

Seller 301

Chapter 301 Battle For The Seed Of Fire (Part-5)

Mark slowly got on his feet and looked around in a daze. "What the hell just happened? Just ten seconds ago, I was..."

A while ago;

As Mark activated the skill without considering the fact that it will take some time for the skill to activate and the enemy will not just sit around and do nothing, the lava golem indeed motioned its arm to remove the threat (Missile Defense System).

Having only 18% ether energy left to use, Mark just did what he can do to protect the defense system. He activated the Nullification skill of the suit.

The skill only absorbs all types of damage under the Demigod realm. However, two problems arose. One is that the lava golem's physical strength surpassed the Supreme realm and the other is that the Nullification skill needed 20% ether energy for the full effect.

As a result, Mark's defense was around high-9-circle and the incoming attack power has the equivalent power of a full-powered strike from a mid-10-circle expert.

Warning

"The probability of the suit's destruction is 100%"

"The risk of heavy injuries rose to 93%"

"The risk of death rose to 67%"

As the lava golem's palm almost reached Mark, the latter received the warning from the suit and his body became stiff for a fraction of a second. "Shit! I fucked up."

The system was ready to sacrifice his cultivation to release the invincible Protos barrier as the last resort to protect Mark from death.

However, Lan Ju appeared at the last moment and blocked the golem's palm with its enlarged tails.

"How many seconds more?" The beast emperor asked Mark as he swatted the golem's palm away. However, he was met with silence.

It was then he sensed the heartbeat spike from Mark. "It's the fear. Does that mean he cannot take the incoming damage and be just bluffing around?"

Lan Ju wasn't completely sure that Mark cannot block the earlier attack. However, he thought he couldn't just take the chance as Mark had no idea how strong the lava golem was.

Sensing the emotion of fear from Mark, the beast emperor commented as he blocked the lava golem's palm once again, "You are reckless, you know that?"

Meanwhile, sweat beads formed on Mark's forehead and he tried to calm his heart. He sighed in relief and thanked the leopard in his heart before answering in a shaking voice, "Five seconds more."

After sensing Mark's emotions stabilized rather quickly, the zheng turned around to spit out a torrent of water at the lava golem's palm that was about to shoot a beam of lava.

Before the skill was even unleashed, the zheng put an end to it and that gave the missile defense system enough time to finish the countdown timer, unleashing 25 ether missiles with each one containing an attack power of a Demigod (10.05 int).

Because of the less distance, the lava golem could only protect the fire gems by covering its body with its arms. However, the ether missiles turned out to have high penetration. They put holes all over its body, eventually killing it in the end.

Just one shot and the boss died. How incredible that is?

Not to mention, the defense system is still at crystal grade. What would happen if it was upgraded to the maximum? Maybe, he can even kill the gods with this?

Mark's earlier feelings were all gone and his body started to shiver in excitement just the thought of its potential.

He was now more than ever determined to upgrade it to the God grade.

"Lan Ju, thanks for the assistance but now that we are done here, I should collect the reward, whilst you clean up the battlefield," said Mark as he stepped toward the weapon. He intended to dismiss it and fly toward the corpse of the lava golem.

However, before he could do that, two yellow lightning bolts descended from the sky, taking him by surprise.

"Careful..." The zheng used its enlarged tail to strike Mark, pushing him away from the weapon.

One lightning bolt struck the zheng and the other struck the weapon.

Present;

Mark saw the scarlet leopard was badly injured. The lightning drilled a big hole into its stomach and it just lie on the floor in an unconscious state. On the other hand, the missile defense system was in flames, on the verge of destruction.

*Ding! Missile Defense System-VI's durability has been reduced by 99%. Please repair it.

"No... no... no..." Mark grabbed his head and started muttering in disbelief, "This cannot happen... The repair costs..."

The system charges 1000 gold coins per 1% durability if it is a crystal-grade weapon. That means... it will cost nearly a million gold coins now.

At the same time, the system charges 100,000 gold coins to house Lan Ju in the familiars' inventory, which will recover its health to full within a day. He can treat it outside too. As long as Allen comes here with the divine sword, he can heal Lan Ju. However, the appearance of the powerful enemies made it impossible for him to do it.

Mark raised his head and glared at the mysterious experts in anger. "1.1 fucking million gold coins... 1.1..."

He kept on muttering while sending the defense system to the inventory and placing the Zheng in the familiars' inventory. After sending them away, he took the vial with a dark green-colored potion and drank it without hesitation.

*Ding! You consumed the peak strength potion

*Ding! All of your stats temporarily increased to 9.9 points.

*Ding! Ether particles temporarily increased to 9,999,999,999 points.

*Ding! You temporarily received a new summon, Lightning Wyvern.

*Ding! You temporarily received a new summon, Thunder Gorilla.

*Ding! You temporarily received a new summon, Lightning Dragon.

*Ding! The maximum limits of all the skills of the character were raised considerably.

*Ding! You temporarily received a new summon, Frosty Wyvern.

*Ding! You temporarily received a new summon, Tundra Mammoth.

*Ding! You temporarily received a new summon, Ice Dragon.

Mark felt the terrifying surge of strength in his body but he tried his best to not pay attention to it due to the seriousness of the current situation.

Staring at the mysterious group of experts, who appeared to be taking their time in descending as if they weren't in hurry, Mark mumbled, "You lot will pay for it. But, before that..."

Mark shifted his attention to the fallen golem and immediately rushed at his top speed to secure the reward.

Not only did it take him a fraction of a second to reach there but he also felt too controlled regarding his speed. The feeling was different from earlier when he struggled quite a bit to find balance and everything.

Meanwhile, the mysterious experts didn't stop him and they continued to descend at their own pace.

Mark placed the entire disfigured carcass of the lava golem in his inventory and then placed his attention on the enemies.

They were still a couple of hundred meters away from the ground and Mark became too impatient to wait for them. He dismissed the suit, figuring out that it was of no use to him in his present state.

Then, how will he fly? Well, he can summon a dragon but he doesn't want to waste ether points when there are so many enemies. So, he opts for a different way.

"Activate Skill: Blizzard Wings"

Upon unleashing the third bloodline skill, a pair of icy wings erupted from his back. They were made of ice but they were also flexible in nature.

Mark flapped his wings and flew toward the experts. Since he already had experience in flying with the suit, Mark was comfortable. As for the reason, why he chose to fly with these icy wings, it is because of the defense it will provide to him.

Now that he was set, the only thing he needed to do is to take down the strongest of them in one shot.

He activated his Sage eyes and looked at their details.

Since none of them carried any divine grade weapons or have the cultivation above the Demigod realm, even with those special clothing, their identities and their strength were revealed to Mark. A trace of surprise appeared on his face.

The most surprising isn't the fact that everyone is in the Supreme realm but it is their race and their affiliation.

"The dark elves of Ixitus Empire? It's the same as Mari's affiliation. What a great coincidence..."

Chapter 302 2 Million Gold Coins As Compensation

Mark's first thoughts were to capture one of them for the information on the Ixitus Empire, the place that shelters the experts who managed to summon Mari from the earth.

If he can go there and find out how they did it, perhaps, he can find a way back to his homeland.

The peak potion lasts for five minutes and he was confident about finishing them within a minute. The remaining four minutes are enough to interrogate a person.

But, then, upon remembering how much loss he just experienced from their ambush, adding to the fact that he escaped death narrowly once again due to the zheng's timely act, Mark's blood boiled in anger.

He decided to not spare even one of them and give them any chance to escape. He can find out the information from Mari/Zan Rong once her memories returned anyway.

Hence, Mark acted right away with his eyes fixed on the leader, who was standing way above the group.
"Thunderblast, activate."

Meanwhile, the experts become alert as they saw Mark raise his hand while flying toward them, indicating that he was going to attack.

They couldn't sense his cultivation realm but were confident to take on even a Demigod as long as he is below the intermediate stage and they were staying together in their special formation. The five of them formed a pentagon with the sixth person in the center while the remaining one stood above them.

Little did they expect that the leader would receive their karma too quickly.

As they were monitoring the situation on the battlefield from the sky, they realized that the modern weapon possessed by Mark was incredibly dangerous.

If they had knowledge of the Missile Defense system, the leader of the group would have tried to steal it. However, the fact that it is mysterious made him decide that they will destroy it altogether.

