 2 (capacity 200 people)

Ship Auxiliary Equipment: White Shark Ship's Figurehead, Space Transfer Array, Wind Energy Magic Sail, Landing Craft 4.

Sea God Insurance Level: 0 (Ship not under Sea God's protection, will sink permanently if wrecked)

Current Ship Status: Fully maintained, Cursed by Misfortune (Sailor's Luck -3).

Looking at the suddenly added gun cabin, the halved cargo hold, the additional ship room configuration, and the ship's equipment list, Da Fei was speechless in excitement for a long time. So this is what the fully repaired ship looks like? So those abandoned rooms have all been revived and restored? This is far superior to the pirate ship repairs! The so-called special room must be my Banshee Camp!

The mayor laughed, "How does Mr. Da Fei feel? If Mr. Da Fei triumphantly returns, we can help you modify it back for free."

Da Fei came back to his senses and laughed heartily, "Great modification! Thanks so much for the concern, Mayor!" NPCs can actually be not misleading sometimes! Wow, haha! Now my firepower has doubled, and my confidence is higher! More importantly, there are an extra 16 crossbow cannons, and if they wanted me to buy those myself, I'd be bleeding money!

The group began inspecting the deck, where an array embedded with magic gems emitted a faint light.

The mayor introduced, "This is the teleportation array set up for this mission; it also assists Lady Anwen's space teleportation. If you return triumphantly, this teleportation array will be yours, sir."

The officials laughed heartily, "Warrior sir, this configuration is only granted to royal yachts and the kingdom's main battleships, so you must cherish it!"

Catherine couldn't help but exclaim again, "Wow!"

Da Fei's eyebrows shot up in disbelief, "You mean my ship can teleport?"

The mayor laughed, "That's right, but teleporting such a large ship requires immense magic power. This teleportation array runs on these few Magic Stones, and each teleportation depletes them significantly. So, you must use it sparingly. But don't worry if it runs out, just return triumphantly, and you'll be recognized as a heroic citizen of our city. You'll qualify to purchase strategic Magic Stones at the city's Magic Guild at a 20% discount."

The officials laughed, "It's 20% off nationwide!"

The mayor spread his hands helplessly, "As much as I'd love to give you a better deal, matters of the Magic Guild are out of my mayoral hands!"

Everyone laughed heartily. Da Fei's heart raced wildly with excitement! Sales pitch, this is absolutely a sales pitch! Magic Stones are strategic materials that ordinary players can't purchase and are outrageously expensive. In the beta test, the large guild needed Magic Stones to run the teleportation array for building cities — in one word, costly! The so-called taste of sweetness, if I use it once, wouldn't I be fixated on it always? Damn it, it isn't the NPCs messing with me, it's the gaming company!

At this moment, the mayor pointed up the mast, "Considering that there's often no wind underground, we equipped a Magic Energy Wind Sail for this mission. Once activated, the ship will move at high speed. If you complete this task and return, you can also purchase it from the Magic Guild!"

Da Fei chuckled, "Good! Good!" Damn it! Will your sales pitch ever end? Why buy it? Unless the whole world's players are out to hunt me on the sea!

The mayor laughed, "Gentlemen, this way to the cabins."

The group filed into the cabin corridors, where the entire interior was still covered in green moss, reminiscent of entering an ancient tunnel, refreshing yet disgusting.

The mayor introduced each room in a lantern show fashion but deliberately ignored a room with no label. No need to say it, that must be the Banshee Camp. Damn, why not introduce it? Surely the mayor is causing trouble, as that fraudulent billion-dollar project involved me!

Upon entering the lower gun cabin, a group of gunners lined up for review.

— Skilled Gunner Sailor: Attack 10, Defense 10, Damage 4-9, Life 50, Attack Speed 10, Move Speed 11, Command Value 1, Special skill: Advanced War Machine Technology, Crossbow Master, Sailing Skill, Repair Skill, Sea Battle Mastery. Hire fee: 5 gold coins per day.

These are the legendary versatile skilled gunners! Their attack, defense, and health levels are on par with Fourth-level Soldiers, equipped with sea battle skills, capable of matching pirate soldiers one-on-one; yet their command value is the standard of First-level Soldiers, the strongest available at the Seaport Sailor's Home, beloved by rich merchants with low command power. Moreover, they are not bound to the crew, charging 5 gold coins a day, whether the player is online or offline. Now, with 32 crossbow cannons and 32 skilled gunners, that means 160 gold coins per day, totaling 1600 gold coins for one real-world day!

