

The Boss Behind The Game

- Chapter 101 – 110

Raiding The Insect Island

Chapter 101: Raiding The Insect Island

Liu Chai was hoping that Xiao Tian would deploy numerous garrisons on the interior of the island.

Very soon, there were myriads of armored orcs lining up in the interior and assembling at the port.

“My fellow comrades of the Demolition Traders, please wait for me here. I’ll come back once I’ve captured the wire-pullers!” Xiao Tian took out a blue bead from his armor as he spoke before he tossed it into the ocean.

The blue bead began to dissolve once it came in contact with the water. Ripples and bubbles appeared on the surface of the ocean.

After some time, many huge dark shadows emerged from the surface of the ocean. The gigantic sea creatures jumped out of the ocean one after another and the numbers of the creatures continued to increase.

In a blink of an eye, there were already thousands of sea creatures gathering at the port. The scene was spectacular.

“Set out! Don’t let the thieves escape!” as he spoke, Xiao Tian leapt up and landed on the back of a massive sea creature, which appeared to be a whale.

Upon seeing that, all the other orcs followed and climbed to the back of the sea creatures one after another.

Once everything was ready, Xiao Tian waved his arm, the huge army of sea creatures then advanced toward Fallen Fish Island.

After he made sure that the army of Xiao Tian had disappeared from sight, Liu Chai immediately made an announcement in the joint guild live chat channel.

“Gu Yu, stay alert! Xiao Tian is on his way, buy us some time. The other three guilds, prepare to go ashore!”

Upon receiving the news, Wu Guoyi and the others who were laying low along the shoreline around the island summoned their warships before they sailed toward Insect Island.

After he delivered the message to the other four guilds, Liu Chai turned to look at the orcs that were guarding the port.

He said with a grin, "Brother, do you mind letting us into the interior of the island?"

The orc was stunned by the request before it immediately shook its head, "Without any order from the Island Owner, no one is allowed to enter the interior!"

"Are you sure?"

"Of course. This is the rule set by the Island Owner. How can we alter it?"

"It's such a waste then!"

As Liu Chai spoke, the two soldiers, who were initially standing behind him, took a step forward. They lifted their battle axes and mercilessly slashed the orc's face.

The abrupt attack caught the orc off guard and severely injured them. Fortunately, the orc was wearing a helmet. Therefore, the attack was not fatal but it did feel a little light-headed after receiving the blow.

When it was about to shout for help, Liu Chai took a step forward. With a red flash, his power was boosted to the maximum before he violently struck a punch on the orc.

The punch was so powerful that it dented the orc's face before it killed the orc on the spot.

After the orc died, Liu Chai beckoned his members on the warship, signaling them to disembark.

However, even after all the guild members had gathered, Liu Chai did not immediately launch an attack. Instead, he started a waiting game.

Although a major part of defense forces on the interior of the island had been removed, the remaining orcs that were guarding the island were the immensely powerful orcs. Their guild was no match for the orcs.

Only when the four guilds joined forces, they would have a chance of winning!

Soon, the warships from the other three guilds came into sight as they sailed rapidly toward the port.

After the ships were docked, Wu Guoyi and his crew disembarked from their warships and went down the stairs before they hurried to Liu Chai's side.

"Hurry up and gather around! We don't have much time. It only depends on how much time Brother Gu Yu can buy us!"

Upon seeing the arrival of the aids, Liu Chai changed away his white armor into a purple outfit.

They had chosen Fallen Fish Island because, among the other islands discovered by the players, this island was the furthest from Insect Island. Moreover, there were no garrisons on Fallen Fish Island, allowing Gu Yu and the others to get prepared without having to worry about being chased out by the other marine tribes.

Although, compared to Fallen Fish Island, the Liuli Coast was actually further to Insect Island, they would prefer not to lead the disaster to the other players. Therefore, Fallen Fish Island was their first choice. Even so, they needed at least two hours to travel back and forth from the two islands and their time was limited.

"Since you're familiar with the interior of the island, you will lead us this time," Wu Guoyi said as he looked at Liu Chai.

Although the four guilds fought frequently, they knew each other very well. Liu Chai was a short-tempered person, but an admirable guild leader. Besides, his ability was well-recognized among the other members.

Liu Chai nodded before he raised his fist, "Fellow brothers, the fortunes are right in front of us. Let's bring them down together!"

"Attack!"

The members of the four guilds raised their weapons and cried in unison.

The guild members, who were participating in the current raid, knew exactly what was on the island and they would eventually have a share of the resources, too. Therefore, they were all in high spirits at that moment.

Under Liu Chai's leadership, the guild allies strode across the long vine bridge and headed directly to the interior of the island.

They expected to run into garrisons around the long vine bridge which were all connected. However, it seemed like their operations had diverted their troops. This had boosted Liu Chai's confidence in winning the raid.

There were no obstacles along their way. Under the leadership of Liu Chai, all the players rushed toward the first spiritual field once they arrived.

However, they ran into a patrol that consisted of three hundred orcs.

The orcs were shocked when they saw the players. After all, the island had not been intruded for many years. Therefore, they were dumbfounded by the unannounced arrival of this many trespassers.

“Attack!” Liu Chai cried loudly. Then, thousands of players followed suit and yelled furiously before they charged the Orc Patrol.

When the leader of the Orc Patrol regained its composure, it quickly grabbed the orc beside it, “Ring the alarm. Quick!”

Upon the command, the orc promptly dashed for the alarm. The leader of the Orc Patrol then turned toward the players before he raised his axe and said, “How dare you offend the Sea King Navy! Attack!”

The two parties instantly broke into a fight.

Since the time limit for this war was very short and they knew that Gu Yu could not hold for too long, Liu Chai and the others were extremely anxious. Naturally, they would not stand by and watch.

The berserkers and the Rune Masters who were at the frontline went head-on toward the orcs and started a melee.

The frontline of both parties were equipped with heavy armor and weapons. During the battle, the muscles of all the warriors were seen contracting as they fought. Sparks flew as the weapons were struck together, showcasing the intensity of the fight.

Water Turrets were gradually formed right behind the army. Numerous water cannonballs were then shot toward the Orc Patrol.

“All assassins, divide yourselves into two teams and activate your Shadow Steps. Look for an opportunity to assassinate them!”

Following Liu Chai’s rave, the assassin players who were standing in the center of the troop separated into two groups before they transformed into shadows and assassinated the Orc Patrol from both sides.

The atmosphere was lit up by flashes after more flashes as the assassin players seized each vital moment and took away the life of those wounded orcs.

Only the elite players of the guilds were present in this battle. At this moment, all players were flaunting their top-notch skills. The orcs were driven into a corner and their numbers were significantly reduced.

“Too-toom!”

Just then, a melodious sound of the trumpet resounded across the island!

Chapter 102: Xiao Tian's Return

The trumpet was blown, alerting every orc who was defending.

Knowing that the Orc Army was arriving soon, Liu Chai made another announcement on the guild live chat, “Kill all these orcs first and prepare to confront the Orc Army!”

Upon hearing this, the players grew more aggressive. Some of the players seized the opportunity and pounced onto the orcs, sacrificing themselves in order to create a chance for their teammates to kill them.

Nevertheless, if they were to kill one life by losing another life, they would still have the upper hand, owing to their huge numbers.

Under such a frenzied attack, before long, there were only dozens left out of the initial hundreds of orcs.

The remaining orcs knew that they could not win the fight and intended to flee the scene. However, all at once, the assassin players began to drive the orcs into a corner.

After the onslaught, the Orc Patrol was completely annihilated.

“Hurry up and loot everything from the first spiritual field!” Liu Chai pointed at the spiritual field and he yelled.

The players briefly adjusted their positions before they dashed for the spiritual field.

After five minutes of sprinting, the spiritual field, which was obscured by a faint golden fog of soul energy, came into their sight.

The few orcs, who were guarding the spiritual field, were in daze when they saw the enormous number of troops made up of thousands of players.

“Attack!”