Of course, the zheng was troublesome for them and they cannot afford to fight it. Considering how it protected Mark, they used their fusion skill, the yellow lightning to ambush it together with Mark.

They intended to harm atleast one of them but luckily, the zheng was injured and the weapon was destroyed.

Unfortunately, their luck didn't last for long.

They ambushed the enemies with yellow lightning strikes and in return, their remaining enemy now ambushed the strongest of them using the same method, the sudden strike of lightning.

rumble

As a red lightning bolt descended from the heavens and struck their leader without any warning, turning the peak-stage Supreme realm expert into ashes, everyone's expressions were frozen immediately.

Mark didn't stop there. After expending 50% of his ether energy, he proceeded to unleash his first bloodline skill, Absolute freezing, in mid-air.

In just an instant, his entire five-kilometer radius was frozen up in ice while only 100 million ether points were consumed in the process.

For the Emperor and others who were only observing it from the campsite, it appeared as if a huge iceberg formed in the place where the lava golem was once located. And six frozen statues were placed on top of that iceberg.

As the bonus effect of the Absolute freezing, the temperature felt by the frozen elves dropped down to -210 degree Celsius, just -9 degrees away from the freezing point of oxygen. If they had been humans, no matter how strong they are, they would have died by now.

However, the superior dark elf race had more resistance to cold and hot temperatures naturally. Some of them were feeling shortness of breath but none of them have yet to face death.

While they are also trying their best to get free from the frozen state, Mark didn't sit still either. He landed on the top of the flat surface of the iceberg and made his next move.

"Activate, Lightning clone."

The lightning clone was summoned on top of the iceberg. With the power of a peak stage Demigod, it didn't take five seconds for the clones to behead all the elves along with their hoodies.

Once they were dead, Mark dismissed the clone in order to save his ether energy, and then, flapped his wings to fly around to look for the opponents who were still alive.

Since he had several minutes left, Mark didn't want to waste the opportunity and search for the prey. However, his efforts became fruitless, not being able to find even one of them during the five minutes.

As for Yan Hai, he long fled from the battlefield as soon as he witnessed the power of a red lightning bolt, which appeared to be something that he cannot afford to go against.

Roughly, after 30 minutes, the iceberg disappeared and the headless corpses fell to the ground. Until then, Mark was guarding them, wearing his suit once again with his peak powers gone.

Once they were available to search, Mark searched their pockets to find the storage rings. After looting them, he ignored the dead bodies and flew toward the camp where the Emperor and his aides were waiting for him with various expressions. Some of them like the experts from Mt. Hua sect had a trace of fear on their faces; some of them like the soldiers had a look of admiration; the Emperor was smiling big; while Song Tai and others like the second prince and Yuan Meili were astonished.

While Mark ventured into the battlefield, the soldiers at the campsite continuously kept an eye on the lava golem through the telescopes.

They didn't get to see Lan Ju or his beast's appearance anywhere due to the high-speed battles but they sure witnessed the lava golem being destroyed by ether missiles, followed by Mark killing an enemy with a powerful red lightning bolt and then freezing the others using bloodline skill.

Each of them had a separate reaction as the Eastern General reported the results of the battle to the Emperor but whatever the case, Mark had brought the fire seed with him and that is enough for the Emperor and the second prince to not question anything about the new weapon or his skills.

And Mark's reclusive attitude displayed during the past three days also made it harder for the others to speak to him properly.

Fortunately, Song Tai couldn't sense the cultivation realms of the dark elves. Or else, everyone else would have feared Mark so much that they would shiver in his mere presence.

Anyways, as soon as he reached the campsite, Mark asked for a private meeting with the Emperor and his son.

Soon, except for Shang Fu, Shang Wen, Mark, and Allen, the others left the Emperor's tent.

"It would be nice if Venerable Wu had come along with you. I thought of inviting the both of you to the palace for a grand feast," said the Emperor as he took the seat. Mark had earlier lied to everyone that his

companion, Wu Weibao (Lan Ju), left as soon as his work is done and didn't return with him. Hence, Emperor Shang thought that it was a pity to not be able to invite such an expert.

Mark responded to the Emperor's words by bringing up a different topic in a serious tone, "Let's come to the matter directly, Your Majesty. In the process of obtaining the fire seed for you, I lost a crystal grade, I mean, in your terms, a semi-divine grade weapon; I had to use up my life-saving potion to face those dark elves from another world that you failed to mention.

However, I'm not shameless to compensate for all of my losses. Before I hand over your item, I need you to pay the repair fees for the Missile Defense system so that I can send it back to my manufacturer. It will cost 2 million gold coins and I don't want to bear such huge expenses. I hope you understand the reasoning behind my demand."

Mark lost 1.1 million gold coins because of the ambush and he decided to cash in the opportunity, extracting more money from his biological father. If the latter can pay more than 25 million gold coins, then, 2 million shouldn't be a problem for him. Hence, Mark will rob him for sure.

On the other hand, Shang Fu and Shang Wen were taken aback by the information they got from Mark.

"The Dark elves from another world?" Shang Wen looked at his father. "Your Majesty, you know anything about it?"

Shang Fu also shook his head, "I know that a few tribes of elves were still living in the Beast Empire but never heard of dark elves."

Both of them could only ask Mark for an explanation. However, unfortunately, he doesn't have any idea about them. But, since he already opened the topic, he tried his best to answer them, "All I know is that those dark elves are from Ixitus Empire. It would also be helpful to me if you can find something about it."

"I have never heard of the Ixitus Empire but I will ask Shang Bo to enquire with the ancient sects of the Dragon Empire. They might know something about it," replied the Emperor before adding as an afterthought, "Oh, by the way, those 2 million gold coins, you will get it. Don't worry about it. I can do that much for you."

Mark nodded with a smile, "thank you."

The Emperor then said, "General Wen will come to your store in two days to collect his order with a new one from the Imperial Palace. I will send the compensation to him. In the meantime, I hope you will honor the deal from your end."

Mark responded with a proposition in return, "Your Majesty, how about I just sell the lava golem's remains along with the fire seed? We can negotiate the price for the package deal."

"Hmm?" "Hmm?"

Shang Fu and Shang Wen stared at him.

Chapter 303 Just The Golem's Head Excluding The Fire Seed Is Worth 20 Million Gold Coins?

Sometime later;

Mark and the others gathered at the dead forest, lying at the bottom of the cliff where the campsite is located.

Mark opened the inventory and took out the corpse of the giant lava golem, which stretched for 3200 meters.

Everyone stared at it, mouth agape with incredulity. Even Song Tai couldn't hide his astonishment upon seeing the giant monster up close. Adding on top of that, no holes were seen on its body. Everything appeared to be intact.

Perhaps, the only couple of changes from when it transformed is the dullness of the Fire seeds on its body and the lack of life.

The two large fire seeds, one on its forehead and the other on its chest, might not be glowing but they are working perfectly. The best example is the regeneration of the lava golem's skin and organs.

"Venerable Song, Your Highness, now, I need your help in severing its head cleanly." Mark reminded them of the agreement they just made.

According to the agreement, Mark will keep the severed head and the smaller fire seed while the rest of the remains will go to the Imperial Palace.

In exchange for the golem's remains, which can be used to make more than 100 semi-divine weapons, a number of 9-star delicacies, advanced elixirs, and other things, the Imperial Palace will pay 15 million gold coins to Mark (Of which atleast 5 million gold coins in the form of ether crystals or ores). If not for the fact that the golem doesn't have a spirit core, Mark might have demanded more money.

Adding the compensation, he will earn a total of 17 million gold coins. Of course, all of this money isn't included in the 100-million gold coins deal. Not to mention, several storage rings are waiting to be explored.

Hence, Mark managed to make huge profits from this trip and no longer felt disappointed in paying a million to repair the missile defense system.

Meanwhile, the Imperial palace's treasury was downed by a significant portion.

The large amount of savings amassed by the Shang Dynasty's rulers during the past millennium was squandered by the current emperor within just a week.

Now, if the Imperial Palace will pay 17 million gold coins at once, the empire will have less than one-third of the treasury left.

