

The Boss Behind The Game –

Chapter 231: Players Supporting The Sea King In Establishing A New Nation

After the enormous fleet of warships reached the shore, Sha Shui quickly went forward to welcome them.

Flights of stairs were extended from the warships and the silhouette of players subsequently appeared. Upon descending the stairs, they went ashore.

Sha Shui, who could not figure out where these people were from, asked after some contemplation, "Honorable guests, may I know which force are you from?"

The players were stunned. Liu Chai, who was leading in front, waved his hands smilingly, "The Sea King is our old friend. There's no need to be over courteous. We are here today to congratulate him on establishing a new nation!"

"Good, good. Honorable guests, please come inside!"

Despite not knowing their identity, Sha Shui dared not neglect them as they claimed to be the Sea King's old pals and they seemed to be a very powerful force.

After delivering a gaze to his subordinate, he then personally accompanied Liu Chai and the others to walk the blue carpet and head to the inner part of the island.

The players were holding big and small bags, their faces full of happiness throughout the journey. Sha Shui was also secretly thrilled in his heart.

It was clear to him that the previous forces did not come wholeheartedly. However, despite being a powerful force, these people seemed to be sincere. They might be of great assistance to the building of the new nation.

Since their interests had been combined with the Sea King, the fact that he had such a strong alliance might be beneficial for them, too.

The scale of the Nation Establishment Ceremony was extremely enormous. The inner part of the island had been filled with all kinds of seafood, delicacies, and alcoholic drinks. There was still a vast space available after the players occupied the ceremony. The number of players who attended was still huge.

The players' eyes were shining while looking at the joyous feast. They did not expect to get to enjoy such a great feast while delivering their wishes.

“Honorable guests, you may enjoy the food as you wish. I will notify the Sea King about your arrival,” Sha Shui said smilingly.

Liu Chai wanted to stop him initially but he let him go after some contemplation as they were going to meet anyway. He hoped that the Sea King wouldn't lose his temper because they had been sincere enough to come here.

They had no intention to cause any trouble.

After Sha Shui left, Liu Chai announced on the live chat channel, “Let's disperse... everyone, do as you please. We will congratulate the Sea King when he comes out.”

The players dispersed upon hearing that and started devouring the foreign delicacies.

Compared to the food in real life, the food here was made from different ingredients. They were astonished and enjoyed the food happily with faces full of satisfaction.

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The central part of the island.

At the royal palace which belonged to the Tian Yu Nation in the past.

The Sea King sat on his throne while listening to the lords below reporting on their resources and territorial situation.

He was evaluating the strength of the nation after the combination of forces to plan for future development.

He was good at doing this as he was once the overlord of the entire Void Ocean.

That was when Sha Shui walked to his side at a fast pace and voiced respectfully, “My king, it's time... we should start the Nation Establishment Ceremony soon.”

Sha Shui continued, “A huge fleet of warships arrived just now. They said that they are your old friends but they didn't tell me their identity!”

The Sea King frowned upon hearing that.

He had a lot of powerful allies during his rule in the Void Ocean but he never had any friends. Thus, he was clueless.

“Are they here to cause any trouble?”

Sha Shui's expression changed upon hearing that, “My king, they are not here for trouble. They even brought a lot of gifts. Even though I didn't check the presents they

brought, almost every one of them had something in their hands which meant that they are well-prepared. This is not something a trouble-making force would do.”

The Sea King unwrinkled his eyebrows. He then nodded, stood up, and walked toward the venue of the feast.

Since he could not understand what was going on, he had to see it personally to understand the situation.

Old friends are welcomed. However, if they are enemies, he will not treat them well.

This was his territory. He didn't think that there would be any force that would be brave enough to be this unbridled.

Looking at the Sea King walking down from his throne, the seven lords below quickly moved to provide some space to form a path. They then followed behind the Sea King after he walked past.

The band that was already long prepared started playing music as the Sea King reached the venue. A red carpet was formed under the Sea King's feet and continued extending as he moved forward.

At the same time, water element cannons were launched and glittering blue raindrops fell from the sky, embellishing the Sea King's distinguished image.

The players who saw the scene had excitement written all over their faces.

“Cool! This is exactly what a boss should look like!”