Following the roaring command, the players charged toward the enemies.

It was then when the leader of the orcs took out an item from its pocket. With a violent pull, a shroud of fog was shot into the air.

“He’s sending a signal. Everyone, stay alert! Warriors, go to the frontline. Assassins and mages, collect spiritual materials. Loot everything!”

After Liu Chai’s command, the berserkers tensed their bodies and ran toward the orcs. The ceaseless attack effectively chased the orcs out from the spiritual field.

The players at the back seemed overjoyed and started to collect the spiritual materials as fast as they could before storing them in the channel.

The Son of the Sea in the middle of the spiritual field was extracted by the players and was kept in the channel, too.

The spiritual field was easily raided by the players and the orcs were murdered right after they were done collecting the materials!

When Liu Chai led his comrades toward the second spiritual field, they encountered the army of thousands of orcs who had assembled after they received the signal.

Liu Chai and the others started to worry after seeing them.

“Get ready to fight!”

Upon listening to Liu Chai’s command, all players got into their respective positions.

The orc leader, who had already noticed the players, swung its spiked club forward. Its muscles expanded as it let out a thunderous roar.

A battle broke out once again.

The players had lost all their advantages in the fight this time. Although they still outnumbered the orcs, one orc could win against a few players.

Especially the orc leader. Its strength was way stronger than the Ghost Supreme Commander whom the players killed previously.

Liu Chai’s expression grew solemn as he realized that the players were barely having an upper hand against the orcs. He reckoned that it would not be a good choice to drag this battle on any longer as the worst situation would have come true when Xiao Tian returned with his army.

“Each guild should send a team of assassins to the other spiritual fields to seize the spiritual materials by activating Shadow Step. I’ve already sent the coordinates through the channel. Quick!”

Promptly, Wu Guoyi and the others deployed a batch of assassins from the guild live chat to seize the spiritual materials according to the coordinates given.

Upon receiving Liu Chai’s command, four clouds of shadows immediately left the camp and rushed to the assigned locations.

“Stop them!” seeing that the players had left the camps, the orc leader immediately knew what they were up to and shouted to his subordinates at the rear.

The Orc Army sent out four groups of forces to chase after the assassin players.

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Lu Wu was aware of the players’ activities. In the meantime, he was observing them in real time, too.

The current battle was significant to Lu Wu, too. According to Bei Li, if the players won the war, the Derived Spiritual Rice that they harvested would help him to transform into a human form again and acquire the first skill, the Power of the Dark Beast.

Besides, Lu Wu found that Gu Yu and the others who were guarding Fallen Fish Island had already confronted Xiao Tian.

The battle at Fallen Fish Island was different. It was a pyrrhic victory.

Although Gu Yu owned the inheritance of the Demonic God, it was nothing when compared to Xiao Tian whose ability was of the similar tier as the Ghost General.

The war only lasted less than 30 minutes before it quickly ended. All the players from the Myth Guild were wiped out while Gu Yu and a few other leaders were captured alive.

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In the meantime, on the shore of Fallen Fish Island.

Xiao Tian stared at Gu Yu who was apprehended before he asked with a ferocious expression, “Where is the Son of the Sea now?”

Gu Yu remained silent as he lowered his pain receptor, intending to buy some time.

However, out of Gu Yu's expectation, Xiao Tian who was about to continue the interrogation, changed his expression all of a sudden.

Just then, the red light on his Communication Gemstone began to flicker. With that, Xiao Tian immediately knew that Insect Island had been intruded.

Recalling the entire battle, he thought something was amiss as the power behind the curtain was so weak and the number of their troops did not achieve tens of thousands as what was mentioned by the Demolition Traders. Everything did not make sense.

Immediately, Xiao Tian turned around and shouted to his members at the rear.

"Everyone, get onto the sea monsters now and head back to Insect Island immediately! We've fallen into their trap!"

Gu Yu was shocked upon seeing Xiao Tian's reaction.

He had no clue how Xiao Tian discovered that Insect Island was invaded. If Xiao Tian managed to rush back to the island now, their plan would fail.

He made a quick decision and said, "Xiao Tian, aren't you interested in the whereabouts of the Son of the Sea? I'll tell you!"

However, Gu Yu did not expect that Xiao Tian would glare at him and slap his head brutally, killing Gu Yu on the spot.

After that, Xiao Tian threw a glimpse at the other players before he waved his claws. Streams of black light were shot across the air, killing all the players Xiao Tian intended to torture and interrogate and left only Sun Qi.

Sun Qi did not get killed but was caught by Xiao Tian. Xiao Tian brought Sun Qi along before he mounted the sea creature and raced back to Insect Island.

On Insect Island, both parties had fallen into a deadlock. Neither of the teams seemed to be winning.

This had significantly perturbed Liu Chai. Therefore, he quickly dispatched more manpower to help the teams who were trying to steal the spiritual materials.

Although this would increase the pressure of the battle, stealing the spiritual materials was their main goal. If they failed to obtain the spiritual materials, they would fail their mission even if they won the battle.

In the meantime, the assassins that were deployed earlier had sent their feedback about the plundering on the live chat.

Three of the teams were stopped by the orcs who were guarding the spiritual fields. Only one team had successfully stolen a unique spiritual material from one of the spiritual fields.

However, those orcs who knew that they could not win had surrounded the Son of the Sea to protect it. So the team was still trying to break through the orcs' defenses in order to get the Son of the Sea.

According to the feedback of the dispatched players, Liu Chai would occasionally choose a few players from the battle to assist in the plundering, thus increasing the pressure of the battle.

At this moment, numerous shadows of the sea creatures took shape on the shore of Insect Island.

Xiao Tian's eyes were filled with rage as soon as he saw the island. He leapt off the back of the sea creature, stepped on the waves, and dashed for Insect Island's port.

Chapter 103: Squid, The Sea Merchants

On Insect Island, Liu Chai, who was fighting against the entire Orc Army, continued to dispatch more manpower. At this moment, his expression went through an abrupt change.

This was because Sun Qi told him over the live chat channel that Xiao Tian had arrived on Insect Island and had discovered their activity.

The news had upset Liu Chai. They had indeed underestimated the strength of the military forces on Insect Island. However, it was all too late now. His voice roared across the live chat channel.

"Everyone, split up and loot as many spiritual materials as you can at the given coordinates! Xiao Tian is back!"

Upon hearing Liu Chai's command, Wu Guoyi and his peers promptly ordered their guild members to split up.

As a result, the player's battle array was instantly destroyed by the orcs. A great number of forefront berserkers had fallen and the orcs charged directly at the mage who were stationed at the rear of the garrison and began the massacre.

Nevertheless, the players were no longer focusing on the fight. Each of them had picked a direction and ran toward the spiritual fields after they were dispersed.

“Howl...”

At this moment, a deafening wolf's howl resonated across the whole island before the silhouette of an enormous blue wolf ran past at a high speed. Every player who came in contact with the silhouette was instantly set ablaze and burned by a blue flame before their bodies instantly melted away.

As the silhouette of the wolf relentlessly ran around the players, the number of players was significantly reduced. This had put the other players in an immensely stressful environment, causing them to despair.

“Our boss is back! Kill them!” the orc leader growled and the entire Orc Army had regained their fighting spirit.

Now that the war was coming to an end, Liu Chai and the teams were already scattered across different spiritual fields, finishing up on their final loot.

Any additional spiritual plants being collected now were considered as profit earned. Therefore, all the players had stopped fighting and raced into the spiritual fields to collect the spiritual plants instead.

“Howl...”

Xiao Tian's thundering roar resounded once again. Three shadows of blue wolves escaped his body and dashed for the remaining three spiritual fields while he stationed himself at the end of the long vine bridge.

Xiao Tian was currently incensed. He had never foreseen himself being tricked like this.

Everything the Demotion Traders said about the man behind the curtain was nothing but a lie! The real masterminds behind this ruse were the Demolition Traders.

Recalling how Liu Chai told him that the hidden boss was longing for the other four Son of the Seas on this island, Xiao Tian was enraged.