The remaining money won't sustain much longer in case a food crisis or other issues arose unexpectedly and the Emperor knows it very well. Yet, in order to improve the military might of the Empire; in order to bring Mark closer to the Imperial Palace, Shang Fu took the risk.

Shang Wen was aware that Shang Fu spent more than 26 million just a few days ago in the auction. And now, another 15 million. He couldn't understand why his father was squandering so much money on improving the military strength when he was known to be a responsible ruler but he is a General after all.

He doesn't know how the empire is administered or how much money the treasury has. And neither was in a position to question his father's motives too. Hence, he kept his thoughts to himself and went on with the flow.

After the golem's head was severed, Mark stored it in the inventory, and then, pointed to the 2800-meter big headless corpse lying on the ground, "you can take it in any way you wish, Your Highness. We'll meet at the store again, three days later."

Soon, the helicopter left the area, flying toward the Imperial City. Staring at the helicopter, Shang Fu let out a deep sigh and turned around to walk away to the campsite, leaving the work to his son and the others.

Meanwhile, inside the vehicle, Mark contacted the system as soon as the helicopter took off. Since the fire seed is practically useless to him as well as Song Yue, he wanted to know how much it is worth so that he can sell it in some auction later on.

"System, if I want to trade the fire seed along with the lava golem's head, what would you offer in return?"
He asked out loud, considering no one can listen to his words.

The system responded right away.

*Ding! You received a trade request. Exchange Lava golem's head (fire seed included) for 18 million credits/Random Mythril graded weapon.

"What the... 18 million? Are you serious?" Mark couldn't just believe his eyes for a moment. "That's like 90 million gold coins."

*Ding! The fire seed possessed by the host is of Superior quality. Upon usage, the host has a 76% chance to awaken the Phoenix Bloodline. Otherwise, the fire seed, like all the elemental seeds, contains a minute percentage of divinity. It is beneficial to the system.

*Ding! The three pairs of eyes, brain, and teeth are precious parts of the lava golem. The eyes contain the bloodline. The brain contains its memories of the earth. And its teeth are more durable than titanium and far stronger than tungsten. Hence the price is fair.

"What if I sell it to you separately? How much they would be worth?" Mark's heartbeat steadily increased in tension. He feared that he made a tremendous amount of loss earlier.

And the system surely disappointed him by confirming his fears.

*Ding! The fire seed is worth 14 million credits and the parts of the lava golem's head are worth 4 million credits.

"The head is worth 20 million gold coins and I gave away such a huge corpse for a far lesser price. No wonder Shang Fu readily agreed to the price without even bothering to negotiate."

Mark was really riding on the wave of emotions on this trip.

He started the trip by successfully convincing Lan Ju to follow him to the campsite.

Eventually, his excitement died down with the lava pillar taking forever to transform.

After that, he became lucky to receive an exoskeleton suit.

However, it didn't last long as he lost an opportunity to acquire the corpse of a red dragon.

Then, once again, he found his happiness by destroying the lava golem with one skill attack.

Unfortunately, within the next few seconds, his missile defense system was damaged to the extent that he needed to pay 1 million gold coins to repair it. Intending to kill the enemies, he had to use the peak potion, which he never wanted to do because Lan Ju was supposed to be tagging along with him.

After that, that feeling of unhappiness disappeared with the Emperor agreeing to pay compensation and even was ready to pay an exorbitant amount to acquire the corpse.

Now, he has money and he has one of the fire seeds.

Just as he thought that he was content with the trip, once again, the unhappiness found him in the form of the system's offer, which made him realize that he actually faced a huge loss by making deal with the emperor.

Knowing that it is almost impossible to acquire 90 million gold coins even if he sells the head with the fire seed in some grand auction, Mark decided to make the deal with the system and find temporary satisfaction. As for acquiring the majestic Phoenix Bloodline, he wouldn't do it even if the system offers him a reward in return.

"System, I accept the trade."

*Ding! Choose the exchange item: 18 million credits/Random Mythril grade weapon.

Chapter 304 Welcome Home

"Credits," He answered. To upgrade the missile defense system to Mythril grade, he might need a lot of credits.

But then, why couldn't he just go with choosing the Mythril grade weapon? Mark knew that the system will follow the law of fairness. It means that this random weapon he is going to receive will be worth less than 100 million gold coins for sure.

However, in his opinion, the current Crystal-grade missile defense system is far more worth than a mere 100 million as he could kill everyone under the Demigod realm with ease. Once it is upgraded to Mythril, perhaps, he might be able to kill even Demigods.

If that's the case, then, what will be the new worth of the weapon? Mark estimates that it will be atleast a billion. That would mean that its worth will be equal to the combined worth of all the empires that existed on the planet he was currently living in.

Logically, he believed that his decision is right and proceeded with the trade.

*Ding! 18 million credits are added to the account.

"Now, I have nearly 24.5 million credits to spend. I have a little more than 11 million gold coins in my inventory and the Emperor will give me at least 12 million more. So, that's like 4.5 million credits. So, overall, I will end up with 29 million credits.

The upgrade to ruby needs 6.72 million credits. Judging by the graph, the upgrade from ruby to Mythril grade might need another 60.5 million credits. That means I will be short of more than 38 million. That's like 190 million gold coins. Just where in the hell should I get such amount?"

3-4 months ago, he was looking at 100 gold coins like it was a treasure. Now, that 100 became 100 million. Mark was aware that whether it is the seed of fire or the expo, they are only once-in-a-year types of events. He cannot depend on them once again and neither does he want to wait for a long time.

Hence, Mark had to think of a new way to earn the money.

"Hmm... to earn such huge amounts, selling the weapons won't do. I need such events again.

The best way to earn is to kill higher realm monsters and sell their cores as well as their carcasses. Bloodhill forest is there to provide me with the targets.

But, I need to find the right buyer too. The amounts I required could only be given by the emperors and kings.

I have already squeezed more than 40 million from Shang Fu. He might not be able to procure vast amounts for a while. So, I need to choose another imperial family...

Leon Empire, perhaps?"

Several Hours later;

Genesis Weapon Store, Imperial City;

The time was around 11 p.m., and every store in the city was closed. GWS was no exception either. It is just that the shutter wasn't closed.

Song Yue dragged the chair to the entrance/exit a while ago and sat there with Tishanan, the golden furred cat, comfortably sleeping in her arms.

Chang Bo left his home long ago, the Black Knight a.k.a Song Yun also returned to the inn where he was renting the room for a while, and Alina was busy reading a mystery novel.

That leaves the manticore lying beside Song Yue and telling her about the stories of undying lands. Song Yue was nodding once in a while as if she was paying attention but in reality, her eyes kept glancing at the sky.

"So, as you know... that one-legged toad emperor isn't the one to sit by. He rushed into the battlefield and... Hmm?"

Soon, a faint sound of the rotor blades was heard far away. Because the streets are empty at this time, Song Yue could hear them. She quickly recognized the sound and got up on her feet, all of a sudden.

The manticore paused for a moment and looked at Song Yue, "what happened, young miss? Getting bored?"

Song Yue pointed to the sky with her face glowing in happiness, "Did you hear that, Baltrow? It's Lu Zhen's helicopter."

"Eh? Lu Zhen?" The manticore raised its head and stared at the sky. There's nothing. It then enhanced its senses and concentrated on the surroundings. Indeed, the rotor blades' sound could be heard. They got louder as time slowly passed.

Just after a minute, the helicopter was sighted in the sky with its red LED lights flashing on the left and green LED on the right. It landed on the training grounds and the both of them got down from the vehicle.

As Mark exited the training grounds, he saw there were lights in the store and Song Yue was sitting at the entrance, taking him by surprise. "Was she waiting for me?" He wondered as he walked toward her. That thought warmed his heart.

Upon reaching her, he apologized right away, "Sorry for taking long. I didn't expect this would turn into a 3-day trip."

Song Yue didn't stop smiling and simply replied, "Welcome home."

Mark couldn't help but also smile in response, feeling good to see her face. It felt as if he hadn't seen her for weeks.

After a while, as Mark freshened up and came out of his room, Song Yue and Alina appeared to be arranging the dishes on the table. Mark was slightly taken aback upon seeing two plates on the table.

"You didn't eat dinner?" He asked Song Yue. To which, the latter replied casually as she took the seat, "I thought I could wait as you are already on the way."

