

The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 21

Chapter 21: Retrospect

It was supposed to be an exploration quest, but the Big Three Guilds had forced it into a head-on battle.

From the fight, many players came to the realization of just how strong the Ghost General Cha Na's powers were. Having that experience, the players were more united in joining forces, even player killer fights in the wild had reduced.

The reason was simple. The leaders of the three biggest guilds, which currently consisted of the strongest players, had had a discussion.

The battle had undoubtedly left them reeling, therefore, they had decided to temporarily put aside competing against one another. Instead, they were resolved to join forces in order to destroy the Ghost Camp situated at the forefront of Liuli District.

The peaceful development around the Ghost Mountains had led to overcrowding since huge amounts of players gathered there to hunt and advance their skills.

Luckily, the Ghost Mountains had a unique map where ghost-type creatures would keep respawning as the game refreshes, allowing players to kill monsters non-stop.

Going deeper into the Ghost Mountains, stronger creatures would appear, such as vengeful spirits, evil spirits and white-haired zombies. It was extremely challenging for the players, though it could be said that they were suffering happily.

Simultaneously, the rise of Battle Online had attracted plenty of gold farmers.

Especially with soul coins having a rate of 1:800, it was exceptionally tempting.

However, what boggled the minds of these gold farmers was how the game could not be opened in multiple windows. In fact, it was impossible to lend an account to another player. No matter what kind of tricks they had up their sleeves, they could not crack this game.

Lu Wu had even noticed that some businessmen in the black market of online games were offering premium prices for a type of crack tool in hopes of running multiple accounts in Battle Online.

Countless cyber hackers had also tried their hands, but to no avail. The game remained with having zero cheats and zero trade bots. Such outstanding results further boosted the game's popularity.

Lu Wu had full confidence about this matter, for Battle Online accounts were verified through soul-binding, so it was impossible to cheat unless the player had two souls.

At the same time, Lu Wu and Bei Li took in the suggestions by the players in the discussion area and went down into the underworld once more.

With the help of his multi-talented assistant, Bei Li, the headset was paired with the server. Thus, the issue where players found it difficult to record videos in-game was solved.

The introduction of this feature also helped in publicizing the game. By enabling players to post their videos on various streaming platforms, the game had gained more publicity.

The numbers of players had increased rapidly, hitting the 150,000 mark. Because of that, there were also more technical players.

There were three technical players in the forum who had caught Lu Wu's attention, one of them was a player by the name of Na Lanlan who drew a map of the Ghost Mountains, depicting the monsters in different regions of the mountain and their weaknesses.

The image had solved the troubles faced by many newbies in the game.

Another player called Dwarf_King had also used the newly introduced feature of video recording to upload clips of the maps which he had scouted and explored onto the forum dedicated for Battle Online in the gaming website, Platform173.

According to Dwarf_King, he did not hunt monsters in the game, instead he perceived the game as a traveling adventure to explore the underworld.

What was surprising to him was the fact that there were no repetitive sceneries in all the scenes of the game, everything was tremendously real. After traveling around the Land of Beiqi for seven days, he felt that even though he had merely explored a small zone, it was a feast for the eyes.

Nevertheless, his maps informed other players of things which existed in zones beyond the Mansion of the Dead.

Inside the Dwarf_King's maps, the map fog which shrouded the nearby zones around the Mansion of the Dead was absent. Instead, there were four zones of wilderness, consisting of the Ghost Mountains where all the players were already familiar with, Langya Scorched Earth Zone which was at the West, and further in front were the Cliffs of Desperation as well as the Death Forest.

From the descriptions of the player Dwarf_King, these zones had monsters and ghosts of strange forms. He was lucky to be able to travel so far since he was good at keeping himself out of sight. Alas, he still ended up dying as a snack to an enormous viper in the Death Forest.

Seeing the images captured by Dwarf_King, players were exhilarated by the revelation of just how big the world was. So many strange places existed out there.

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However, at the bottom of his post, Dwarf_King reminded players of the importance of having the strength and skills to go on an adventure in the game. In order to further explore this underworld, he had decided to train diligently before he set off on another adventure.

Dwarf_King's post had topped the discussion area of Battle Online for quite awhile. It garnered the attention of many players while stirring up their spirits to become stronger in the game.