Before long, the orcs that had been sent out earlier had returned concurrently and were eliminating the remaining players.

This time, the players could no longer withstand the onslaught. One after another, they were killed before they turned into black smoke and exited the game.

Xiao Tian, who had returned to the center of the island once again, was pained when he saw the damage done to the spiritual fields.

Despair grew in him when the orcs combed the entire inner island and found out that all the spiritual materials and the Son of the Seas that were looted by the invaders had mysteriously disappeared.

Xiao Tian controlled the Shadow Wolf remotely as he guarded the long vine bridge, intending to prevent anyone from stealing the spiritual materials. Despite the fact that no one had escaped under his watch, the spiritual materials had still vanished.

The news instantly paled Xiao Tian as he knew he was doomed to die!

The Sea King would never forgive him!

After he mulled over the situation, Xiao Tian peered at Sun Qi, who was still in his grasp, and relaxed his face.

This White Phantom was the spiritual beast of the world. One's cultivation would grow by consuming its flesh. Therefore, it was as valuable as a Son of the Sea. He could only beg for mercy from the Sea King by offering this White Phantom.

Sun Qi, who was under Xiao Tian's captivity, was flustered, knowing that all the other players, save for him, had been killed. Furious, he kicked Xiao Tian at his waist.

"When are you going to kill me?"

Xiao Tian was surprised when he heard Sun Qi's words, "You can talk?"

"Both of us are dogs. Why don't you just let me go!" Sun Qi said while looking expectantly at Xiao Tian.

"Dog? I'm a Sea Wolf Demon and you're a White Phantom, neither of us is a dog!"

Xiao Tian was stunned, "You can speak? Are you a mutant?"

Similarly, Sun Qi was shocked, ergo he glowered. He was already sad to have been turned into a dog. Now, he was even seen as a mutant. If he was capable of fighting, he really wanted to have 300 rounds of battles with Xiao Tian.

"Do you know where the creatures hid the spiritual materials? I will release you once you provide me with an answer!" Xiao Tian asked, all of a sudden.

Upon hearing that, Sun Qi spread his arms wide, "Well, just kill me now then!"

Initially, Xiao Tian was going to bring Sun Qi to the Sea King. But knowing that Sun Qi could speak, halfway through the journey he decided to change his plan and interrogate him by trying to obtain some useful information. He reckoned that he might still have a chance to retrieve the Son of the Sea.

Just then, an orc arrived hastily to report a message.

“Boss, there’s a big ship at the port, claiming that they are the members of the Sea Trading Association. They have even brought along a token from the Sea King!”

Xiao Tian was once again infuriated upon hearing the news before he gave a loud shriek. He levitated into the air and flew toward the pier.

At the port, a green-skinned, round-headed man, with a pair of big ears and narrowed eyes, was waiting for something. At the speed of light, Xiao Tian descended from the sky and plummeted to the ground, giving the man a scare.

After recognizing the man as Xiao Tian, the man heaved a sigh of relief and presented the token from the Sea King, the Grass of Vanity.

“Xiao Tian, the Island Owner, I am Squid of the Western Trading Association. With the consent of the Sea King, I am here for the Son of the Sea!”

After he took a look at the Grass of Vanity, Xiao Tian glared at him.

“You punk. I see you’ve even gotten the Sea King’s Grass of Vanity. It seems like you will not stop until you have all the Son of the Seas on my Insect Island!”

Squid was stunned for a moment, “This Grass of Vanity is indeed authentic. Moreover, we the Western Trading Association, have spent a lot to trade the Son of the Sea from the Sea King. However, the Sea King had informed us that the Son of the Sea is with you, and you will pass it to us once we present the token of Sea King.”

Upon hearing these words, Xiao Tian’s eyes were filled with rage. He reached out to grab Squid by his neck and slowly lifted him up.

“It was the Demolition Traders before, and now, comes the Western Trading Association. You seem to be rather persistent, trying to push me into the corner with one scam after another. This time, I will not fall for it...”

As he spoke, the muscles on Xiao Tian’s right hand expanded. A crack sounded across the atmosphere and Squid’s neck was broken.

Squid died with a shocked expression on his face, not understanding what led to his death. I have certainly followed the Sea King’s orders and even brought along the token, but why...

Staring at the other traders who were scrambling onto their ship, intending to flee as soon as possible, Xiao Tian raised his head and let out a long howl. The shadow of a huge blue wolf appeared above his head and clawed forward menacingly, breaking the Specter Ship in two.

As to the traders who had fallen into the water, Xiao Tian ordered mercilessly, "Kill them all. Leave none behind!"

Chapter 104: The Value Of Soul Coins

After the battle on Insect Island, Lu Wu made a calculation according to the statistics and found out that the players had looted a total of 428 pieces of Derived Spiritual Rice and 1 Son of the Sea.

Lu Wu was surprised by the marvelous results.

The players' extraordinary plan had astonished Lu Wu who was the boss behind the game. This had reconfirmed his belief that the players had infinite potential if they were allowed to develop their skills without restrictions.

There would be surprises everywhere!

However, after the battle, Lu Wu had spent precisely 200,000 soul coins to purchase unique spiritual materials. He felt as if a piece of him had been cut off due to this great amount.

But of course, the guild master who received the soul coins did not keep them only for himself.

All the participants received the rewards they deserved, enabling all the players who participated in this raid on Insect Island to reap a lot of benefits.

After this battle, it could be said that the strength of these five guilds had once again grown immensely.

The only Son of the Sea acquired was handed over to Chen Ziyu by members of the Great Dragon Guild after they had logged back online. Chen Ziyu then fulfilled his promise by passing this sole Son of the Sea to Liu Chai.

The news of this successful invasion on Insect Island had spread rapidly to the other players. While Liu Chai was now coveted by everyone, many people had also set their sights on him.

Especially Gu Yu, who had offered to pay a huge sum to acquire the Son of the Sea from him.

However, Liu Chai had firmly rejected all buyers and said that he would consume it himself in order to strengthen his talent ability.

This decision had disappointed many rich players who longed for the Son of the Sea. They felt that Liu Chai had wasted such a treasure.

Since Liu Chai wasn't short on money, he didn't care about that.

This battle had also made the players yearn for more similar island raids. There were pro players in the forum who had immediately set up a group called Ocean Explorers, specializing in exploring the ocean territories and mapping the areas explored before posting it on the forum as a reference for the other players.

The enthusiasm of these pro players posting about the game's technicalities had earned Lu Wu's admiration. In order to support their hard work, Lu Wu added a new feature to the forum: Forum Post Rewards.

In other words, as long as the posts on technicalities were acknowledged by the players, they could use this feature to reward the original poster of the forum post.

This decision was made by Lu Wu to encourage the players' creativity, and at the same time rapidly develop the player's skills and talent.

But Lu Wu had no idea whether the reward should be in a new type of coin or soul coins, so he posted a message on the official web forum to ask the players for suggestions.

The players' responses were very unanimous and all of them chose soul coins.

All the players were still desperately longing for more soul coins.

A player even went so far as to post a topic on analyzing the price value of soul coins in the forum. This made Lu Wu speechless.

"Based on my data-backed calculation of soul coin value, I realized a terrifying fact..."

Broke_Trash's original post:

"First of all, this is not a technical post. This is just a scientific analysis of an astonishing truth that was brought up by the game, Battle Online, which does not have any official top-up option for soul coins.

I shall first analyze our existing coins as compared to the soul coins for all of you.

According to the data (see graph), Dragon Nation's commodities have an annual price increase of 2.9%. Based on this trend, let's take five million as an example, in 10 years' time the value will be equivalent to 3.75 million in today's value.

But if we calculate based on the real price level, the actual prices of Dragon Nation's commodities this year have increased by 5.4 times compared to the end of 1996. In this case, the annual increase is about 8%!

So if we calculate based on the real-time price increase, the five million after 10 years is equivalent to 2.31 million today.