Mark stared at her in silence for a few seconds. He was touched and felt happy to see someone waiting for him at the home.

All those unpleasant feelings he faced during the afternoon were suddenly gone from his head just by listening to that simple sentence from Song Yue. Meanwhile, Alina felt a heavy disturbance in her heart (core) as she read Mark's thoughts.

Not knowing what was going on with her or how to react, she left for the kitchen and almost slammed the countertop in frustration. "Why doesn't Big brother treat me the same way he treats Lady Song even though he depends on me more than her? I just don't like this feeling.

Fuu... take a deep breath and relax, Alina. Why are you being anxious about every little thing? No matter how close Song Yue gets close to Big Brother, she cannot replace me. All I need to do is to fulfill my job, staying on his side at all times.

Anyway, you seriously need to keep yourself busy so that you don't get such useless thoughts. Hmm... How about implementing that restaurant plan that Big Brother wanted to bring to this world?"

After calming herself, Alina got outside of the kitchen only to see Song Yue and Mark laughing together while sharing the experiences of their respective childhood incidents.

Alina's face darkened once again, feeling jealous once again. This time, she didn't leave but interrupted them by suddenly bringing up the topic of the restaurant business to Mark.

The earnings of tens of millions of gold coins during the past few days made him forget about it altogether. After being reminded by the Android, Mark fell into deep thoughts for a while and finally gave an ok.

"But, Big Brother, just opening it won't do, right? We need to think about the dishes that general people like, special dishes that only we have the recipe for, and also a signature dish that cannot be replicated by any chef out there.

We need to think about the ingredients too, especially regarding the meat. Just ordinary chickens, pork, beef, and lamb won't do. As the quality of the meat of the spirit beasts goes up, the quality of the dish improves. For that, we need to do a lot of groundwork." Alina continued to chat with Mark, ignoring Song Yue on the side.

For a while, it appeared that even Mark was distracted by the topic of the restaurant and continuously discussed it with her. Meanwhile, Song Yue felt a bit left out as she wasn't involved in the conversation. As a lady who grew up in a noble household, she was familiar with the high-quality meat but her hesitation got in the way, turning her into a silent spectator.

After a while;

Mark returned to his room and locked the door. Sitting on the bed, he then enquired about the system regarding the status of the zheng.

The system responded to him right away, giving a piece of good news.

*Ding! Estimated time for the complete recovery: 32 minutes.

"Okay, good. Now, let's see what to do with those things from dark elves."

Chapter 305 Purchasing Passive Skills

Previously, when he was on the helicopter, he had inspected the storage rings he looted from the dark elves of the Ixitus Empire. However, due to the tiny space, he couldn't take them out.

And now that he is in his room with enough space, Mark took the semi-divine weapons (bows) one after another before transferring them directly to the inventory.

The semi-divine weapons have their own consciousness like the wild beasts. Without the owners, they act like wild beasts too, running away or attacking the people nearby.

The Doom Scythe was the perfect example of that. It is why Mark didn't bother to inspect them in his room but sent them to the inventory directly before checking out their details.

They are 6 in number and five of them are in Diamond grade and the other in Crystal grade if one were to evaluate them using the system's grading method. None of them is much useful to Mark and he intended to dismantle them for credits. At his present stage, any weapon less than mithril grade (divine grade/low quality-heaven grade) is useless.

He already has the Doom Scythe to upgrade and with the scarcity of the upgrade stones, he wasn't sure he can afford to upgrade other semi-divine weapons. Not to mention, there are also charges to reset the memory of their respective consciousness.

Why bother when he can just sell them and make money? Hence, he decided to opt for the same route.

However, it wasn't just the semi-divine weapons that were inside the storage rings. There were hundreds of thousands of coins and bars in each of them.

And the most surprising thing is that they looked like gold coins but actually aren't.

When he was in the helicopter and inspecting them, Mark thought that they were gold coins as the coins were yellow in color. But, only now did he realize that their color was off.

Upon inspecting them through Sage Eyes, Mark discovered that they are Orichalcum coins, made of Orichalcum, a yellow-colored metal alloy that is made of 80% copper and other unknown metals.

Usually, their value should be lower than gold but the system rated them far higher. According to the mining function, 1 gm of Orichalcum is priced at 20 gold coins.

So, what made them so special?

The metal alloy can absorb natural energy from its surroundings. It's that very ability that made Orichalcum put at a higher price even though its durability is far lower than steel or even iron, forget about titanium.

With each coin weighing 11.2 gm, Mark calculated the total gains after transferring all of them to the inventory.

"Hmm, I gained over 762k Orichalcum coins from all of those storage rings and that would mean a little more than 8500 kg of Orichalcum in possession. It is worth 170 million gold coins. That's like 32 million credits, enough for me to upgrade the missile defense system to Mythril grade."

Mark was on high clouds, feeling lucky to get showered by millions of gold coins one after another. But, the system appears to have different plans.

Even before he asked, it sent him a notification, pouring water on his happiness.

Ding! The system cannot purchase raw materials no matter the kind. Hence, the host cannot sell it to the system and earn something in return.

"That's 170 million, you fucking bastard." Mark couldn't control his emotions upon learning that he cannot earn the money from Orichalcum coins. But then again, his reaction should be obvious. After all, who would be able to keep calm even after reading such a notification?

However, will the system care about his feelings? Obviously, it won't. As soon as Mark cursed the system, it punished him with a high voltage current shock, enough for him to feel the pain but less than what it needed to hurt his physical body.

Followed by the punishment, the system gave a serious warning.

Ding! The host kept on ignoring the system's policy on obscene language aimed at it. The next time will be followed by a penalty in the form of credits or a mandatory emergency quest with no rewards.

After receiving an electric shock, Mark felt like all of his stamina got drained away. He grumbled, "I will get back at you, one day."

Ding! The host is already doing that by taking advantage of the loophole and illegally earning millions.

Mark no longer tried to argue with the system and put his attention on the worthless coins. "I guess the best way is to melt them and use the Orichalcum to produce ether weapons. But, to determine their usage, I might have to perform tests on their durability, hardness, reaction with other alloys, melting point, etc... Without studying it properly, I cannot waste such precious material. If I can figure out the process behind its bonding with the natural energy, it will be a breakthrough for my ether weapons.

Anyway, let's put aside the matter and focus on the other items."

Mark then fixed his eyes on the bunch of arrows placed on the floor. He separated them based on the color of their arrowheads. All of them are also rare and expensive materials.

Some are made of Herculean steel, some are made of Damascus tungsten, some are made of obsidian, and a couple of them are even made of mithril metal. Overall, there are about 142 in number.

All of them are ungraded items but their sharpness, hardness, and penetration ability made them powerful enough to even injure Supreme realm experts as long as the archer can shoot them at high speed.

For Mark, those arrows are useless but the materials of their arrowheads are a different story. Compared to all the rewards, their worth isn't much but if one considers availability, then, Mark indeed has a fortuitous encounter.

After placing different types of arrows in different inventory slots, Mark dismantled the storage rings, destroying the other useless items placed in them. The six storage rings netted him about 1658 credits, which isn't much to pay attention to.

"Okay, there's still time for the zheng to heal up. So, let's shop around. I can't experience those near-to-death situations ever again even if I have to spend money on them. I will have to upgrade my defenses."

He proceeded to open the system's store. As the system hasn't upgraded to level-6 yet, there were still categories that are grayed out. He then clicked on skills.

Elemental *Miscellaneous*

Mark clicked on miscellaneous as they don't have any attribute restriction. It was further divided into five sections.

Beginner *Intermediate* *Advanced* *Peak* *Unique*

All beginner skills are priced at 100 credits and the price increase 10 times as the quality moves up. In the end, the unique skills are equally priced at 1 million credits.

With more than 24.5 million credits in the account, Mark felt like he could afford to buy one or two, keeping the rest for the missile defense system.

Anyway, upon clicking on unique skills, two more options appeared.

Active *Passive*

"Hmm... Active skills like the thunderblast are good, but at the moment, I need to look for automatic defense skills that can protect me from any kind of ambush. Not to mention, cooldown timer sucks."

Mark went to the passive skills section. There are about 25 skills listed of which 10 are offensive, 10 are defensive, and 5 are supportive type. He carefully read the description of each skill.