Damn it! They say sailor wages are high, and it's true! One Druid's service price is only 400 gold coins! Can my 30,000 gold coins last a few days?

The officials were satisfied with the gunners' spirit, clapping and encouraging them.

The mayor laughed, "I thank the brave sailors willing to partake in this dangerous expedition. To express my respect for the warriors, I personally sponsor Mr. Da Fei's military pay with 1,000 gold coins. Mr. Da Fei, please accept!"

— System Prompt: You received 1,000 gold coins from the mayor as a war donation.

Oh, cash! I like cash, damn! Of course, you must give cash! As it's only because I played a fraud that I have over 30,000 on me; anyone else taking this task wouldn't have that much money? You scammed me with a billion-dollar project, and now you only give 1,000?

The officials laughed and said, "To show our respect for the warriors, we can't fall behind. Though we are all honest officials, we are unfortunately strapped for cash, but it's the thought that counts. Sir, please accept!"

— System Prompt: You received 9,000 gold coins from kingdom inspection officials as a war donation.

Oh, so you're all honest officials, I get it.

Then the group inspected the cargo hold filled with ammunition, repair materials, parts, and provisions.

The officials nodded approvingly, "Very well, fully prepared."

The mayor laughed, "Well, now it's the final step, the troop handover. Mr. Da Fei, please choose the troop you'll use."

A transaction list appeared, containing all First to Fourth-level humanoid troops from the Elf Clan. As for the Fifth to Seventh-level soldiers, being too bulky to board the ship, there was no need to consider them.

No need to look at the First-level dual-dagger-wielding Wind Dancer. Among them, the Earth Shooter, known for Rain of Arrows, and Third-level Jungle Shooter, famous for high damage and precise double shots, are a formidable presence in the regular Elf Clan army. Not to mention the Fourth-level Druid, notorious as a God-level Monster.

The higher the troop level, the better, but quantity also matters. Now Da Fei has 49 basic Command Power plus an intern lieutenant's 100 points, Catherine's 36 points, and after Selvia's Banshee Instructor moves into the camp, 120 Command Power is freed up. The sailors and gunners take up 62 Command Power slots in total, leaving 243 points.

Second-level soldiers have 1 Command Value each, Third-level soldiers have 2, and Fourth-level soldiers have 3. The Druid's Lightning Magic is fierce, but after one battle, they usually run out of mana and have to wait until the next day for recovery, which is poor for sustained combat and encounters. Moreover, the Druid's long-range damage and the Third-level Jungle Shooter's double arrow shots are on completely different levels.

Really nothing more to consider; the elder lady has many Druids, so choosing all Third-level Jungle Shooters is absolutely the right choice! If there's a mistake, it's just that none of my three heroes have Arrow Skill!

— Task Hint: You received 121 Jungle Shooters.

Games are games, after all; swapping troops and trading goods happens on paper. Otherwise, with a plethora of troops physically moving around, even a God-level computer host couldn't handle it.

The mayor laughed, "Troop handover complete!"

The officials applauded, "Send-off ceremony concluded!"

— System Prompt: Epic Quest "Purify the Pool of Radiance" countdown 10 minutes, please make final preparations.

The mayor laughed, "The array is about to be completed, warriors will soon set out, let us see the warriors off from the dock!"

"Alright!"

Now, Catherine took her place in the cockpit, the gunners loaded the crossbows, sailors took their positions, 121 Jungle Shooters stood ready at the deck gunwale, and Da Fei continuously waved goodbye to the officials below.

Below the ship, the Kingdom Mage Group mages began casting collectively, and the giant array beneath the Flying burst with blinding light, space began to ripple, and vision began to distort. Amidst the thunderous exclamations of the onlooking players, Flying's massive body disappeared without a trace!

(Requesting all kinds of votes!)

Chapter 80: Entering the Pool of Radiance

In the rumbling roar, the scene shifted, and a world of green and white appeared.

—Boom! The enormous body of the Flying smashed into the water, creating giant waves. Amid the violent rocking, Da Fei assessed the surrounding situation.

The white was water shining with white light, the green was thick tree roots gleaming with green light. An endless water forest was formed by countless tree roots entwining. The forest stretched upwards like a giant net draped from the Underground Sky, which resembled a green starry sky, emitting a faint green glow.

In the forest, there was water; in the water, there was the forest. The huge body of the Flying was like a small boat on this forest waterway.