The final player went by the name of One_Punch_One_Kick. According to him, he was a fireman who had lost an arm and a leg during a fire rescue mission. He was devastated as the unfortunate event affected him greatly, to the point where he attempted to commit suicide.

While he survived after being rescued, he had given up on everything. He hated every second of being alive. He hated how life was simply unfair to him.

After several twists and turns, he was introduced to gaming where he could numb his dreadful life by being in a virtual world.

At least he was whole in the game. Though he still felt that everything was fake and completely unrealistic, just like prosthesis.

When he accidentally stumbled across Battle Online, he was moved to tears upon experiencing the game. The realistic sensation made him think that his arm and his leg were back, which greatly astonished him. It was the first time since he lost his limbs that he was able to feel their existence again.

At the end of the post, One_Punch_One_Kick gave his sincere thanks to the game developers of Battle Online.

His post moved the hearts of many players, but at the same time made people realize that Battle Online was freakishly realistic. It could even make a crippled person experience what it was like to feel their limbs again.

Not only were players comforting the original poster, One_Punch_One_Kick, there were also players who expressed their gratitude because they too have found solace among people who had experienced similar misfortune. They found a place where they could be complete.

Once again, Battle Online had gained even more fans.

A lot of players had also requested in the forum for a top-up feature. They were hoping for the operators of Battle Online to quickly launch the top-up portal to enhance their gaming experience.

Moreover, Wu Guoyi had personally called in to enquire about this very matter.

There was nothing Lu Wu could do about it, his soul coins were barely enough to construct the Mansion of the Dead. If he launched the top-up portal, no doubt all 20,000 soul coins in his possession would be gone in a matter of seconds.

For that reason, Lu Wu could only make up excuses such as keeping the game free-to-play would be better for the ongoing development of the game and there would be lesser differences in terms of strength between the players.

Lu Wu was starting to feel the pressure from Battle Online's rising popularity.

Right now, the gaming experience might be flawless but the content was not enriching. He would need to quickly design more ways for an interesting gameplay.

After going through the suggestions of players, Lu Wu felt that he was a step closer to his ideals for Battle Online.

Firstly, this game style did not need to be a fighting game, it could be freestyle or a relaxing kind of game.

For instance, if they could take back Liuli District from Cha Na in the future, then players who enjoy fishing could totally fish in the Underworld Sea by Liuli District.

As claimed by Bei Li, the Underworld Sea was filled with plenty of rare fish, some with the ability to enhance players' Soul Strength.

Aside from selling it at the shop, players could consume it to enhance their strength.

Additionally, at the bottom of the Cliffs of Desperation laid a zone of murky land, which was currently the territory of the Rock Ghost King. That place would be great for cultivating new creatures.

Should they conquer that zone, it could unlock the ability for players to rear pets which they can even train to assist in battle.

As long as players could imagine creative ways to play the game, it could be said that there were endless possibilities in this underworld realm, making the gameplay so much more fun.

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Chapter 22: The Vicious Power Of The Players

At the border of Liuli District and the Mansion of the Dead.

The Ghost Supreme Commander was looking coldly at those provoking players who were not far away.

He was unsure of the reason for the presence of all these weird creatures who called themselves the descendants of the King of Beiqi here at the Mansion of the Dead. Despite that, he was shocked when he saw many among them whom he had killed before.

Recently, his camp was disturbed by them numerous times already.

All these so-called players chose not to encounter him face-to-face anymore ever since the last battle, instead they had formed small teams and started their continuous provocations around the camp.

He initially thought that these weak existences would be terrified by a few massacres, but the fact was indeed the opposite, the disturbances were becoming worse and this had irritated the Ghost Supreme Commander. So he decided to bring along all of his subordinates to the Mansion of the Dead this time to identify the real situation.

But just as the armies crossed the border line, the sky turned dark all of a sudden, reminding Ghost Supreme Commander of the great king who was very powerful here in Beiqi, his heart then trembled involuntarily.

“Kill them all!”

The Ghost Supreme Commander suppressed his inner fear at once, he then said while raising his sword and pointed at the players far away.

The whole regiment of Ghost Wolf Riders immediately dashed toward the provoking players with their weapons.

“Your idea really works. These traitors really can’t stand it anymore and are coming over here!”

Ye Xue'er said in disbelief after catching a glimpse at Wu Guoyi who was also observing the situation beside her.