Of them, three impressed him the most, well, atleast, they were useful in the present situation.

The first one is Enhanced Durability. Basically, it increases the body's toughness to receive less incoming damage. It has over 99 levels with each level corresponding to a 1% additional damage reduction. And guess what, the skill can easily be upgraded to higher levels through credits.

It means that as long as he has money, he can increase his defense. Of course, one can expect the costs will be damn huge.

Still, Mark felt like he needed it. Money can be earned, not life. He bought it without hesitation.

***Ding! 1 million credits are deducted. You purchased the "Enhanced Durability" skill.**

The second one that impressed him is a simple but powerful passive skill. It is called "Ether Regeneration." This ability will let the user recover the ether energy at a faster rate.

Unlike the others, Mark depends heavily on the skills that use a high amount of ether energy as he doesn't possess any fighting skills on his own. Hence, recovering the ether energy at a faster rate will help him greatly to use more techniques.

***Ding! 1 million credits are deducted. You purchased the "Ether Regeneration" skill.**

And for the final passive skill, he chose something that neither gives him any boost in any stats nor that can be used to hurt the enemy but is still very unique and powerful.

Chapter 306 System, You Are A Scammer

*Ding! 1 million credits are deducted. You purchased the "No touch" skill.

"No touch" skill is an automatic defensive passive ability, which can be toggled on/off to activate or deactivate at any time. The skill's ability is what its title says. Upon being activated, the user cannot be touched by anyone else physically. Whoever comes within the range shall be pushed away by an invisible force.

That means Mark cannot be harmed physically. However, the range attacks still work though. Another problem is that he cannot exempt the allies. Even they are affected by this skill.

And that's where the toggle switch is needed.

Mark never had plans on activating this skill unless it is in an emergency but since he was already spending millions of gold coins and is still far away from his goal of making the missile defense system a divine weapon, he thought he might as well get what he wants.

After purchasing the third passive skill, he closed down the window and then entered the Active skills section. There's a skill he had his eyes on for a while but its high cost made him hesitate until now.

It is called the Gravity Dome, which creates an invisible dome around the user. Inside the region, the user would be able to control the gravity, well, not exactly a complete control but one can increase the gravity by ten or twenty folds so that the enemies will be crushed to the ground.

Another good part of the skill is that it not only grows along with the user just like the bloodline skills but the user can also exempt his allies from being affected by this skill.

*Ding! 1 million credits are deducted. You purchased the "Gravity Dome" skill.

He opened the skills list to take a good look at the details. He nodded in satisfaction.

"Okay, that's 4 million overall. With the earlier 1.5 million credits of spending, I guess I will also complete the next side quest once I acquire the Amulet of Diyu. Anyways, let's level up the Enhanced Durability a little bit."

Mark then clicked on the damage reduction skill, which was at level-1, at the moment.

Enhanced Durability (Lv-1): Increase the user's body durability to receive less incoming damage of all types except for mental attacks. Effect: 1% DR. Limit: Opponents who are no greater than two ranks/realms above the user.

As he clicked on the level, the option of upgrade came up.

And the moment Mark's eyes fell on the cost required to upgrade the skill, he got an urge to swear at the system immediately. However, the previous experience of electric shock forced him to swallow down his words and made a comment in a mild manner, "the system once again scammed me."

Upgrade to Level-2 >>> 1,000,000 credits.

"C'mon, I just paid a million credits/5 million gold coins, which are enough for me to live peacefully for a lifetime, just to buy that skill. And I have to spend a million credits for every percentage? System, you are a scammer. Admit it by now." He scolded the system without using obscene language.

Naturally, the system won't accept any allegations against it. It gave a reply right away.

*Ding! The skill's real use comes into effect when the host reaches the Demigod realm. Please re-read the skill's description once again and ponder on it. The host would be able to understand the skill's potential.

"Well, for its effectiveness, I should not only earn money more but also get stronger. At present, it is nothing but a useless skill."

Being a little depressed by continuous setbacks, Mark now put his hopes on the storage ring with the zheng.

Little over twenty minutes later, the scarlet leopard opened its eyes and found itself in a room with pure white-colored walls, floor, and ceiling. There was nothing else around it except for a small portal at the ceiling. "Where is this place?" Lan Ju wondered at first as he inspected the surroundings.

"There's this strange energy presented in this room. It is so pure and unlike anything I have sensed before. My injury also healed completely. Is this the so-called divine energy?"

But, according to the master, only the divine beings from the celestial realm contain such power. Lu Zhen is clearly a mortal, 100% human. When I tasted his blood, I didn't sense any divine energy inside his body.

Does that mean I was captured by some divine being? Well, I don't sense any suppression on me. So, let's go into the portal and see where it leads me."

Lan Ju then took a leap toward the ceiling and entered the portal only to find himself on the floor of a bedroom with Mark lying carelessly on the bed with a bowl of popcorn in his hands. He was watching Alina's cooking show. "Hmm?"

Mark's attention was disturbed by the appearance of the leopard. "Lu Zhen?" The scarlet leopard exclaimed in surprise.

He immediately sat on the bed and let out a smile, "Welcome back, Lan Ju. It looks like you are completely healed."

"So, you are the one who placed me in that white room? What was that place anyway?" The scarlet leopard questioned him directly without wasting his breath on other pleasant compliments.

"The white room?" At first, Mark was a little bit confused but then he realized that the zheng was talking about the familiar's inventory. He doesn't know what the room looked like, but at the same time, he doesn't want to appear clueless as the more majestic he appears to the zheng, the more loyalty he will gain from the beast emperor.

Mark nodded and then explained, "It is a special dimension where my contracted beasts or summoned beasts can be healed. Anyway, it's roughly been 12 hours since you were sent there. We got the fire seed and the enemies were defeated. Just don't ask me how. I told you that I had my means to protect myself."

The zheng stared at him for a few seconds and eventually nodded, "alright. Everyone has their own secrets. So, this is your residence?"

As the leopard looked around, scanning the place, Mark nodded. "Yes. We are at the Imperial City."

The scarlet leopard also nodded in satisfaction and praised, "I sense the Demigod-level suppression all over your residence. It is good to be living in such a place for you. Anyway, now that your job is done and I'm alright. I guess I will be returning to my home."

Mark was aware that he cannot let the zheng stay at the Imperial City for a very long time as it will increase the chances of his real identity getting exposed. Not to mention, he recently learned from the zheng that his mother is a Demigod, not a civilian with a divine grade item. Hence, it is more important that he needs to send him away.

As a result, he accepted Lan Ju's decision to return to the Kunyu mountains. Soon, the scarlet leopard slipped out of the window on the first floor and landed on the ground before dashing at subsonic speed in the darkness.

Not even a hundred seconds passed and Lan Ju was already more than a hundred and fifty kilometers away from the outskirts of the Imperial City. He is somewhere in the wilderness.

But, little did he expect to stop in his tracks as his way was cut off by a stranger in black robes and hood.

"Hmm?" Lan Ju was alarmed as soon as he sensed the cultivation realm of the woman who appeared out of nowhere. "A Demigod?"

The stranger lowered down the hood to reveal a familiar-looking face. The woman coldly greeted the zheng, "Lan Ju."

"Lan Jingyi, the traitor..." The scarlet leopard let out an angry growl.

Back to the Genesis Weapon store, Mark was staring at the storage ring that was full of corpses of the Spirit Warriors that the zheng eliminated during the noon. He doesn't want to tell to the beast emperor that he wanted their storage rings and damage his reputation. Hence, he asked the zheng to collect their bodies so that he can loot from them personally.

However, back then, he didn't think about other things like his pure white marble floor getting stained by the blood of the corpses. There's also the smell that he needed to consider. He doesn't want Song Yue to see the situation. So, he did the most logical thing that he can do.

Sitting on the bed, Mark went to the factory's testing grounds inside his mindscape. On level-3 one, the land was quite huge. So, he felt it was a good place to put the corpses down and inspect them without worrying about anyone.

Chapter 307 Lan Jingyi Confronts The Zheng (Part-1)

More than 150 kilometers away from the Imperial City of Phoenix Empire, Lan Jingyi and Lan Ju were standing in front of each other, displaying clear hostility on their faces. It looked like the fight is almost going to break up at any moment.