“The most popular boss indeed, great job!”

“That's good. The determined Sea King has finally made some improvement. This is truly something worth congratulating!”

...

The players thought that the Sea King looked very handsome and attractive on that day.

They felt content as if they saw their crops growing well.

They were having comforting smiles on their faces like a bunch of old farmers.

“My king, those are the forces that I was talking about!” Sha Shui pointed at Liu Chai and the other players as he led the Sea King to his golden throne.

The Sea King looked toward the direction which Sha Shui pointed, but soon after, his face turned pale.

How could he not know these degenerates? If it wasn't for them, he would still be the overlord of the Void Ocean and he would not need to work so hard in rebuilding his own forces.

All his efforts were made to seek revenge on them!

The Sea King clenched his fists while trying not to explode in anger. At the same time, he wanted to beat Sha Shui up so badly for letting this problematic enemy in. He should have destroyed them when they were still at the coast.

It seems like the ceremony is not going to end well! The Sea King's gaze slowly turned cold.

Right at that moment, Liu Chai voiced in the guild live chat channel, "Congratulations to the Sea King in establishing a new nation!"

All the seated players stood up immediately, holding their wine cups while facing the Sea King.

"Congratulations to the Sea King for establishing a new nation!"

Since the number of attending players was a lot, their roar was so powerful that it scared the other guests.

The forces who were here to investigate their opponents' strength had mixed expressions. They did not expect the Sea King to not only rule the seven nations but to also have such a strong alliance. This would be disadvantageous to them.

However, the Sea King was enraged.

In his opinion, the players' words and actions were undoubtedly provocative.

However, it was a really important day. The ceremony would be canceled if a fight broke out with them here as the scale of the attending players was not small.

I shall see what you are going to do! Facing the players, the Sea King snorted, flicked his sleeves, and took his seat on the golden throne.

"The Nation Establishing Ceremony officially begins!" Sha Shui shouted at the top of his lungs.

The eight statue spirits marched to the Sea King's back and raised the weapons in their hands.

“From this day onward, the Sha Shui Nation, Black Hell, Lan Di... will merge and form a new nation, the Mu Te Sea Nation! We crown the new king Mu Hai as our king, with the name of Sea King... the sky and land are the witnesses while the sun and moon are the examiners of our minds...”

The players were getting sleepy while listening to the long-winded declaration. Compared to that, they were more interested in the food in front of them. Unable to control their desire anymore, they continued devouring the food.

This scene made the Sea King’s face turn ashen. To him, the players’ actions were just trying to provoke him.

However, he withheld from exploding at them. This is because he’s already prepared to murder all the forces from Beiqi after the ceremony ends in order to show off his power!

After the announcement, the Sea King slowly stood up to face the sitting guests, “The new nation of Mu Te Sea is hereby established.... everyone who came here is a guest... I would like to know whether any guest intends to form an alliance with our new Mu Te Sea Nation!”

“The Deep Sea Mermaid Clan is willing to enter into an alliance with the Mu Te Sea Nation!”

“The Aurora Trading Association is willing to enter into an alliance with the Mu Te Sea Nation!”

“Tian Lan Island is willing to enter into an alliance with the Mu Te Sea Nation!”

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Some forces who were willing to pledge their allegiance quickly showed their intentions right after the Sea King finished his speech as they were sucking up to the Sea King.

Looking at the many forces who wanted to form an alliance, the corners of the Sea King’s mouth curved upward and he was prepared to speak again.

It was at this moment, however, when a man sitting not far away from him who was in heavy armor and carried a huge hammer at his back slowly stood up,

“Sea King, what is your intention in letting go of the position of the overlord of the Void Ocean and coming here to our Kuilong Ocean? Did you think that your territory was not big enough and you were prepared to make us give up some of our land to you?”

Everyone gasped at his words.

Undoubtedly, these words constituted positive provocation. The Sea King's face immediately turned ferocious.

He recognized the man. He is one of the three strongest forces in the Kuilong Ocean, Lang Tie, who is also the Second Brother of Langya Island. He's considered one of the most powerful people in the Kuilong Ocean.

However, the Sea King was not bothered by all that. He had been thinking to punish someone to show his strength and this person who was being so impolite suited his intention perfectly.