—Task Hint: You have arrived at the Pool of Radiance. The epic quest “Purifying the Pool of Radiance” officially begins. Please kill all the monsters in the Pool of Radiance.

At this time, a large area of red dots on Da Fei’s small map resembled dense clouds. This was the radar effect of the God-level Reconnaissance Technique.

Da Fei’s eyelid twitched in surprise. Were there really so many monsters? He quickly pulled out his telescope and scanned the tree root forest, taking a sharp breath. Countless huge beetles, as large as dogs, were crawling on the roots! Were these all monsters?

—Juice-sucking Demon Worm: Attack? Defense? Life? Damage? Attack Speed? Move Speed? Special Skill: Flying Creature.

Damn! Never mind the power of these bugs, just their sheer number made Da Fei suspect their ammunition wouldn’t outlast these beetles! And this was just this area; who knew how many more there were in other regions? Was this purification asking him to kill all these bugs cleanly?

At this moment, Catherine jumped down from the cockpit, "Captain, there's no wind at all. Our ship can't move! Captain, please give the next command."

Action? Where to? Thousands of monsters were right on the tree roots nearby, no need to move. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, since they were here, it's time to start with these bugs.

Da Fei waved his hand, "Prepare for battle, eliminate the insects!"

Catherine laughed heartily, "Got it!" In an instant, the Jungle Hunters on either side of the ship's rail began changing formation, forming a hundred-man square.

—Jungle Hunter: Attack 6, Defense 5, Life 14, Damage 5-8, Attack Speed 13, Move Speed 13, Commander Value 2, Recruitment Price 410 Gold Coins, Special Skill: Double Shot, Piercing, Precise Shooting, Arrow Formation, Melee Penalty.

This was the Level 3 Soldier Jungle Hunter, the pride of the Elf Clan, undoubtedly the strongest Level 3 Soldier. Its damage value and recruitment price rivaled those of Level 4 Soldiers. Its special skill, Double Shot, had already surpassed the damage standard of Level 4 Soldiers. In one month's production, once the Jungle Hunter attacked, it had the imposing manner of a seventh-level long-range soldier Titan. Moreover, its inherent Piercing skill made its special skill Double Shot extraordinarily effective, and Double Shot maximized the Elf Clan's high luck trait. Therefore, in battle, the Jungle Hunter's formation was like a rainbow of light rising and falling, dazzling to the eyes.

Furthermore, the Jungle Hunter's high Attack Speed of 13 was every other race's long-range unit's nightmare. Even if the opponent was the neutral Mage Academy's strongest long-range soldier Titan, it was likely to be shot down by the Jungle Hunters in the first round of assault. In short, once the Jungle Hunters fought without restraint, defeat was guaranteed.

However, the flaw of the Jungle Hunters was also evident; their low blood was heartbreakingly low, and they weren't immune to spiritual magic. Compared to Titans, with their abundant health, high defense, and full immunity, there was still a qualitative gap.

Now, as the first battle was at hand, no carelessness could be allowed. Da Fei had 4 Free Skill Points left. Previously, while studying as a navigator, he learned one level of Archery; there wasn't much to say about these 4 points, they all went to upgrading Archery.

—System Prompt: You spent 1 Skill Point to learn Intermediate Arrow Skill, increasing the damage of heroes and long-range units by 20%.

...

—System Prompt: You spent 1 Skill Point to learn Master-Level Archery, increasing the damage of heroes and long-range units by 50%.

Of course, apart from the Elven Academy's three long-range units where archery was a required course, other races' long-range units were rare and not powerful; learning archery wasn't worthwhile. But when Archery reached Master level, it could combine with Master-level War Machine Science, and the sub-skill Crossbow Master to create a new machine-learning sub-skill: Triple Crossbow!

—Triple Crossbow: After mastering precise archery, heroes gain insight to maximize the function of the crossbow cannon, firing three arrows in one shot. The cost is that the durability of the crossbow cannon will continue to decrease. (Note: Sub-skill combinations require both disciplines' main skills to reach Master level to appear. How can you play with interdisciplinary combinations without graduating from any current disciplines?)

So, for machinery flows, Archery still had its uses. From this perspective, the Elf Clan was actually well-suited for the human's common Crossbow Gun Turtle Formation, where a circle of long-range units surrounded the crossbow cannons, and melee units, especially Unicorns immune to magic melee, surrounded the long-range units, firing happily. Whether in terms of firepower or protection, it was much stronger than the humans.