But, before that, an exchange of dialogues is necessary, thought Lan Jingyi as she confronted the scarlet leopard about its appearance within the city, and that too, near her son.

"What were you doing at the Imperial City, Lan Ju?"

As Lan Jingyi tried to interrogate the zheng, the latter scowled in response, "What's it to you, traitor?"

"I told you not to call me that, Lan Ju." Lan Jingyi clenched her fist, trying her best to not launch an attack. Unlike Lan Jing, this scarlet leopard is in the same realm as her, clearly stronger than her regarding the magic power.

Lan Ju then replied, "You, who abandoned your father's legacy despite inheriting his power, are nothing more than a traitor in my eyes."

"We have gone through that conversation already and I'm tired of listening to your unreasonable allegations." Lan Jingyi wasn't interested in talking about the past and stressed the present situation once again, "Anyway, you haven't answered my question yet. What are you doing at the Imperial City?"

Lan Ju hit back with the same response, "Then, I will reply the same thing. What is it to you?"

"Okay, let me rephrase my question. What are you doing at the Genesis Weapon store?" asked Lan Jingyi before adding, "I don't see you being tied to any relations apart from my late father for the past three decades."

Lan Ju immediately caught on to her intention and said directly, "I don't know what sort of complex relationship you had with Lu Zhen but I acknowledge his strength, valor, and bloodline. He will achieve something that you had thrown away. The revival of the Lan Sect will become a reality."

"That's never going to happen," snarled the Queen Consort as the ether energy rushed out of her body, forming a layer over her skin. "I will not let you drag my son into that messy business. Stay away from Shang Zen and return to where you have come from, the undying lands."

"Your son, Shang Zen, huh! No wonder..."

All this while, Lan Ju has theories about Mark. Of them, two are the most logical ones.

The first is that Lan Gengxin had an illicit relationship with some other woman and secretly had a child with her. And Mark was the son of that child.

The second theory is that Lan Jingyi herself had an affair with a man other than Emperor Shang and raised him in secret.

This way, Mark could possess the bloodline of Blizzard Pegasus without a problem.

It was only now he finally realized that Mark was an Imperial Prince born to Lan Jingyi and Shang Fu. Then, why the surname Lu? Is there a need to raise him in secret? Or maybe, he was being separated from his parents somehow and grew up in a household with the surname Lu? Lan Ju has a new theory but he wasn't that curious to find out the truth.

Anyways, without bothering to explain in detail about his meeting with Mark, Lan Ju replied to her warning, "I have accepted him as my sect master and he has requested me to be the guardian of the sect. So, whether you like it or not, we will revive the Lan Sect once again. Now, if you excuse me, I will have to return. It is already midnight."

After saying what he wants to say, the scarlet leopard turned out to walk away, but before he made even one step, Lan Jingyi teleported to the space before him and pushed forth her hand, releasing a tremendous volume of ice from her palm.

Lan Ju leaped back and breathed out a sea of flames in mid-air to counter the ice. The zheng not only nullified her attack but also forced her to dodge it and flew into the sky.

The zheng was about to land on the ground, but seeing that Lan Jingyi intends to have an aerial battle, he used the wind attribute and float in the air. This is the difference between Spirit beasts and Spirit Warriors.

The spirit beasts cannot fly if they don't have wings no matter what realm they are in. However, if they have wind attribute, they can float.

On the other hand, the Spirit Warriors can fly regardless of their attribute after reaching the Supreme Realm.

While it appeared that Lan Jingyi was in an advantageous position, one cannot forget that Zheng is a beast emperor. Lan Ju's attack power or speed isn't something that the Queen Consort can match it. So, in order to defeat him, she has to use several tricks.

And since winning against the zheng is more important, Lan Jingyi didn't want to hold back. She unleashed her second bloodline skill, the ice bolt.

Conjuring ten spears of ice, Lan Jingyi caught one of them and flew toward the zheng at her peak speed.

Lan Ju narrowed his eyes and enlarged its tails, using them as a fan to generate a gust of wind.

The wind covered a wide range and rushed toward her at a speed of 510 kmph. It was really a violent wind.

"Damn." Lan Jingyi realized that she can't evade it. But, if she blocks it head-on, that will create an opening for the zheng to ambush her.

Hence, she spun around and horizontally cut the wind with the spear, spinning around one more time before throwing it at the target. After releasing the ice spear, she caught the second ice spear and then threw it again.

As someone extremely familiar with Lan Gengxin, this beast emperor knew all the characteristics of the bloodline skills of the Blizzard Pegasus. He cannot let the ice spear touch him and get frozen for a couple of moments. As those spears have a target lock function, the dodging option is also useless here.

Hence, the zheng spat out a fireball in order to counter the ice spear, which covered more than a hundred meters distance between them in just a fraction of a second.

Without any surprise, the ice spear was completely melted by the fireball.

Perhaps, Lan Jingyi already anticipated that her first attack would fail. That's why she followed it with a second attack, which is considerably slower. However, Lan Ju didn't have the time to spat another fireball.

Therefore, the zheng stopped wind ability, letting himself freefall to gain the distance, and then let out a loud roar, creating a sonic boom through its mouth.

Covering a wide range, the sonic boom first destroyed the ice spear into thousands of pieces and then continued to go toward the Queen Consort. She doesn't have a way to counter sound technique and was forced to halt her movements, creating a layer of ether barrier over her body.

The ripples of power sound wave, enough to destroy the eardrums of even an Exalt realm expert, were successfully blocked by her defensive technique, although cracking the barrier in the process. Of course, she was also got pushed back a couple of dozen meters away.

Stabilizing herself, she motioned her arms with an angry expression, "I have enough of your tricks. Merge..."

Chapter 308 Lan Jingyi Confronts The Zheng (Part-2)

All the remaining eight ice spears came together, merging to form a 50-meter giant and glowing ice spear before being launched at the zheng, who just landed on the ground.

"This woman wants to kill me or something?" The beast emperor sensed the power of the incoming attack, which is almost at the same level as a novice immortal (low-11-circle). Compared to those yellow lightning strikes from the dark elves, it is considerably weaker but still, the attack can harm the zheng, who has a weak defense.

Lan Ju turned serious and sharply stared at the incoming ice spear. All of a sudden, an additional eye appeared on his forehead before conjuring a powerful beam of concentrated energy from his three eyes in the form of a prism.

The beam of concentrated energy and the ice spear collided to create a giant explosion, flattening everything within the 8-kilometer radius. Because it occurred at midnight, the soldiers at the Imperial City were naturally alerted.

After destroying the opponent's attack, the zheng raised his head to look at the woman from far away. "This unreasonable woman appeared to be quite protective of Lu Zhen. At the same time, it appears that he doesn't have any idea of her strength. He was certainly surprised when I revealed that Lan Jingyi is in the Demigod realm. Whatever... I don't need to care about their personal problems anyway. It was theirs to solve, not mine.

On the other hand, I need to resolve this current situation. What will be better? Making her realize that she isn't a match for me or Teaching her a lesson so that she won't dare to do such foolish acts? But, she isn't just the daughter of my master. She is also Lu Zhen's mother. What if he decides to go back on his promise for hurting his mother? Ugh... these humans and their complex emotions..."

Lan Ju, the zheng was weighing his options on defending himself and going on the offensive.

Meanwhile, Lan Jingyi, the Queen Consort who stabilized herself, also stared down at the scarlet leopard. She was frustrated by facing failure once again.

"I guess I really have no other choice..."

A determined Lan Jingyi raised her hand, summoning an exquisite recurve bow. It is made of Adamantium with slightly luminescent blue-green markings and thin strips of dark blue metal (mithril) lacing through its limbs.

It appeared that Lan Ju also recognized it at first glance. Staring at the majestic bow, he mumbled, "She finally took it out, the Apocalypse. But, did she master it?"

"I'll give you one last chance, Lan Ju. Return to your undying lands and never return." Lan Jingyi warned him as she pulled the string. A scarlet ether energy arrow was conjured between her fingertips.

"Such level of arrogance from an inherited power? How impudent you are, Lan Jingyi?" The zheng roared in response to her provocation.