However, the seated forces of Beiqi suddenly stood up one by one right when the Sea King was prepared to show off his skills.

Smash! Smash! Smash!

The noises of smashing wine cups were heard continuously.

"What the fuck! Who the hell are you!? Fuck off!"

"Bitch, do you have any position to talk here? How dare you oppose the Sea King in establishing a new nation? Are you looking down on us?"

"Damn, if it wasn't for the Sea King's reputation, we would fuck you up right here and now!"

"Shut up! Don't think that you're all that just because you're wearing armor... I will let you have a taste of what calamity is if you dare say anything rude today!"

"Who the hell do you think you are!? Apologize or I will beat you up!"

"Where are you from? Give us your name! Are you here to look for trouble? Is the establishment of a new nation by the Sea King causing any problem for you? Also, what do you mean by giving up land? So what if the Sea King wants every piece of your territory? If you continue talking, believe it or not, I will smash your head in!"

"Fool, I advise you to be kinder. You are nothing but a ball of dust in our eyes. We will let the Great Demon King dig out your ancestors' graves if the Sea King fails in establishing a new nation today. Believe it or not, we will temper them and make them dance in front of you!"

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Looking at the players who were scolding Lang Tie, the Sea King was totally dumbfounded.

He initially thought that the players were rooting for Lang Tie when they stood up. However, unexpectedly, they were united in pointing fingers at Lang Tie. It looked like they were defending him instead.

The Sea King fell into deep contemplation.

Lang Tie's face turned pale. Suddenly, he turned his back, grabbed the giant hammer at his back and faced the players.

"Which force are you from? How dare you provoke Langya Island? Do you want your whole family to be wiped out?"

The players were burning with rage upon hearing that.

"What the hell? We are the Beiqi forces from the west of the Void Ocean. There, you have our address. Do call us for a fight!"

"Come, come. We shall wait for you in the Land of Beiqi. You'll be my grandson if you don't come!"

"Wipe us out, my ass! You are such an egoistic person. If you want to wipe us out, remember to wipe each and every one of us. I will remember you, Langya, you are done for. Go back and enjoy your last meal. Then, prepare for your death!"

"If it wasn't because of the fact that today that the Sea King is establishing a new nation, we would have gone out to have a fight right now. Fuck your ancestors!"

...

Lang Tie's body was trembling with rage from the players' rude scolding. He immediately raised his hammer.

"Langya Army!"

"Yes!"

Every soldier from Langya Island who was sitting around stood up instantly.

"Go..."

"How dare you... anyone who picks a fight here will be the enemy of the Mu Te Sea Nation. I want to see if anyone dares to move!" Hei Sui moved forward immediately and gave Lang Tie a cold glare.

Chapter 232: The Forces Who Changed Their Worldview

Faced with Hei Sui's threat, Lang Tie felt as if his breath was stuck in his chest.

Having done as he pleased in the Kuilong Ocean for so many years, this was the first time someone dared to scold and rain curses down on his ancestors right in front of him. He simply could not stand for this.

However, he couldn't pick a fight now as his military strength was weaker than the Sea King's. Hence, he could only look at the players with an indignant face while his heart burned with rage. He then turned his head and looked at the Sea King.

"Sea King, what is this now? Are you protecting them?"

The players lost their temper again before the Sea King could speak.

"Who do you think you're threatening, motherfucker? Sea King, don't be scared! We will help you to destroy him after you've established your nation!"

"What the hell do you mean by protecting!? Come on, let's go outside and have a talk!"

"Useless fool, do you know how hard this was for the Sea King? You have no empathy and you only think about making a fuss. You deserve to die. I can't stand this anymore. Come, let's take this outside!"

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From the players' viewpoint, the Sea King was like a treasure mine that they had anticipated for a long time. Thus, to go against the Sea King would mean to go against them as well. That was why all of them were enraged and ready to flip the tables to start a fight.

The other forces standing around were contemplating while watching the scene unfold.

They reckoned that the Sea King had made allies with a powerful force and the force was rooting for him. Thus, their appraisal of the Sea King went up to another level.

However, the Sea King was still clueless at this moment.

He was suspecting whether there was anything wrong with his memory. He remembered that they were enemies and he even wiped out some of their clan members before. What is happening now?