However, this would sacrifice the Elf Clan's mobility advantage, which was absolutely more of a loss than a gain for the Elf Clan. Similarly, for the Hell Race with only one Banshee long-range unit and extremely dependent on crossbow cannons for the opening strategy, Archery was quite a dilemma.

Now, with the skill in place, the arrow formation was ready, and the arrows were strung.

As a master, Da Fei certainly wouldn't recklessly shoot all the arrows, fearing that the enemy would suddenly charge. In the game, due to the high-speed movement easily dodging attacks, flying troops, especially small high-speed flying troops, were almost unsolvable for conventional forces. Once encountered, to achieve no damage, aim carefully with an accurate shot! Otherwise, flying troops wouldn't give long-range units a chance to reload.

Moreover, insects often have the attribute of gang fighting, so the current task was to lure them out.

Da Fei instructed a Jungle Hunter beside him to shoot at a beetle on the tree root.

Swoosh swoosh! Two arrows left the string, -5! The beetle burst open with a splash of white juice.

—System Prompt: Your unit killed a juice-sucking beetle. You gained 4 Experience Points.

—System Prompt: You gained incomplete information on the juice-sucking beetle.

Damn! Such a weakling with 5 blood points!

And at the moment the beetle was killed, all the beetles on and behind the tree roots were alarmed! Hundreds and thousands of beetles flew over in a dark mass! Indeed, they had the gang fighting attribute!

A golden light descended from the sky!

—System Prompt: Your Vice Hero, Selvia, cast the master-level Light Magic “Righteous Power” on your troops, increasing their attack by 15. The magic duration is 1 game day.

Da Fei waved his hand, “Shoot!”

Boom boom! Two layers of arrow rain shot out, looking like white fireworks blooming in the air. The insect swarm burst under the piercing of the arrow rain. With the hero's attack attribute and skill magic

bonus, the Jungle Hunters' damage more than doubled! Especially Katrina, leading 18 hunters with her all-attack pirate command, flipped the damage by five or six times!

With such high damage, piercing through five or six beetles with one arrow was easy! This was the desired effect! If they directly ambushed the beetles on the tree roots, not only would they not achieve large-scale damage, but they would also provoke the beetles behind the tree roots. Wouldn't that be caught off guard?

The first battle was easily won, and Da Fei also breathed a sigh of relief. The tree roots cleared of beetles leaked a milky-white liquid like sieve holes.

However, looking at the beetles' weak blood defense attributes, like those of farmers, and then looking at the mass of red clouds on the small map, Da Fei felt something was very wrong.

Was this task really about clearing these bugs? And this was just a nearby area, which was only a tiny part of the Pool of Radiance map.

Did they have enough ammunition for the entire ship? Plus, there certainly wouldn't just be these weak beetles, right? How long would it take to clear all the bugs from the entire map? And now, with no wind, the ship wasn't moving; they had to use the Magic Sail? Would the sail's magic be enough for Da Fei to clean the area with one go around?

Da Fei felt a sharp pain in his gut! He had assumed that with a powerful hero and a giant cannon, defeating some BOSS monsters would be a piece of cake, and a mere epic quest would be no big deal. But it turned out to be such a situation? If his ship were a pirate's mast rowing ship, it would be better; now what? It's more helpless to not be able to use power and more unbearable not to be able to finish using power!

As he pondered, a buzzing sound came from the sky, and Da Fei immediately became alert!

Again, it was beetles! Hundreds of them flew in from somewhere and pounced on the tree roots just cleared, sucking again!

Damn! Don't tell me these beetles are unlimited? If that's the case, this is clearly telling Da Fei that the task's key wasn't to kill these small beetles! Instead, he had to destroy the insect nest?

That's it! Once Da Fei figured it out, he pulled out the Blood Eagle Flute and selected "use." An invisible, misty Flying Eagle soared into the air; in a moment, Da Fei's small map shrank again, becoming a sea of red. Damn, relying on the small map was getting less and less useful; better to share the vision with the Flying Eagle.

Da Fei controlled the Flying Eagle, heading in the direction the insects came from, experiencing the scenery rushing up like flying in an airplane. The treasure was too useful! Damn, I really wouldn't want to return it!

Finally, he found it! A massive, wriggling tumor entwined by tree roots with countless tendrils and countless flesh holes, where innumerable beetles flew in and out!

Damn, that's so disgusting, this must be it! Just wait, I'll destroy you!