In the very next second, his body expanded to a hundred times bigger, becoming a 230-foot monster with five giant tails. Glaring at the tiny woman floating in the sky, the zheng further said, "You really need some beating to get you back to your senses."

As the zheng imbued ether energy into its tails, they displayed the characteristics of their attributes. One was burning in flames, one turned into flexible water, one was nothing in thick lightning sparks, one has a tornado swirling around it, and the last one turned into flexible but turned into rocky form.

"Since you wanted to go all out, let's finish this battle in one move."

Looking at the giant leopard, Lan Jingyi dismissed the ether energy arrow and conjured another arrow.

However, it was neither ether energy nor attribute energy. It was something else. This special arrow was made entirely of energy and colored the same shade of blue-green as its markings.

The zheng sensed the power of an advanced stage immortal in the arrow, far stronger than the merged ice spear she fired earlier.

"Arrow of the Jade Emperor, One of the three ultimate skills Lan Jingyi inherited from her father along with the cultivation." The zheng mumbled in seriousness as he poured ether energy into the tails once again.

But, this time, the transformed tails started releasing attribute energy at the same time, creating some sort of giant sphere filled with the power of all five attributes. The power appeared to be in the same realm as the blue-green arrow of the Queen Consort.

Because of the enormous magic power inside each of their skill attacks, people from even a hundred and fifty kilometers away, i.e. the patrolling soldiers of the Imperial City and the people living in the outer sect, were able to feel it. Of course, as the Imperial City is too far away, it didn't disturb anyone's sleep.

It's just that the earlier explosion alerted the soldiers and they didn't feel like the matter is simple as they hoped it to be. The higher-ups, all the way to the Empress got reported on the matter.

With the Emperor and the Supreme Commander away from the Imperial City, for the past few days, the Grand Secretariat took care of the affairs of the Empire. As the interim Emperor, he decided to deploy the soldiers, specifically the mages at midnight along with the Northern General, Ye Yin.

The mages were ordered to spread all over the city to create a giant barrier all over the inner sector.

Unfortunately, the poor commoners living in the outer sector weren't given such protection. It might be biased but that is how it is with the Imperial palace.

As for Mark, his consciousness was in his factory's testing grounds. He was unaware of the developments in the outside world.

Back to the location where the battle is taking place, the zheng was ready to fire its five-elemental sphere and Lan Jingyi was pulling the string as much as she can while aiming the 'Arrow of the Jade Emperor' at her opponent.

Upon sensing the power behind the five-elemental sphere, Lan Jingyi figured out that her attack won't be able to beat it. However, she had two more ultimate skills as backup and she planned on unleashing them as soon as she released the arrow.

"Die" *Roar*

Both of them unleashed their skill attacks. Following the plan, Lan Jingyi proceeded to conjure another arrow, which is made of translucent energy.

"Sorry but it's my... Huh!"

Boom

In one second, both of the attacks collided, releasing more than a trillion joules or 1 terajoule of energy. It exceeded Lan Jingyi's expectations by a lot and her eyes widened as she was about to hit by a wave of energy, "F**k."

Lan Jingyi realized that she messed up big time. In her life, she never had fought against a demigod-level opponent and neither had she thought that the collision would release so much amount of energy.

Her guess was in the two or three hundred billion range based on the last collision of their skill attacks that released fifty billion joules of energy. Realizing that she was so wrong in her calculations, Lan Jingyi hurriedly dismissed the arrow and proceeded on using all of her ether energy to create a defensive barrier.

But, before she created the barrier and the wave of energy almost reached her, her vision was suddenly blocked by the giant scarlet leopard.

She was grabbed tightly by the zheng while the latter's back was hit by a wave of energy. Meanwhile, fifty kilometers of the surroundings were razed to the ground, destroying everything and killing everyone in the radius.

Unfortunately, more than ten villages and their combined four thousand innocent villagers were wiped out of existence.

Chapter 309 Earnings From War Loot

Genesis Weapon Store, Imperial City;

As the latest explosion threw the entire Imperial city and nearby towns into chaos, Mark was not moving from the spot with his consciousness still in the factor's level-3 testing ground.

Unlike the real world, here, there is no such thing as darkness. So, it looked like a bright day.

This place is originally for testing explosives and missiles, but at the moment, Mark was using it to line up the corpses before collecting each of their storage rings and other useful equipment as part of war loot.

Once he collected their storage rings and weapons, he threw away all of their bodies in the same gold-grade storage ring before dismantling them. All 23 bodies were destroyed and he earned 384 credits.

Of course, he didn't forget to inspect the details of the corpses to understand who the zheng had killed. 7 of them are from the Iron Palm Sect, 5 belonged to the Tang Dynasty, 8 belonged to the Church of the Doom, 1 is a rogue adventurer from the Phoenix Empire, 1 is actually the deputy leader of the Mage guild, and the last one is surprisingly a thief with only 3-circle realm cultivation.

The corpses of the Church of Doom's elders satisfied him the most. He doesn't know their real strength, but with losing so many elders along with the second grand elder, he was confident that he practically crippled the organization.

It is a pity that their leader escaped but it is fine. Mark doesn't want to disturb his mood with such things. As for the others, he didn't care about their background.

First of all, none of these killings will be traced back to him, and secondly, even if they did, he was no longer afraid of anyone under the Demigod realm whether the zheng is with him or not. And he highly doubts that a demigod would come at him to take revenge for those people. Even if it happened, Mark still has the zheng. He can rely on the scarlet leopard.

Anyways, after cleaning up the bodies, he then searched each storage ring, transferring the useful ones directly to the inventory. There was a satisfactory smile on his face as he looked at the gains.

"From those 23 storage rings, I only earned about 146,158 gold coins but there are still 26124 ether crystals and ores. Man, these would even give me another breakthrough. Not to mention, 119 ether ores are even at peak quality. I didn't know that peak quality ether even exists. After all, even high-quality crystals are hard to find in the market.

If I think about it, all of those peak-grade ether ores came from the Tang Dynasty's experts. So, I guess the Dragon Empire has such resources. If they can afford such precious things, then, the imperial family would be able to buy all the expensive weapons from my store.

The only problem is that they don't have any competitors on their continent. For my business to thrive, conflicts or wars are necessary. The more unstable a place will be, the more profits I would be able to make. Hence, the Leon Empire would be a better client as it was surrounded by several enemies."

Apart from those gains, Mark also gained about 9 more semi-divine weapons, 4 advanced-grade Advancement pills, and lastly, an Adamantium-made brocade box with mysterious symbols on it.

Unfortunately, none of the semi-divine weapons are even of ruby quality, forcing him to dismantle them and earn a total of 2.2 million credits.

Combined with the other 6 semi-divine weapons of elves which were dismantled for a total of 3.4 million credits, he earned about 5.6 million credits, easily covering up all of his expenditure (4 million) on the skills.

"Okay, what should I do with this one?" He then clicked on the brocade box and looked at its details without taking it out of the inventory, fearing that it might react violently because of its grade.

Unknown

Grade: Diamond-God

Description: A mysterious Adamantium-made item. It is difficult to assess its grade at the system's present level. However, it was protected by high-ranking runes and spells, and could only be opened by the special key designed for it.

*Ding! Would you like to exchange the "Unknown" item for 1 million credits?

Since 1 million credits will help with nothing, Mark rejected the trade request and decided to keep it with him for a while. Since the box came from the thief's storage ring, perhaps, he would be able to find its origins if he could investigate him and find his life story.

Mark remembers the face of the thief, a young man in his early thirties, and also knows his name. So, he thought he could do it while claiming that this thief had also stolen something from him.

He didn't keep too much expectation on finding its source as it is impossible that something of a divine grade item can fall into the hands of a 3-circle realm Spirit Warrior and he gets to live for even a day. The real owner would have enough sources to track it down to the thief. Or so, he thought.

Closing down the window, Mark then proceeded to take out the ether ores to absorb their energy, leaving the refining to the system to do it in the background while he sleeps later.

For a whole hour, he greedily absorbed every bit of energy that is available in the high-quality ether ores and some ether crystals, leaving the peak-grade ones in the inventory.

By the time, the 60-minute time limit is over and he was forced to exit the factory, Mark absorbed about 188 ether ores and 64 high-quality ether crystals of different sizes.