But (knock on wood), if we calculate the printing speed of banknotes in our country, the annual growth rate is about 16.3%. With this, five million in 2329, which is 10 years later, is only equivalent to 1.1 million today!

At the end of the analysis, he took a deep breath and let out a horrified sigh.

A few million yuan disappeared just like that, and he wanted to cry. (Oh, my bad, I am a poor man without five million. Phew, so close to facing such a huge loss!)

Next let's analyze our soul coins.

Since the soul coins have just been released a few months back, the extent of its calculation is not that big.

However, one thing is clear to everyone: the value of soul coins keeps on increasing. Although this is closely related to the demand of rich players, but (knocking on wood again) if you think that only the rich players are contributing to the value increase of the soul coins, then you could be very wrong.

I'll ask only one question, have you all thought about spending money in-game?

My monthly salary is only 85,000 yuan, which is considered lower than the average income level in our country, but I'm still spending money in-game all the time and my friends are also spending cash to buy soul coins. Hence rich players are one of the reasons for the increase in the value of soul coins, but more importantly, there is a huge number of mildly rich players in the game.

Coming back to the topic of soul coins rising in their price value...

Since I joined the game ten days after the server opened, I was unsure of the earlier price of soul coins, but I've done a little research on that.

The price of soul coins in the first server was first successfully bid on by a player named Ye_Xueer_is_the_cutest. The initial price of the soul coins was 300 yuan.

But within only ten days, the price of soul coins had soared to 800 yuan with an increase of more than 2.6 times more than the initial value.

However, this is not the end. Although the price increase of soul coins is not that steep now, it's approaching 1,000 yuan already.

What does this theory show? It means that even if the soul coins are left aside after being bought, this asset of yours would far surpass the price increase of our commodities.

Of course, this only holds true if the game is operating continuously (To add on, this broken game is really fun. As long as the Battle Online Corporation continues to operate, I will continue playing!)

Lastly, I am hereby attaching my price forecast which shall be validated after ten years:

Based on my assumption of this game, it will definitely become viral all over the world. If that day really comes (great warning ahead).

There will be a new universal currency in the world. Its value can even be said to increase steadily and can be used all over the world. It may also be exchanged with the currency of any country. Isn't it astonishing! (Note: I'm not talking about a worldwide common currency!)

That universal currency will be soul coins!"

As soon as this player's post of analyzing the soul coins appeared, it had caused a commotion among the players.

Crayon_Shinchan: "I wanted to challenge the writer but then I noticed that my knowledge was so limited, so I'll just say that he is amazing."

Watermelon_Taro: "My salary is only 38,000 yuan and is bordering the poverty threshold, even so I have managed to spend money in-game several times. I agree with the author on this!"

Popeye_The_Sailor_Man: "To be honest, I also have the same idea as you, but it feels kind of absurd. Anyway, I will mark this first and come back to this post in ten years."

Xueli_The_Strongest: "It can only happen if the game goes viral across the world~ But I support this prediction, I'll stockpile soul coins first and wait for their value to increase!"

I_Am_Not_Beili: "Haha~ I'm marking this too... we shall wait and see!"

Wand_Making_Mage: "I'm convinced by you and am ready to invest a huge sum. Please leave your address so that if I go broke I shall come and find you!"

The original author replied to Wand_Making_Mage: “Well if you happen to make a profit, will I have any bonuses? (shiny eyes!)”

Chapter 105: Soul Coins Transaction Center

The post by Broke_Trash also got Lu Wu thinking.

At first, Lu Wu found this post absolutely absurd, but then he gave it a second thought.

If the game Battle Online really does become famous worldwide, players from every country would choose to use their local currency to spend money in-game to exchange for soul coins. That player’s words would be true then, soul coins would become a global currency!

By thinking that way, Lu Wu realized an enormous bug in the game, too.

The game had no well-secured transaction protection system.

For example, the 500 soul coins that Lu Wu sold to Ye Xue’er back at the beginning. It was, in fact, unsafe and he could have easily been duped.

Although there were many guaranteed transaction platforms currently, their complicated procedures and long waiting periods had caused most players to choose the easy way out which was to just undergo direct transaction.

Since there are only a few hundred thousand players now, the gap in all of these transactions was not noticeable just yet.

However, if what Broke_Trash said comes true, where soul coins are used universally, the huge amount of transaction value coming in every day gave Lu Wu chills just by thinking about it.

At this point, Lu Wu immediately told Bei Li what was on his mind.

Later, the two of them started discussing how to systematize this transaction process.

After three hours of discussions, Lu Wu and Bei Li ultimately finalized the new function to be introduced into the game called the Soul Coins Transaction Center.

Though it was named the Soul Coins Transaction Center, Lu Wu was not selling soul coins on his own, it was to protect the safety of the players when they were trading soul coins.

This function's existence equated to that of a middle-man.

Which means if Player A and Player B wanted to trade soul coins, the seller and the purchaser must first keep their cash and soul coins with Lu Wu simultaneously. Then, Lu Wu will hand them to the respective players.

With a procedure involving Lu Wu, the process would be guaranteed safe.

However, since the Soul Coins Transaction Center was now online, Lu Wu followed the old rules and added a service fee.

In order to prevent the players from feeling too burdened by the additional fees and thus choose to trade directly, Lu Wu only set the service fee at 1%.

To him, soul coins were no doubt more important than money, so the 1% was charged on soul coins instead of real coins.

Lu Wu could have chosen to take 1% from both sides, but his craving for real money was becoming less and less. After he started cultivating, he knew that he would achieve worldliness someday.

For the current Lu Wu, he just needed enough money to live on, and maybe one day he wouldn't need them at all anymore.

But the value of soul coins would never decrease for Lu Wu even when he becomes stronger.

After finalizing the solution, Lu Wu opened a top-up path on the website and registered a virtual online account to store the player's cash.

Lu Wu originally planned to spend another 30,000 yuan to buy an online artificial intelligence customer service bot, because the transaction value would only grow larger to which he would not be able to handle alone. However, during such a crucial time, Bei Li the all-around helper settled everything.

She copied the information of this account into the artifact directly before connecting it to the internet by a higher-powered artifact, thus realizing the real-time transaction of the players.

Through this, not only did the effectiveness increase significantly, the players barely have to wait as well. As soon as the Soul Coins Transaction Center receives the cash transfers, it would process it automatically and top-up soul coins in the players' backpacks within seconds, while the cash would be connected to the internet by the artifact and transferred into the sellers' accounts directly.

Right after Bei Li made sure this feature would not crash, it was implemented into the game.

Regarding this new feature, the forum was flooded by the players' compliments.

Invincible_Loneliness: "Great! I got duped a few times trading soul coins in a group before. After that, I could only use my reputation as a guarantee to let other people give their soul coins first before I pay. But now that we have the Soul Coins Transaction Center, I won't have to worry about this anymore~ Hehe~ Keep the soul coins separately!"

Ye_Xueer_is_the_cutest: "Great! Quick and easy, finally the officials are doing something right!"

Peppa_Boar: "Not bad~ Not bad, but I don't understand why the Soul Coins Transaction Center has been launched already but the top-up option for soul coins is still not yet available. I'm beginning to worry if the Battle Online Corporation is going to stop operating (funny)"

Crayon_Shinchan replied to Peppa_Boar: "They're using love to generate electricity and the power of love is never-ending. So how could they possibly collapse (funny)!"

Priest_Baiyue replied Crayon_Shinchan: "Speaking of love, I have to mention something. I remember there was once a guy named Lee Xiaoyao who asked me whether I believed in love, then I said I trust science. Because of that, this brat kept chasing after me to beat me, this son of a bitch (funny)!"

Crayon_Shinchan replied Priest_Baiyue: "Baiyue Xiu'er, sit down right now!"

Hand_Tore_Ghostie: "I feel like the game content is getting more and more exuberant. I am full of anticipation as I watch this game grow~ Way to go!"

Gold_Farmer_Monster: Cool~ "This saves a lot of time for me. The extra gaming time can be used for laboring, gonna give it a like!"