"Of course, have you ever heard of the saying, 'the older the wiser'? Now, keep leading them in deeper, I've already asked someone to disseminate about this on the forum. By then, we'll have millions of players, so we don't have to be afraid of these few thousand ghost clan scraps," said Wu Guoyi proudly.

...

Meanwhile, Lu Wu was also paying attention to this annihilation war which was initiated by the players.

Three hours ago, the three biggest guilds had come to a consensus with numerous groups of players in the forum on annihilating the Ghost Supreme Commander.

This post of the annihilation action had been pinned on top of the forum, receiving a great number of followers among the players.

Maybe even Wu Guoyi, the initiator of this war was not expecting things to go so smoothly as well. The Ghost Supreme Commander was really leading his men to annihilate them.

Those groups which were sent for the purpose of provocation were caught and wiped out by the army of the Ghost Supreme Commander very quickly, without any chance to resist.

While looking at the Mansion of the Dead which covered with heavy dark clouds miles away, the Ghost Supreme Commander swung his sword while leading his army forward.

"Let's go towards Beiqi's Mansion of the Dead!"

There was sand and dust everywhere at once as thousands of huge wolves carrying the ghost soldiers ran toward the deserted Mansion of the Dead.

The Ghost Rider Army kept bumping into players who were alone by themselves and killed them without hesitation. This further motivated the Ghost Rider Army, making them think that although there were a lot of players, they were all weak and fragile.

But when the Ghost Rider Army reached the Mansion of the Dead, they were startled.

All they could see was a myriad of players who were staring at them around the Mansion of the Dead.

"What actually is this? Why are there so many!?"

The Ghost Supreme Commander was very familiar with this area, but since he was away for a few months, he was not aware of the presence of all the new creatures here.

“Retreat!”

The Ghost Supreme Commander could feel the numbness on his scalp while he was facing such a huge group of players. He was not going to continue to fight because even if he won, the price would be very high.

However, those players were already prepared for this, so there was no way that they would let him and his army escape. Once again, they gathered one by one quickly and formed a human barrier behind them.

This very scene was being live-streamed through a virtual helmet of a player onto the forum, letting those who were sacrificed watch this together. Many people were following closely to this counterattacking war.

Peppa_Boar: “Sad day, this is actually worth my life. Let’s kill all the traitors, go!”

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Invincible_Loneliness: “Offering a reward of a million to those players who manages to kill the ghost clan scraps, you can do it!”

Blockhead: “I have been upset for a few days already, it’s time to get revenge, nothing much actually, just win!”

Huge_Faced_Cat: “I hope you’re trembling under the vicious power of the players, stupid ghost clan traitors!”

...

Numerous players were commenting on the live stream, the war was on the verge of breaking out as well.

The Ghost Supreme Commander was really shocked this time, he could only choose to retreat while encountering such large numbers of players, but he never expected that he was not allowed to do so.

In order to stay alive, the Ghost Supreme Commander suddenly waved his hand and his army turned around immediately, killing the players behind them.

“Stop them! Let’s kill them! Don’t be afraid to die,” one of the players shouted with rage.

At the very moment, the armies of players dashed towards the Ghost Supreme Commander from all directions.

Although most of their levels were rather low and some would be eliminated even with just one attack, this had motivated the fighting wills of the players, they attacked insanely as if they were committing suicide, splitting the whole Ghost Rider Army in a blink of an eye.

It was not that scary for one to go against ten, but it was indeed scary for one to fight against tens or hundreds.

The players had no particular formation of fighting, no commander, and no tactics. All they had was reckless abandon, they kept attacking just because they had an advantage on head counts.

As for the ghost clan creatures, although they were bloodthirsty and brutal, they were also afraid of being dead once again, but the players were not.

Death was normal to the players, despite the fact that it was just a three hour cooldown time, they were not afraid of death at all, they really could sacrifice their lives for good.

The players who were watching this on the live stream of the forum were very excited.

“Kick his crotch! Yes! That’s it!”

“Dude, on your left, left hand side, aargh, not listening to me, no wonder you died!”

“Left hook, right hook, jab, sidekick, shit dude, your fighting tactics are so bad.”

“Bro, you’re so fierce, you even bite, I respect you as a man. I remembered your ID already, I won’t offend you next time I meet you.”

A bunch of netizens were commenting outside the fight.

There were players who died and joined the forum from time to time, it was bustling both inside and outside the game.