There are a lot of them left to be absorbed, but for now, he felt the need to rest. For a while, he went through happiness and followed by quick disappointments, a lot of times, but at the end of the day, Mark had a smile on his face while he slowly fell asleep.

Meanwhile, far away from his store, at one of the peaks at Kunyu Mountain range;

It was too dark in the surroundings with the moon hiding behind the dark clouds but Lan Jingyi has no problem with her sight as she sat before her father's grave.

"I'm really afraid to face the truth, you know. After a long time, I was not only able to see Shang Zhen with my own eyes but I could also talk to him. What if this fails and he will forever shun me? You tell me, Lan Ju. What will you do if you are in my place?"

Lan Jingyi was talking to the scarlet leopard that was sitting beside her. After the zheng saved her, getting injured in the process, the Queen Consort learned that Lan Ju will even sacrifice himself to keep her alive because of his loyalty to her father.

After calming down, she accepted her fault for abandoning him and the sect, explaining the reasons behind her decision. Later on, after the zheng managed to heal his injuries, she followed him to the sect, where she was born and grew up.

Later on, she opened up her worries to the beast emperor, whom she once treated as her eldest brother.

The zheng patiently listened to her past that involves Lu Zhen and stated his own opinion on the matter, starting with scolding her, "You are truly a coward. You are afraid of being targeted by your clan and didn't continue your father's legacy. Now, you are afraid of getting rejected by your own son and wanted to play hide and seek with him.

I'm a demigod-level beast emperor, Jingyi. I can live for ten millennia. If not Lu Zhen, then, I can still pin my hopes on his descendant or your daughter's descendant. My oath to master will not be changed. As long as I live, I will wait for a worthy heir to revive the sect. My thoughts aren't complicated as you humans.

However, you, on the other hand, were too indecisive. You took three decades to clear the misunderstandings with me when the matter isn't even that big deal to worry about.

I didn't spend too much time with Lu Zhen but as far as I can tell, he isn't the type to run away from the problem nor does he appear like a narrow-minded fool.

Since he already knew the truth but still kept silent on the matter while allowing your daughter to work in his store, it clearly indicates that nothing will be changed as long as you don't make it public. That's what I think but it's better to make it clear to him. Unless you don't know his issue, how could you find the solution?"

Chapter 310 The Second Prince's Pending Order

The next day, early in the morning, the Emperor learned of the matter as soon as he woke up and decided to stop leisurely traveling on a long route, teleporting to the Imperial Palace along with the second prince and Bai Xun. Song Tai went on his way toward his home.

Without wasting any time, he summoned all the ministers to the courtroom to discuss the matters of the powerful energy explosion, which occurred not so far away from the Imperial City where nearly 3.5 million citizens were living.

Of course, the deaths of four thousand villagers also cannot be ignored by the Emperor. However, as he doesn't have the strength to apprehend those criminals who were probably Demigods from the legends, all he can do is provide compensation to the direct family members of the victims.

The Queen consort felt guilty about the casualties that occurred because of her battle with the zheng but she was neither an upright person nor a fool to reveal the truth and surrender herself. Not to mention, for her, the most pressing issue is to admit the truth to her son. She was already bothered by it and doesn't want to think about the lives of the villagers. In her view, her husband is already dealing with it.

Hence, she kept her silence and behaved like herself as usual.

While this was going on in the Imperial city, there were emergency meetings held at other locations, specifically, the Iron Palm Sect, Tang Dynasty's Imperial palace, Church of Doom, and Mage guild's HQ in Leon Empire.

Even outside of the world, located in a higher plane of existence, the elders of the Dark Elf tribe of the Ixitus Empire were discussing the possible reasons behind the deaths of their members.

Now, every single one of those forces wanted to investigate the deaths of their elites and intends to turn the Phoenix Empire upside down for the results.

And the person, indirectly responsible for this mess, was happily continuing to lead his life as a weapon seller during the day while planning his next four weeks during the night.

And so, three days passed away in a blink of an eye.

Genesis Weapon Store, Imperial City;

The business is doing well during the past few days with 400-500 gold coins of worth transactions every day.

Chang Bo continued to do his job as an employee of the store.

Shang Jiao was attending daily at 6 o'clock and served as a store employee like Chang Bo from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As for 6 to 8 in the morning, she was training with Mark.

Originally, his fiancée also wanted to train in firearms and he planned to teach her personally while leaving the princess to Alina.

But, to his surprise, Alina insisted on training Song Yue reasoning that her precise techniques will hurt the ego of a 6-circle realm expert and an imperial princess like Shang Jiao.

Mark bought Alina's excuse and handed her the training of Song Yue, disappointing the latter.

Meanwhile, the Lin clan's heiress once again resumed her sword practice with Allen.

With the training ground quite big, all three parties were comfortably doing their own thing without getting in the way of the other two.

Like the past three days, Mark returned to the store after finishing the morning training with his sister.

The store was opened at 9 o'clock and he became busy creating the weapons, leaving the operations of the store to his companions.

As Mark was going to upgrade the system soon enough, he thought it would be better to load the storage chamber with the firearms and bullets. Because of the time-consuming process of creating 9mm bullets, he stopped working on them for the moment and focused on creating bigger ones like the 7.62 mm, which he could create in bulk.

This move can make him lose a lot of customers as the majority of them operate revolvers, single-shot pistols, and semi-automatic handguns. But, he can't afford to think about those losses and work on something more productive like assault rifles.

It was around 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Sitting in one of the weapons' chambers, Mark was in the middle of creating more Ak-47s and Ak-203s, increasing the stock.

Knowing that there will be little to no customers at this time, the second prince visited the store. Chief Eunuch tagged along with him.

Mark stopped his work immediately upon being informed by Chang Bo and he got out of the room to meet his half-brother.

Shang Wen nodded as he calmly greeted Mark, "Lu Zhen." The chief eunuch, on the other hand, was all smiles as if he was in a great mood.

Mark returned the greetings with a smile, "Greetings, Your Highness, and Chief Eunuch Yang. Welcome to Genesis Weapon Store."

Without wasting the time with unnecessary pleasantries, the second prince opened up the matter directly, "We are here for a number of things. First, let's complete the transaction."

The One-million gold coins worth of order was supposed to be delivered a long time ago but the situation didn't permit Shang Wen to visit the store until now.

"200 Panzers – 100,000 gold coins

200 Ak-47 – 20,000 gold coins

100,000 rounds (7.62mm) – 100,000 gold coins

200 Grenade Launchers – 100,000 gold coins

10,000 grenades (40mm) – 50,000 gold coins

100 smoke grenades (radius: 100m) – 10,000 gold coins

300 Tear gas grenades (affected area: 500k cubic meters) – 30,000 gold coins

100 Molotov cocktail – 10,000 gold coins

500 Rocket launchers – 500,000 gold coins

1000 Warheads (110mm) – 50,000 gold coins

100 M99 – 25,000 gold coins

10,000 rounds (12.7mm) – 10,000 gold coins."

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"Please check your items and all of them amounted to 1,005,000 gold coins. And those storage rings are complimentary. So, you don't need to return them. Thank you."

Mark had pre-arranged everything neatly in 21 gold-grade storage rings, long ago and was waiting to give him when an opportunity arrives. If not for the system's rule, he would have given it 6 days ago when he went to the campsite. But, he can only transact at the weapon store or deliver the weapons to the door if he receives the full advance payment.

Anyways, once the second prince checked the ordered items and gave the gold-grade ring filled with 1005 gold bars, each one weighing 10kg and worth 1000 gold coins. This wasn't the first time he received gold bars as a payment. Earlier for the auctioned items, the Emperor also paid the amount with gold bars too. So, he wasn't that surprised to see them.

Once the pending transaction was over, the second prince followed it up with a new order. It wasn't a lengthy list as the previous one. It is just one line. The Imperial Palace needed 100 more light combat aircraft. The cost of the order is about 5 million gold coins and is considered the first installment of their 100-million pledge.

Mark only needs 6 seconds to make them, but as he wants them to think that combat aircraft are too difficult to procure, he said that he will deliver them within 6 months of time.

The second prince was satisfied with the answer and then asked about the training. Mark promised that Allen will soon visit the Imperial Palace to inform them.

"Alright..." The second prince nodded and then looked at the person beside him. "Chief Eunuch Yang."