Xueli_The_Strongest: "Happy~ When I saw the analysis done by Broke_Trash, I thought of this problem already because the in-game soul coins trading had no safeguards, and the officials did not provide a way to top-up. This was indeed a snake in the grass. But I never thought that Soul Coins Transaction Center would be available the next day, gonna give a like to the officials~! Also, what about topping-up? Not gonna launch it yet? Are you challenging me to take you guys away with a Shadow Step and a Blood Slash?! (furious)"

...

Other than the players' compliments, during this stage when the Soul Coins Transaction Center went online, Lu Wu was also actively collecting all the players' advice in the forum. He then further level-upped the functions in the Soul Coins Transaction Center by adding a Sale Mode which resembled an auction.

This meant that players didn't have to search for buyers for the soul coins they were selling anymore. They just had to display their soul coins in the Soul Coins Transaction Center in the form of products and provide the ratio they want to sell.

Same goes to the purchasers, having this Sale Mode meant that they did not have to search for sellers anymore. When they wanted soul coins, they could top-up cash in the Soul Coins Transaction Center and find a ratio they thought was suitable for purchasing.

This had undoubtedly saved the players a lot of time. It could be said that this function's existence had benefited both the players and Lu Wu at the same time.

Although the 1% charge was small in proportion, as long as the number of players kept increasing, the transaction numbers would grow.

When it came to the later stages, daily transaction numbers would be a source of princely income for Lu Wu.

Chapter 106: The Hundred Fortresses Hegemony Tournament

After launching the Soul Coins Transaction Center, Lu Wu continued designing the game's content again.

The number of players had reached 600,000 and the 100 fortresses he prepared within the Artifact Channel were completed.

Lu Wu decided to officially put them to use by establishing the first Guild Hegemony Tournament.

Regarding this, Lu Wu phoned An Manman to tell her about his thoughts.

After some discussion between the two, An Manman stated that the Shark Streaming Platform would launch the tournament's preparation stage immediately and Lu Wu would be informed once everything was ready.

While An Manman kept herself busy preparing for the tournament, Lu Wu also started the tournament's promotion.

After this update, the players discovered a new computer graphic when they went online.

With the eerily stormy background music playing, the scene slowly unfolded.

The scene showed a brown, earthy desert and 100 mighty fortresses appeared vaguely amidst the sandstorm. The atmosphere was sorrowful and deserted. Then, an old voice could be heard,

“On this land burned by blood and flames, 100 fortresses that symbolized the highest strength and peak of power have once again received the opportunity to awaken...”

The scene then zoomed away. The fortresses became smaller from the players’ point of view and golden thrones appeared above each of these fortresses.

The old voice sounded again, “There is no real invincibility, no forever winner, and the last ruler had already left...”

Right then, black, blurry silhouettes appeared above every throne.

“Only the mightiest can take over the fortresses, rule the armies, and be crowned as the new hero!”

When the voice faded out, the scene transitioned between fortresses of different architectural styles, showing the structure of the fortresses to the players clearly.

“The Battle of the Hundred Fortress City... Who will dictate the living and the dead in this world!?”

Numerous shadows of soldiers appeared instantly. With their battling voices trembling the sky, they charged boldly toward the fortresses that represented the peak of power.

“We were born to achieve and succeed, only with mass murdering on the battlefield with nine million kills can one be the hero of the heroes! Will this supreme throne belong to you?”

The old voice disappeared with flags of different colors waving on each fortress, echoing greatly in the sandstorm.

[The First Annual Hundred Fortresses Hegemony Tournament]:

Tournament requirements: This activity will be held for six hours. Registration must be done in units of guilds with the guild having 300 or more members.

Tournament rules:

This tournament will be adapting the Fortress Obtaining Rule. Every registered guild will be transported to the Hundred Fortresses Hegemony Tournament map after the activity starts. After ten minutes of safety protection, guild players can choose from a hundred different fortresses to challenge. (Note: every fortress has 5 million blood bars for sustainability) After taking over the fortress and the fortress flag, the guild will be the owner of the fortress and receive other guild's attacks.

Victory requirements: The guilds have to defend ownership of their respective fortresses until the tournament ends. If the fortress flag is snatched during the defending period, the defensive guild will be transported out of the fortress and become the attacking guild!

Event special bonus: This tournament cancels the 3 hour revival system to allow revival at the map's center just ten minutes after death!

Hundred Fortresses Owner Rewards:

One, the winner's guild shall receive 3,000 soul coins as a reward.

Two, members of the fortress owner's guild will receive the red title Hundred Fortresses Elite.

[Hundred Fortresses Elite (30 days red)]: Symbolizes the winners of the Hundred Fortresses Hegemony Tournament.

Title attributes: Receive extra monster-hunting experience points of 5% and an extra 10 free entries to the Instance Dungeon.

Three, the chairman of the fortress owner's guild shall receive the exclusive purple title Lord of the Royal Fortress.

[Lord of the Royal Fortress (30 days purple)]: Symbolizes the Lord of the Hundred Fortresses Hegemony Tournament.

Title attributes: Receive extra monster-hunting experience points of 10% and an extra 30 free entries to the Instance Dungeon.

Four, the winning guilds shall have the priority of purchasing the upcoming Guild Station.

Official announcement: The Hundred Fortresses Hegemony Tournament activity will be live streamed and commentated by the Shark Streaming Platform. The venue of the livestream is set at Dragon Metropolis Sports Center and the tournament onlooker tickets can be bought from their website. You can also watch the real time tournament streaming and commentating on the Shark Streaming Platform!

This announcement evoked an uproar among the players.

The sudden existence of the Hundred Fortresses Hegemony Tournament had every big guild caught off guard. Most of them spontaneously assembled meetings and were immensely accepting new members at the same time.

Many guilds had lowered the threshold for guild entrance for this tournament in order to create history in this momentous battle.

During the players' preparation period, the health potion had become the bestseller in the game shop and it was manufactured nonstop for sale.

However, the impact of this activity was way more than just these. All the guild players were hungry for the big reward, they were clear as to what it meant to win this tournament.

Even by just the bonus for level-training experience they could see how their own guild could overtake other guilds in no time.

Moreover, they could obtain the priority of purchasing the Guild Station for their guilds. This tournament meant everything to those big guilds.

The price of in-game resources had risen greatly due to this as well. The sales of one-time items in the game shop had allowed Lu Wu to earn a fortune.

But what astonished the players was that Battle Online was collaborating with the Shark Streaming Platform for the livestream of this tournament.

Many players understood that the Shark Streaming Platform had an enormous live-streaming audience, meaning that this tournament was a match anticipated by players on a national level.

Therefore, the methods of showing off their respective guilds in the tournament had also become a hot topic amongst players.

Of course, there were many solo players who couldn't participate in this activity, so they logged on to the Shark Streaming Platform directly to buy on-site tickets at the Dragon Metropolis Sports Center as support for the first ever tournament of Battle Online.

There were even players who posted analysis and predictions in the forum to dissect the strongest guilds at the current stage and predict the winning possibilities of the guilds.

There were also guilds which were too weak to take down a fortress by themselves merging with other guilds to take down the fortress together. Only after the tournament would they decide on who would be the owner of that fortress.

The ones that were planning ahead for this were not only small guilds, some big guilds were even luring the small ones by giving them benefits, hoping they would become a part of their alliance during The Hundred Fortresses Hegemony Tournament and help them defend their fortresses.

The actual battlefield would not be as easy as they thought it would be. Every player was enthusiastically preparing for the forthcoming war on the battlefield!

Chapter 107: His Excellency Cangxu

After the announcement of the tournament, the place where An Manman was working at, the Shark Streaming Platform, became very busy.

Regarding the game Battle Online, the top management of Shark all looked forward to their project, which was why they prepared meticulously for this tournament. They rented the Dragon Metropolis Sports Center as the livestream venue and allowed the top emcee named Fang Ping to host the tournament.