Contradicting to the players, the Ghost Supreme Commander looked gloomy right then, although every time when he waved his sword he would kill a bunch of players, there were too many of them, too many that even the Ghost Supreme Commander felt it was hard to handle.

It was then that the steed of the Ghost Supreme Commander almost shook him off all of a sudden. He looked back immediately and noticed that a person was stabbing the demonic foal’s hindquarters with a big sword.

Off the game:

“Hahaha, great, a fatal attack, perfect!”

"I remember that this dude is the big boss of the Great Dragon Guild, his name is Chen Ziyu, he is really good!"

"The skill of the Millennium Kill which is shown through the usage of a huge sword, looks like he is quite powerful, interesting!"

"This bro really is a talented one... He must've hit a critical attack!"

The Ghost Supreme Commander was so furious as if there were fire burning in his eyes when he felt the tremble of his demonic foal. He suddenly waved his sword backwards, trying to kill Chen Ziyu.

Suddenly, a figure dashed out from the side, pushing Chen Ziyu away while enduring this fatal attack by himself.

"Boss, take revenge for me!" the one who blocked the bullet shouted at Chen Ziyu before his screen blacked out.

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Chapter 23: The Scene Of The Explosion Of Equipment

Although it was just a game, there was still real comradery. Looking at the one who died under the sword for him, Chen Ziyu mourned for half a second before he attacked the other ghost soldier.

This was common in the battlefield.

Meanwhile, Li Tianxia, who was fighting together with Wu Guoyi, was grabbing tight onto one Ghost Wolf Rider while shouting to Wu Guoyi,

"Brother, I've got him, kill him fast!"

Wu Guoyi was stunned for a few seconds, then he quickly killed the Ghost Wolf Rider with his sword.

While helping Li Tianxia up, Wu Guoyi patted his shoulder, "Brother, your fighting spirit must be the most reckless here in this ancient era!"

Li Tianxia rolled his eyes, "Brother Wu, stop teasing me and keep killing, we shouldn't let them get away!"

The two then continued to kill more Ghost Wolf Riders.

The players were happily killing while more and more of the Ghost Rider Army died, making them harder to resist.

Feeling no hope of getting through, the Ghost Supreme Commander howled furiously. He then jumped down from his demonic horse, swayed the sword in his hand aggressively and a path appeared before him.

However, before he took his step forward, the path was blocked by the players once again, making the Ghost Supreme Commander unable to move. It was impossible for him to escape.

It was then that a figure suddenly appeared from the side, a blue spark shone as a blue sword cut through the back of the Ghost Supreme Commander.

“Ha!”

While the Ghost Supreme Commander turned around, the aura around him expanded, throwing the sword on his back out.

After he turned and saw the person who attacked him, the Ghost Supervisor’s pupil constricted, “You!”

Wang Damang widened his mouth with a smile, “That’s right, it’s me!”

“How is this possible, you’re supposed to be dead. I killed you myself...”

The Ghost Supreme Commander saw the familiar face earlier already. At first, he thought these creatures had similar faces, but he knew he was wrong when he saw Wang Damang.

The Ghost Supreme Commander felt grave terror all of a sudden, he would never believe that such strange things could happen. Is it true that these creatures cannot be killed? They can even revive themselves.

When the Ghost Supreme Commander showed a sense of fear, all the netizens sneered at once:

“Hahaha, this is the end for the Ghost Supreme Commander, you should tremble as much as you can under the vicious power of the players!”

“[Facepalm] Under the respawning and plugins of the vicious power of the players, the Ghost Supreme Commander is finally in despair!”

“This is so funny, the facial expression of this NPC makes me feel so good, I’ve taken a screenshot of it; preparing to make it into a meme.”

“To the brother above, remember to send me one when you’re done!”

...

Confronting the Ghost Supreme Commander who was terrified, Wang Damang was ready to attack with his dagger.

“Just bring it on! I’m not afraid of death, at worst I’ll have to wait for three hours to respawn, if you’re so great, why don’t you respawn, too?”

“Go to hell!” the Ghost Supreme Commander’s face darkened as he could not bear with the sneering and swung his sword towards Wang Damang.

The furious attack by the Ghost Supreme Commander killed Wang Damang at once, leaving a deep pit on the ground at the same time.

Wang Damang’s death did not affect the players from feeling high. Once again they had surrounded the Ghost Supreme Commander and started to attack in groups as if they were the suicide squad.

The Ghost Supreme Commander could finally feel the horror from the vicious power of the players.

After some time, the Ghost Supreme Commander started to gasp for air, his speed of swinging his sword was decreasing as well.

His determination to fight was becoming lower, he felt helpless thinking of these creatures who called themselves players and could not be killed for real.

The players were becoming increasingly insane when they saw that the Ghost Supreme Commander was going to be defeated soon. All of them started to pounce on him.

“First kill is mine, don’t try to get it!”

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“Stop pushing me, at least let me chop once so that I can get some experience points!”

“I feel like this big boss is going to give out high level red equipment, or something even better, shit, whoever gets it will be rich, get out of my way!”

All the players knew very well about the price of soul coins and the value of red ranked equipment. Lots of rich players who spent money in the game would be scrambling to get one, it was easy to get a few million from it.

Thinking of this, all the players had gone mad completely and squeezed beside the Ghost Supreme Commander, trying to touch his body after he was dead.

After the Ghost Rider Army was annihilated, the Ghost Supreme Commander was getting all the attention, which made his resistance more and more useless. The armor he was wearing was starting to crack, too, as it was being hit on continuously.

“Aargh! Get out of my way!”

Before he lost all his strength, a green aura sparked from the Ghost Supreme Commander’s body once again, sending away the players around him.

“How dare you’re still fighting back, just explode!”

“Deathbed struggles, just explode quickly!”

Within a second, the players surrounded him again, followed by countless attacks.

Under such constantly insane attacks, the fire in the eyes of the Ghost Supreme Commander started to shrink before it finally went out.

The moment the Ghost Supreme Commander died, tens of players around him leveled up at the same time. Meanwhile, the power of battle artifacts was switched on, breaking down the body of the Ghost Supreme Commander and three items appeared on the ground.

[Ghost Supreme Dawn Blade (red): the Ghost Supreme Commander’s weapon]

Attributes: Increase Strength by 18 points

Weapon skills: Wind blade (triggered every hour, doubling the damage for long range skills)

Equipment requirements: Warrior character class, Level 30 or above

[Ghost Supreme Body Armour (red, broken)]

Attributes: Increase Defense by 15 points (broken, so the effect is halved)

Equipment skills: Defense aura (broken, cannot be released)

Equipment requirements: Any character class, Level 25 or above

[Magic – Number One Rune: One of the accessories of the Netherworld Rune Device set, can be sold in the shop for 500 soul coins]

The battle artifacts had analyzed the attributes and value of the three items.

Looking at all three items, the gaze of the surrounding players was full of excitement.

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In the bedroom, Bei Li who had just finished watching this battle with Lu Wu stood up suddenly when she saw the Ghost Supreme Commander give out a blue rune fragment. She looked surprised.

“What happened?” Lu Wu asked.

“Earlier, you said that you want to set a few hidden jobs, right? I think now’s the chance!”

“Huh?” Lu Wu was puzzled as he looked at Bei Li who was overexcited.

“This magic charm was used by the former top magic caster of Beiqi, Yin Jiumo, to produce the materials for special warriors. If we can get this thing, I’m positive that I can help you create the upgrading plan for a new set of rune warriors!”

“How is this thing so powerful?” Lu Wu was astonished.

“Of course, the idea of rune warriors have already been in my mind for a while now. Unfortunately, all this time I didn’t have the real thing to examine. So once we get this thing, I promise I can create a way to transfer a player’s job to a warrior!”

Hearing this, Lu Wu was interested as well, “Tell me about the details of this plan of yours.”

Bei Li nodded, “Rune warriors were the system’s name for a kind of special warriors created by Yin Jiumo, the top spellcaster of Beiqi. His process of forging needed a lot of materials which had to be fused by a forger. It was very complicated, but the warrior ability of the finished product was very terrifying.”

“However, since we have the battle artifact, it will be less troublesome for us. All I need to do is to examine the rune completely and implant the template into the artifact, then a hidden job will be created: The Rune Warrior.”

“Except leveling up, the other cultivation system for this character class is to collect runes. Every rune collected will be able to upgrade the ability of a Rune Warrior by a great deal.”

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Chapter 24: Rune Master

The players were bursting with joy after they defeated the Ghost Supreme Commander and his army.

It was a sleepless night for many of them. However, the next day, the players noticed a new notification message when they logged into the game.