Furthermore, they had even invited a professional band to produce a title song for the tournament as the opening show for The Hundred Fortresses Hegemony Tournament.

Before Lu Wu could start promoting, the Shark Streaming Platform had taken the initiative to painstakingly promote on various streaming platforms by using their own money.

Because of this, more players had noticed the game Battle Online and it had once again gained popularity with the number of players increasing in an astonishing manner.

All arrangements for the tournament had entered an intensive preparation stage.

During this period, An Manman called Lu Wu, bringing him another piece of good news.

Many gaming media channels had contacted the Shark Streaming Platform to get ready to report on this tournament.

Undoubtedly, Lu Wu was excited, because the wave of media attention would significantly increase players and welcome them earlier than expected.

The streaming of Platform173, the only platform that was available to download Battle Online, had also surged dramatically, exhilarating Wu Guoyi and made him want to ask Lu Wu out for a drink to celebrate again.

Despite that, Lu Wu declined. He was still a cat, so he counted alcohol out in order to prevent Wu Guoyi from freaking out.

But Lu Wu wasn't resting either. Once again, he upgraded the Hundred Fortresses Map in the artifact to ensure that no errors would occur on the details of the tournament. He had also begun to set some easter eggs in the game together with Bei Li.

For instance, there was a little golden dragon in a fortress named Extreme City. The player who obtained and consumed the golden dragon would receive a buff with five minutes of doubled attributes.

Another example would be the Invincible Grass located at the borders of the Hundred Fortresses Town that would grant players ten seconds of invincibility. There were also many more hidden easter eggs included to make the tournament more fun.

Of course, the addition of these easter eggs demanded zero soul coins, because they were all done within the Artifact Channel.

Similar to how players could infinitely revive, because it all happened in the channel, there was no need to be concerned about soul damage, too. The only big expense by Lu Wu in this activity were the rewards for the winners at the end of the tournament.

What thrilled the players was the news that Lu Wu revealed on the official website.

The guild that takes over Beiqi Fortress in this activity will have their battle recorded into the Annals of Great Battles as a video clip.

This news had undoubtedly delighted the players who longed to be the first guild in this game to win such a notable tournament.

...

His Excellency Cangxu's palace at the center of his large domain.

A white-haired but young looking man looked downward to the Ghost King and Ghost General worshipping him. He then let out a weak sigh and waved them away.

After his subordinates left, he pressed the golden scepter beside his throne. The throne slowly shifted its position and revealed a path beneath it.

Staring at this dark path, complex expressions clouded the face of His Excellency Cangxu.

He sighed once again before stepping onto the path.

Along with his appearance, the torches around were kindled, brightening the space below.

When he was a few hundred meters down, an empty cell appeared before him.

In the middle of this cell, there was a stunning woman in thin chiffon, and her four limbs were all chained up. She was held captive there.

Looking at the beauty, His Excellency Cangxu's expression became complicated. There was agony, wrath, and remorse. All his feelings were tangled together, making His Excellency Cangxu seem exceptionally depressed.

Just then, the woman suddenly opened her eyes and stared at His Excellency Cangxu.

His Excellency Cangxu's body gently trembled when the woman looked at him mockingly, "I'm ready to fight till death this time. If I succeed, I'll let you out. We still have a great future awaiting."

"Although you've been plotting for 10,000 years, you are no longer the Cangxu who became stronger just because it was his desire, so you are destined to fail. After all, this place was never one which you could sit in."

The woman's words made His Excellency Cangxu's face gradually become ferocious, "You bitch, don't you know how much effort I invested into this, and for whom I did all these for? You bitch! Bitch! Why must you degrade yourself like this! Are you treating me right this way!?"

The woman laughed like she was mocking herself as she looked at the furious His Excellency Cangxu, "If it wasn't because of my sacrifice, you wouldn't even be here, His Excellency Cangxu, let alone your position as the King of the Land of Cangxu!"

Upon hearing this, His Excellency Cangxu's face was drained of all color. He recalled the day he became His Excellency Cangxu and what this woman in ruby makeup had said to him while crying, "If it wasn't for my huge sacrifice, it would be impossible for you to become His Excellency Cangxu!"

Staring at the woman, His Excellency Cangxu's heart felt a recurring pain.

Even though he was already the king controlling the Land of Cangxu of the underworld now, he was still a nobody amongst the cycle of reincarnation and could never detach himself to reach higher. He could not even protect his most beloved person.

After staring deeply into the woman's eyes once again, His Excellency Cangxu turned around and left. But with every step he took, his body quivered a bit, as if he was tremendously tormented.

"I've been a shiv in other people's hands for my whole life. This time, I want to be the one holding it! Even if it will break my bones and shatter my soul!"

After His Excellency Cangxu left, the woman finally let out her tears and mumbled quietly, "Detach? How hard could it be? If you fail, I'll just follow you."

Her enchanting eyes closed slowly. A tear escaped and ran down her cheek as it shone crystalline in the dark cell.

The second day of preparation for the Hundred Fortresses Hegemony Tournament.

When Bei Li was on the sofa watching movies with Lu Wu, her face suddenly tensed up. She then took out a small notebook from her pocket and ran through it thoroughly.

Lu Wu sensed Bei Li's mood change, so he could not hold back his curiosity and asked her, "What happened?"

"Someone wants to rebel against us!" Bei Li answered seriously after a few moments of silence.

"Rebel? What do you mean!?" Lu Wu was dumbfounded.

"Wu, since you have started cultivating, you need to know some things as well. Do you know what is up there in the sky?" asked Bei Li while raising her hand and pointing upward.

"Stars? Moon? Sun?"

Bei Li picked Lu Wu up from the sofa and pressed her fingers unto him in a way that seemed to be a rather intense massage, "So mischievous~ So mischievous~"

The cultivated Lu Wu stood his hair up and leaped, escaping Bei Li's hug. He relayed his force on the sofa and jumped onto her head before giving her a nice slap with his claws,

"Did you already forget that you're no match for me?"

This slap brought tears to Bei Li's eyes, "I forgot!"

"Say it, what is happening exactly!?" Lu Wu asked with superiority after regaining the upper hand.

Bei Li ruffled her head and spoke with a slightly solemn tone,

"Do you remember what you promised me on the first day we met?"

Lu Wu began recollecting. After intricately recalling the incidents on that day, he smiled awkwardly, "Are you referring to the matter in which I borrowed an army from Emperor Qin Shihuang to invade the underworld?"

Bei Li looked enraged upon hearing this. Just when she raised her hand to grab Lu Wu, she suddenly thought of something and kept her hands back bitterly, "You told me, 'Do you want to help me out and become my right hand-man? We will conquer heaven after the underworld and we shall rule all three worlds!'"

Lu Wu became more uneasy after listening.

This was obviously a joke. He did not take it seriously back then and had forgotten about it after such a long time. Little did he know that Bei Li would still remember every detail of it.

"Could it be heaven?" Lu Wu questioned inquisitively.

Bei Li nodded fervently, "Since there is an underworld and there are cultivators in the human world, then there is of course a world of the immortals in heaven!"

"Do you still remember back then when you've asked me where the Earthly Deities of the human world went and I pointed above my head? Actually, I meant heaven."

Upon hearing this, Lu Wu put on a solemn expression, "Then what do you mean by rebelling? Somebody wants to invade heaven?"

Bei Li shook her head, "I'm not sure of his intentions nor his identity. But he activated the Yin Talisman! That means he has become one of the Anti-Heaven Alliance!"

Listening to Bei Li's explanation, Lu Wu widened his eyes. Son of a bitch, this looks like the time when I received the Yin Talisman which allowed me to go in and out of the underworld.

"Am I part of the Anti-Heaven Alliance, too?" Lu Wu could not stay still anymore.

"Of course you're not. Your Yin Talisman had already been engraved into the artifact, so naturally you won't have the symbol of the Anti-Heaven Alliance."

"Phew!" Lu Wu let out a long sigh. He almost thought he was starting a war with the Deities and the Gods.