[Notification of Berserker's first character class advancement into Rune Master]

Many players clicked into the message out of curiosity. Their screen display shifted to an empty area in the wilderness in an instant.

A warrior with a strong build stood upright in the middle of a vacant land. There were runes glinting in various colors on his body.

[Character Class Introduction:]

Rune Master: In their chase for extreme power, Berserkers abandoned their weapons and used their bodies as containers to imprint runes of the world to train their bodies to the strongest

Character feature: Whenever a new rune is drawn, a Rune Master can obtain the rune's feature skill and have a huge improvement in his strength

Weapons: Bare handed, boxing gloves

Character requirements: Default character class has to be a Berserker, with a minimum of Level 30

After the introduction window disappeared, the Rune Master who was standing on the empty piece of land shifted his body. The runes on his body started glowing and formed a noise similar to the revving of an engine.

"Rune of Strength!"

The red gems on the Rune Master's body flashed instantly followed by his shout. Both his arms started expanding gradually and his veins were popping out. Smoke and dust flew everywhere when he hit the ground with his fists. A huge pit was then formed on the ground and cracks were spreading around.

"Rune of Defense!"

The blue gems shone with radiance followed by his second shout. The Rune Master crossed his arms on his chest as he bowed slightly. A blue spherical light screen was instantly formed.

At the same time, a shadow holding a wand appeared in front of the Rune Master.

“Death’s Call!” meteor rain condensed from dark aura poured from the sky followed by the mage’s angry cry.

However, the attacks only formed ripples on the blue light screen when they hit. There was no way for them to break the Rune Master’s defense.

“Rune of Speed!”

After the attack, the green gems lit up and the Rune Master was shrouded by a green mist. With a flash, he disappeared from his original spot and started flashing around with speed.

The game’s introduction window reappeared after the demonstration ended.

[The character class Rune Master has various cultivating modes, the number of runes available to be drawn can be increased by leveling up]

Newest update, addition of Berserker’s advanced character class: Rune Master.
Addition of new NPC: Character Class Advancement Instructor

[A Rune Master can only achieve character class advancement after completing the advancement quest]

Introduction of character class advancement quest: More information can be obtained from Character Class Advancement Instructor Master Qu

There was an uproar on Battle Online’s forum when the contents of the newest update were released.

Peppa_Boar: “How original! That’s so original! Looking for materials required for character advancement for a high price.”

Lonely_Carefree: “Fuck! Why isn’t it available for other characters? Is Berserker the son of the GM? Can I change my fucking character class right now?”

KeyboardWarri0r: “I condemn this strongly. Why are there no advancements for assassins like me? I’m jelly.”

CashyPlayer: “Sad. Is there no future for a useless mage like me?”

Crayon_Shinchan replied to CashyPlayer: "I'm a mage too. Let's cry together."

ThunderInCharge replied to Crayon_Shinchan: "Count me in for the crying fest. Also, send the devs a middle finger."

Strike_Gold: "Luckily, I chose to be a Berserker. I get to watch you all die from jealousy."

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A question post appeared in the forum as the players were discussing the update.

An image consisting of information about the character class advancement quest for Rune Master was attached in the post.

Requirements for character advancement into a Rune Master:

First stage: Hunt and kill specific creatures

Second stage: Collect materials to create a rune (Any one of the runes is required)

Materials required for Rune of Strength: Black burnt ore (produced in the mines in the Langya Scorched Earth Zone), volcanic core (produced in Flaming Hell), and 10 black shield fragments (dropped by Black Shield Demons)

Materials required for Rune of Defense: Black burnt ore, dead waters core (produced in Dead Waters River Area), Netherworld Pearls x10 (dropped by netherworld creatures)

Rune of Speed, Rune of Destruction, Rune of Flight, Rune of Explosion, Special Rune of Qiu Niu, Special Rune of Xing Tian...

Third stage: Character class advancement completed. Advanced character mode activated.

BeastFighter:

"Can someone please tell me, what the heck are these materials required for the character class advancement? Aside from Netherworld Pearls, I know none of them. I don't even know where they are located."

Replies:

Lonely_Carefree: "Awesome, the tougher it is, the better. It'd be best if you Berserkers go insane from looking for these materials."

CashyPlayer: "I agree with you. But then, I took a peek, the growth of this character class seemed really powerful especially the various growing range. No, I'm so jealous, I'm cursing you all so that you won't find them."

Peppa_Boar: "I'm shook. Rune Master is really strong. However, the difficulty for the character class advancement must be even higher than we can imagine. Even from the netherworld creatures that we know, there aren't many players who can solo it, not to mention the other creatures who sound really strong."

Strike_Gold: "I think I should find ways to improve the most basic strength, defense, and speed. The special runes seem to be impossible to be obtained by one person's strength."

Ye_Xue'er_is_the_cutest: "Objection! How can a great assassin like me not have such an original character class advancement? I'm requesting a rune assassin."

All Ye Xue'er's followers replied to her: "Everything Xue'er says is right!"

Crayon_Shinchan replied to Ye Xue'er's followers: "Bootlickers, bootlickers. Lick all you want, you'll get nothing in the end!"

.....

Looking at the players' debates, Lu Wu rubbed Bei Li's small head with a smile.

"You're such a genius, you developed a new character from just one small piece of rune!"

Bei Li pushed away Lu Wu's hand with her head. She looked proud.

"Yes, I'm currently researching on the mages' character class advancement. I'm planning to release three different character advancement options for mages that players could choose from."

"Which three?" Lu Wu asked with curiosity.

"The cursed path which is good at controlling and removing buffs, the demonic path which is a good attacker, and the gremlin path which is good at shape-shifting. Each has their own unique characteristics, all three are powerful."

"Sounds great!" Lu Wu gave her a big thumbs up.

"How about assassins? What are you going to do with the assassins' character class advancement?"

"I'm still thinking about the assassins. All the character classes I created require special materials from the underworld which will be added soon for the players which means that I have to create new body templates. It's not like I can just add anything whenever I thought of it. So, I have to really think through for the character class advancements and research about them over and over again!"

"Can I help you in any way?" Lu Wu felt a little bit sorry, looking at Bei Li who had been busy with research every single day.

"You... you can just bring me nice food every day. After all, research takes a lot of effort and thinking, I will need many different great food to replenish my nutrients. As for helping in the research, I think it's fine. The research requires very high talent and IQ, you will certainly not help much."

Bei Li spoke with a serious expression and her words hurt Lu Wu's ego.

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Chapter 25: The Opening Of The Cultivation Pavilion

Near the coast of the Underworld Sea in Liuli District.

A humongous figure was sitting on a throne built from the bones of various living creatures.

Before him, countless creatures were bowing and worshiping him.

"What is the reply from those of the Underworld Sea?"

A deep voice was heard from the humongous figure, causing the living spirit beneath him to tremble.

"Lord Cha Na, the Sea King said that those from the Underworld Sea will acknowledge your status as the overlord of Liuli District if you're willing to contribute 100,000 Yin souls as an offering every year!"

Boom!

Thick flames were bursting from the throne. The flaming eyes were filled with endless rage.

"How can he be this arrogant when the King of Beiqi is still around? Does he think that I, Cha Na, am a loser?"

The black-robed Soul Liberating Envoy beneath him was shaking, "Lord Cha Na, do you mean... ?"

Cha Na went silent for a moment before he spoke again slowly,

"We'll bear with it first and agree with his request. I will certainly make him pay for this when I have my breakthrough to the Ghost King state!"

The Soul Liberating Envoy nodded upon hearing his reply. As if reminded about something, he spoke again,

"Lord Cha Na, the Third Ghost's soul flame has been put out."

"Third Ghost? Wasn't he guarding the boundary between Liuli District and the Mansion of the Dead? It's a safe area, how did he die?"

The Soul Liberating Envoy shook his head, "Not just him, it seems like all his underlings are gone as well. None of them returned to report anything!"

"Was it the Rock Ghost King from the Northern Zone?"

Cha Na then shook his head, "It can't be him. He wouldn't do something so stupid as to form enemies with me right after he seized the Northern Zone. It should be another force."

"Go investigate. I want to know who is going against me behind my back."

Upon hearing that, the Soul Liberating Envoy took a respectful bow toward Cha Na before disappearing into the shadows.

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Due to the fact that Battle Online's online forum was exploding with messages, Lu Wu and Wu Guoyi established a new official homepage for Battle Online after some discussion.

They gave the little gaming site a complete reform.

Some new features which were prepared earlier were added onto the web page, including live streaming.

At the same time, players uploaded the video of their battle with the Ghost Supreme Commander to both sites and other large video platforms, which resulted in a huge leap in the number of players for Battle Online, surpassing 200,000 players.