"But your ancestor was part of the Anti-Heaven Alliance," Bei Li's eyes squinted into crescent shapes as she said while grinning.

Lu Wu opened his eyes wide again, "Why did my ancestor join such a notorious group?"

“Because heaven is unfair!”

Lu Wu quickly replied, “What does that mean?”

“A few million years ago, heaven, the human world, and the underworld, were the three main worlds that coexisted. Among them, the human world was the strongest. Every hundred years, there would be gifted geniuses who managed to cultivate and become Earthly Deities. There were also a few kings who suppressed and overlooked the world!”

“That was the true era of cultivation. Everyone in the human world was in high spirits. Nurtured by the soul energy of the world, they were the most powerful world among the three worlds!”

“But do you know why the human world nowadays lacks soul energy and cultivation is so hard?”

Dumbfounded, Lu Wu shook his head.

“It was because those deities knew that if they don’t limit the human world’s progress, one day the human world would be leading the three worlds. So they did a despicable move by letting a powerhouse into the underworld to stop the flow of soul energy from the underworld to the world of the living through the Six Doors of Reincarnation!”

“The soul energy of the world was getting thinner, which alerted most Earthly Deities in the human world. So they visited the underworld themselves to investigate! However the cunning deities were ready for them for a long time. They disguised themselves as powerhouses from the underworld to stop the investigation from the human world, and even massacred the Earthly Deities in the underworld.”

“What happened during this period was complicated, so I won’t go into the details with you. Anyway, it was what triggered an earth-shattering war between the human world and the underworld! This battle nearly broke the underworld into pieces. If the Great Emperors of the Underworld did not unite under the Six Doors of Reincarnation, this war would have just made the underworld disappear!”

“The mistake was made but discovered too late. The deities in the world of the immortals then were like chess players, calculating every step they made. However, it was at this time when the true evil backstage manipulator appeared. The very first thing they did was to break the Heavenly Gate, cutting the other source of soul energy to the human world!”

“Until this stage, the schemes of the world of the immortals no longer mattered. After the war between the human world and the underworld, the human world was facing combat power deprivation, so there was no way they could fight against the world of the immortals again. Moreover, the world of the immortals had also gotten rid of their last

hope to regain their power through cultivation as both sources of soul energy were cut off. The human world could never regain the golden era of cultivation they used to have, nor could they give birth to another invincible being like the emperors of old!”

“After that, the soul energy in the human world withered. Countless fights over sources were happening frequently. Cultivation had finally come to its end and faded out of humans’ sight with time!”

Hearing Bei Li’s explanation, Lu Wu frowned, “Then why did you say the Earthly Deities went up to the sky?”

“Living under the fear of soul energy extinction, some Earthly Deities chose to betray humans and entered heaven, becoming the underdogs of heaven! The other Earthly Deities who refused to give in left the domain in search for an opportunity to revive the humans’ glory days.”

“What about the human emperors? Weren’t they immortal as well? Where did they go?”

Bei Li shook her head, “I told you everything I could tell you. You should not know more than this. You won’t gain any benefit by listening to more of this because your soul is too weak, hence it is impossible for you to keep this secret.... nonetheless, let me tell you something. If you want to be the ruler, then behind the world of the immortals...”

Out of the blue, Lu Wu quivered while listening. He then bent over on the sofa and moaned painfully.

It was because he felt his soul throbbing with pain, as if a spiky brush was combing his body over and over again.

Seeing this, Bei Li quickly took a few pieces of the spiritual rice from the artifact, crushed them, and fed them into Lu Wu’s mouth.

Soul energy charged within his body and suffused throughout. The sharp pain ceased and Lu Wu slowly opened his bloodshot eyes.

Lu Wu’s face was plastered with fear, but doubts still filled his heart to the brim.

He knew he could not listen anymore. Bei Li did not lie to him. Knowing too much would really get himself killed.

Chapter 109: The Secret Of The Zombie Spirit Sect

What Bei Li said made Lu Wu realize that there were so many secrets hidden behind this normal-looking world.

“Wu, don’t you worry too much. Just relax and focus on your game. You need to know that you are now controlling the most talented human beings in the three worlds who were once even feared by the world of the immortals. In addition, you have the artifact to help you... your future will be earth-shaking, so you don’t need to be afraid of any forces!”

Lu Wu nodded at Bei Li’s comforting words. Just like she mentioned, as he was now armed with the artifact and in charge of the most gifted clan, if he gave himself enough time, nobody would be an obstacle on his path to success!

“So, someone wants to rebel against them now?” he ventured to ask.

Bei Li nodded, “It is most probably a force from the underworld. I’m unsure about his intentions, but you’d better stop this dangerous action right away!”

“Why?”

“The power of the human world and the underworld cannot be compared to heaven’s for now, let alone endure a big war. His thoughts were too simple. Not only is he destined to lose, he could also be an encumbrance to the other two worlds!”

Lu Wu drew in a deep breath, “What should I do?”

“If he wants to rebel, he will need to use the Yin Talisman to travel to the human world and find the right opportunity. I will sense him once he passes the Six Doors of Reincarnation. Then, I will inform you and plan a plot for you!”

Lu Wu gave a hard nod after hearing this.

...

The underworld, Burial Grounds.

After the cataclysmic war between the Demonic God and Hiderigami, this land where the deceased used to rest in peace had turned into ruins.

Right now, the silhouette of a player was walking on the cracked land and at the same time, his sight shifted continuously, as if he was searching for something.

After lunging over a slanted stone pillar, Hu He’s face was lit with delight. He rushed to the remains of a Bone Spirit that was covered by rocks with only half an arm visible.

With little effort, he cleared the rocks and revealed the Bone Spirit warrior underneath.

Then, he began picking on the Bone Spirit's body for some usable items. After that, he wandered around again.

After two hours, Hu He appeared outside the parameters of the Burial Grounds.

After locating an empty area, Hu He opened his channel and poured all the bits and pieces of the Bone Spirit he collected onto the floor.

Then, he opened his photo gallery in the game and searched for the photo of the Secret of the Zombie Spirit Sect which he took in reality.

Staring at the ancient book, a glimpse of anticipation glowed on Hu He's face.

Hu He was different from a lot of youngsters in reality. He believed in the existence of gods and cultivators because his grandfather was a cultivator.

Hu He could remember that his grandfather was weird and isolated. He spent his whole life in the straw hut which he built at the mass grave behind their village and stayed there throughout the year. He would not have come home if nothing special happened.

However, during a visit back to the village, this abnormal grandfather totally shocked young Hu He for the rest of his life.

It was the summer holidays of that year when Hu He went back to visit his grandparents with his parents. In order to surprise his grandfather, he hiked up the mountain alone and went to the mass grave that his grandfather frequented.

Because of that, he discovered his grandfather's secret.

When he secretly arrived at the mountain and went near the mass grave, he noticed his grandfather and decided to run up and surprise him.

But as he got closer, Hu He horrifyingly found out that his grandfather was holding some broken limbs covered in fresh mud and was drawing something in the air excitedly.

Young Hu He thought his grandfather had murdered someone. At the same time, due to the immense terror he felt, he stood a short distance away, staring dumbly, but his grandfather never noticed his presence.

Then what happened next left Hu He stunned.

As his grandfather drew in mid-air, the broken limbs slowly recombined, forming a two-meter high giant zombie.

Seeing this, Hu He could not sit still anymore. It was then his grandfather's eyes noticed and shone with fury. He turned, pointed, and the zombie-giant jumped onto him straight away.

Hu He still remembered clearly that the zombie's shiny black nails were only a few centimeters away from his neck. If his grandfather did not stop the zombie in time, he believed that he would have died.

Hu He bawled his head off then while his grandfather quickly shushed the zombie away and held him in his arms. While he was comforting Hu He, his eyes were full of anxiety, too.

Since then, he knew that his grandfather was not just an ordinary human.

From that day onward, due to his curiosity, Hu He would find his grandfather during every holiday.