The number of soul coins had been increasing for the past few days even though Lu Wu hadn't done anything.

Aside from the assigning of various quests, Lu Wu's soul coins had a breakthrough of 50,000. Therefore, the construction work for the Mansion of the Dead which was planned a while ago officially started.

Under Bei Li's control, a huge amount of soul energy gushed out from artifacts and formed a soul energy sea which engulfed the abandoned Mansion of the Dead.

The building started its renovation process with the assistance from the artifacts. An odd scene of half-fantasy half-reality appeared and attracted the gaze and attention of many players.

Unlike Yin energy, the renovation by soul energy took more than ten minutes before the building's form was fixed.

The onlooking players gasped in awe when a black towering building appeared on top of the ruins.

[General notification: Character class skills training is officially available. All players above Level 20 can now select the battle skills corresponding to their character class in the Cultivation Pavilion for training]

A huge number of players who were leveling in the wild rushed to the area where the Mansion of the Dead was located after receiving the notification. They were curious to see how the Cultivation Pavilion looked like.

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At the same time, Lu Wu and Bei Li entered the building hand in hand.

The Cultivation Pavilion was known as the Library when the King of Beiqi was still around. All the cultivation techniques and battle skills collected by the King of Beiqi were deposited there.

Artifacts had stored and arranged all the ancient books during the remodeling of the library. Under Bei Li's reformation, it transformed into a fantastical and colorful place with a classical charm.

The ancient books inside were converted into shadows. Players were able to check out the detailed explanation and demonstration of specific skills by clicking onto the shadows.

Of course, training skills here would require soul coins. Aside from soul coins, there was also the requirement of a certain level.

Although some of the players obtained improvements from leveling up and soul coins, they still could not withstand some of the overbearing cultivating techniques. That was why Lu Wu added many training limitations.

Also, Lu Wu asked Bei Li to transform the Cultivation Pavilion for the second time for a better distinction. She divided it into five different zones which were the beginners training zone, intermediate training zone, advanced training zone, spiritual level training zone, and king level training zone.

Due to the huge number of players, the Cultivation Pavilion had the setting of many channels. Each channel could fill a thousand players at most.

This meant that the actual Library was within a battle artifact, and numerous channels were opened from it. This was to prevent the crashing of the server from the flooding players.

The two wandered around the Cultivation Pavilion. After making sure that nothing was faulty, they returned to the world of the living.

At the same time, many players dashed into the Cultivation Pavilion to check out the cultivating techniques.

Warrior class skill zone, mage class skill zone, assassin class skill zone.

The three main skill zones were flooded with players.

Regarding character class skills, many players had been complaining for some time, especially mages. They only had the skill of the Yin Energy Bomb even when they achieved Level 20. This caused many players to doubt that the game managers never really paid much attention to the mage class.

However, the release of the few powerful beginner skills from this update brought good news for mages.

[Yin Soldier Summoning (Mage):]

Skill summary: Summon warriors of Yin soldiers by controlling Yin energy. Each Yin warrior's strength is equivalent to the player's Level 1 strength. A maximum of ten Yin warriors can be summoned at one time

Skill requirements: Training this skill requires 10 soul coins, and a minimum of Level 20

Skill leveling: Summoning Level 2 Yin warriors (available at Level 25), summoning Level 3 Yin warriors (available at Level 30)

Note: For each leveling up, the number of Yin warriors summonable multiplies by two

[Yin Corrosion (Mage):]

Demonic skill: Release corrosive Yin vapor with negative effects to form continuous damage in a large area

Skill requirements: Training this skill requires 10 soul coins, and a minimum of Level 20

Skill leveling: Yin Corrosion Level 2 (available at Level 25), Yin Corrosion Level 3 (available at Level 30)

Note: For each level up, the area of damage and damage points will be increased

[Demonic Possession (Mage):]

Demonic skill: Summon drifting demons to be possessed to obtain protection from the demon

Skill requirements: Training this skill requires 40 soul coins, and a minimum of Level 30

Skill leveling: Wicked demon (available at Level 40), Haunted Night (available at Level 80)

Note: This skill has uncertainties as the demons summoned might be affected by surrounding factors. The higher the level, the stronger the demons summoned will be.

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Looking at the release of the new mage skills, mage players who had been doubting their own worth were getting tearful.

It was finally their time to shine!