Perhaps he was influenced by superhero movies and comics. Hu He thought that he may have an extraordinary family background, and he could have inherited those kinds of supernatural powers as well.

His grandfather did not keep anything from him anymore. He told Hu He that his ancestors were cultivators of the Zombie Spirit Sect, mastering the secret magic of zombie summoning, zombie awakening, and zombie assembling.

Young Hu He once told his grandfather excitedly that he wanted to learn and cultivate, too.

Although he would occasionally show off some skills to his grandson, priding his prestige as a grandfather, when it came to Hu He's passion in cultivating, he remained very stubborn and refused firmly.

Hu He tried every possible way but still failed to learn the secret method of cultivation from his grandfather, which unquestionably put him in low spirits.

However, when Hu He was 23, he received shocking news while he was in university. His grandfather was ailing and wanted to meet him for the last time.

Hu He hurriedly rushed from another city to meet him. When he met him, he terrifyingly found out that his grandfather's face was as pale as ash. Like a rotting old tree, he reeked of death all over.

Sensing Hu He's arrival, the old man gained some strength and held his hand when he approached the bedside and said, "Little He... this is why I never agreed to let you cultivate... I don't want you to end up miserable like me."

Seeing this old man who loved him to the bone, Hu He's tears trickled down his face.

"If you want something... you must give something in return... now that you know the consequences... the answer that you longed for... grandpa has left it below the straw hut... you're all grown up now... how you will choose... is not up to grandpa anymore."

After saying this, Hu He's grandfather shut his eyes forever.

Heartbroken, Hu He found this Secret of the Zombie Spirit Sect while tidying up his grandfather's belongings in the straw hut at the mass grave.

At that moment, Hu He hesitated. He wanted to cultivate. It was his dream since he was young. But at the same time, his grandfather's advice appeared in his head once again.

Finally, with the mindset that he would just give it a try and not actually cultivate, Hu He read the ancient book.

Chapter 110: Zombie Forgemaster

Ever since then, Hu He would spend a lot of time understanding the Secret of the Zombie Spirit Sect, but he did follow his grandfather's warning of not cultivating.

As for the reason why he wanted to test the power of this ancient book in the game, it was due to a bizarre event that he noticed in the game yesterday.

That day when he was claiming new turf in the Naraka Instance Dungeon with his team, they met an elite monster named Zombie Fire and were attacked by it.

Being the assassin on the team, Hu He swiftly moved beside Zombie Fire while it was attacking, searching for a chance to attack.

Unexpectedly, Zombie Fire suddenly changed its attacking direction and charged toward him.

The sudden attack cost almost half of his health and another attack followed immediately.

Just when he was about to be killed, he found that there was a fiery red bead under Zombie Fire's left underarm.

As he was very familiar with the Secret of the Zombie Spirit Sect, Hu He recognized this bead. It was named Leakage, a weakness point deliberately left by the Zombie Forgemaster.

When a zombie spirit is successfully created, they will automatically take in Yin energy from the world, cultivating and progressing without being noticed. Through this, ferocious spirits could easily be born. Leakage was purposely made to prevent the zombie spirit from attacking their owners, thus giving the Zombie Forgemaster extra protection.

If it was only that, Hu He could regard it as a coincidence.

However, when his dagger cut open the red bead, the scene astonished him.

Gusts of thick black fog escaped from Zombie Fire's underarm after the bead cracked, causing it to slow down its motion and ultimately saved Hu He from this deadly attack.

The discharging of zombie energy was indeed identical to the records in the ancient book.

Was Zombie Fire made by a Zombie Forgemaster? Hu He seemed extremely shocked.

After the zombie energy was discharged, Zombie Fire was easily killed by his team due to the great reduction in its strength and speed.

However, Hu He found all of this strange.

Why did the same forged-zombie appear in the game as recorded in the ancient book? Was the founder of this game also a descendant of the Zombie Spirit Sect? Is this why he added the same easter egg in the game?

Even Hu He himself thought that his hypothesis was unreasonable, but he just couldn't shake it off.

If his guess is correct and the game's founder is indeed a descendant of the Zombie Spirit Sect, then he might be able to use the secrets of the Zombie Spirit Sect in the game.

He wouldn't dare to learn them in reality, but since he did not have to worry about his body getting damaged in the game, Hu He went to the Burial Grounds without any pressure in order to prove that. He started to search for body remains, trying to make a zombie out of what he learned from the ancient book.

...

Looking at the remains on the ground, Hu He waved his hand and the photos in the gallery started to flip by pages.

He built the zombie while referring to the ancient book. Then, he followed the method recorded in the book to summon a spirit by using his blood. He tried again and again according to the procedures.

Although he had read the ancient book many times and the graphics of zombie building were already very familiar to him, it wasn't until he actually tried it when he realized that it was so much harder to do it.

After a few trials of building and summoning, Hu He was discouraged by his failure to awaken the zombie spirit, leading him to think that perhaps he was being too sensitive.

According to his grandfather, they were probably the only bloodline left from the Zombie Spirit Sect. It was impossible that there were other descendants, let alone them being the game's creators.

Unwilling to accept his results, Hu He decided to try one last time. If he failed again, he would give up.

So he built it again by following the method in the ancient book.

But just as he had expected, he failed again.

The zombie spirit was still not awakened.

Disappointed, Hu He completely gave up as he did not want to waste any more time. Just when he was about to leave, the sound of the game's notification rang in his ears.

[Permission to create a new character class: Zombie Forgemaster (Note: Once you choose this, you may not give up on it. This character class is a systemless growth progress, so you will need to learn everything on your own!)]

There really is a hidden easter egg! So my guess was correct? Hu He's face was full of surprise.

...

Actually, as soon as Hu He started building the zombie, Lu Wu and Bei Li already noticed him and the Secret of the Zombie Spirit Sect in his gallery.

This player was portraying strength beyond what the artifact had given and Lu Wu was totally astonished by him. He thought Hu He was also a cultivator in real life.

However, Bei Li's inference was different. For her, Hu He's zombie forging techniques were far too amateur. He did not even master the basics as a Zombie Forgemaster and his soul strength was like a normal person's. He was a total stranger and could not even be considered as a cultivator.

However, his actions sparked Lu Wu's curiosity. So he asked Bei Li if this kind of power could be progressed digitally under the artifact.

According to Bei Li, Hu He's zombie forging skills was probably a branch of a cultivation system in the underworld which was popular there. Since there was no related data saved in the artifact, if it were to be digitized, the future progress of this character class would be unknown, but most probably the result would be this account going astray.

After all, character classes like the Cursed Apostle and the Rune Master were created out of years of collection created by other clans in the underworld.

So this Zombie Forgemaster could not be compared to the other character classes in the system. Furthermore, this player was a complete clueless rookie. Even if he changed his character class, he would only be slightly stronger than his original one, the assassin. There was no way that he could beat the other specified character classes in the system.

However, Lu Wu still hoped that this player could grasp this self-exploration path, providing the game with one more varied progression path. Nonetheless, as he was not in a position to decide, he gave the player the chance to choose.

After all, Lu Wu's vision for the game was to provide freedom to the players, allowing them to unleash their own potential. Therefore, the players would always surprise him.

...

Looking at the game notification, Hu He's heart pounded with excitement, wanting to confirm immediately.

However, he hesitated.

His initial aim was to become a Cursed Apostle, mastering the powers of the Naraka Realm. But this character class came with a term that said no giving up, so there was no turning back once he had made his choice.

Moreover, this game did not allow account deletion and restarting. So the outcome of his choice was a great sacrifice.

It was then Hu He's grandfather's face appeared in his mind.

Although I can't cultivate this in reality, I could inherit my grandfather's mission and follow his footsteps in another form if I choose this character class.

Right after that, Hu He's eyes glowed with firmness, and he chose to confirm.

[Server Announcement: Congratulations to player Hu He for creating a new character class, Zombie Forgemaster. Hidden reward received: 500 soul coins (untradable)]

Once the notification appeared, all the players in the server were in an uproar.