Something was off somewhere, especially their gazes. Are they actually giving me a... comforting gaze?

The Sea King went into deep contemplation again.

“Good! Since all of you want to pick a fight, come on!” angered, Lang Tie took his hammer and walked toward the coast.

Of course, the players feared nothing. All of them placed their presents down and followed him to the coast.

They wanted to educate Lang Tie so that he could understand what losing was like.

None of the forces expected the Nation Establishing Ceremony to turn into the current situation.

However, they were more curious as to which force these savage creatures belonged to that they actually have the guts to provoke Langya Island.

Thus, they also followed them to the coast to witness their abilities.

“My king, should we send some soldiers to assist them?” observing the scene, Sha Shui quickly asked the Sea King.

“Assist them? I would rather help Langya Island!” the Sea King said while smashing the table furiously.

Speechless, Sha Shui, Hei Sui, and Tian Kun were all sent into a state of confusion.

As for the lords who were standing at the side, they were also surprised when they heard this. They simply could not understand the current situation.

Is the Sea King this cold-blooded? His friends went all out for him yet he’s thinking of helping the enemies. This is disappointing.

“Follow me, let’s go have a look!” the Sea King decided to check them out after pondering for a while. He rose into the air and the other kings followed behind him.

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At the same time, near the island’s coast.

Lang Tie and his people reached the coast first. Following his cry, countless sea monsters emerged from the sea and started crawling ashore.

Then, the players arrived.

“Dumb fool, I’ll let you choose to battle on land or sea!” Liu Chai spoke.

As he was scolded again, Lang Tie was on the verge of losing his cool. He took a deep breath.

“This is the Sea King’s territory. We will fight on the sea!”

Then, he waved his hand and immediately, the Langya soldiers behind him rode onto the sea monsters and went to the sea successively.

Langya threw the players a provocative gaze.

However, he was instantly stunned.

The players were boarding fleets of warships and there were a huge number of them.

He initially thought that the warships belonged to all the forces who attended the ceremony. He did not expect that all the warships were from these strangers.

Langya felt a heavy thump in his heart as he could feel that this situation was far from good.

A force with such a huge fleet of warships would definitely not be weak. Furthermore, they were only here to attend the Nation Establishing Ceremony, hence these warships would definitely be only a small portion of their force.

Lang Tie was shocked by his own assumption. However, there was no way to escape. With so many forces spectating, Langya Island’s reputation would be ruined if he didn’t fight. Hence, he could only grit his teeth and go on.

However, he placed his plan to fight on the sea on hold.

He was clear about the power of the Specter Warships. This huge fleet would definitely win a landslide victory if they really started a war on the sea. Hence, he turned his head to give a gaze to his subordinate and the sea monsters crawled ashore again.

The forces behind were also in shock when they saw the players’ fleet of warships.

They were aware that a huge amount of money would have to be spent in order to build a Specter Warship. The players’ pageantry had them in shock.

At that moment, their appraisal toward the Sea King heightened again.

The Sea King arrived at the scene, his eyes full of hatred as he saw the warships.

How could he not be familiar with these warships? It was none other than these degenerates who drove these warships and robbed his jewelry and spiritual materials.

“Wait, there’s a problem with our sea monsters, so we choose to fight on land now!” Lang Tie shouted at the players after getting ashore.

The players showed their middle fingers to Lang Tie in unison upon hearing his words.

“Trash will always remain as trash... you’re intimidated so easily. So damn weak!”

“With your behavior, you don’t even deserve to hold the Sea King’s shoes, moreover provoke us. How brave of you!”

“Shame on you. Where did your guts go?”

“It’s embarrassing to have a battle with you. You are the first boss that we have to go easy on. How shameful!”

...

Lang Tie’s face turned pale upon hearing the players’ sneers.

However, he knew that he would definitely lose if they started a battle on the sea. Thus, he could only grit his teeth and continue.

“Stop talking! Do you dare to fight or not?”

The players laughed at his words.

There wasn’t anything they wouldn’t do in this world. Even if a deity was here and spoke to them in a rude manner, they would still fight him even though they were certain that they would lose.

Thus, the players jumped down from the warships one after another and gathered at the coast.

“Sea King, it should be alright if we mess up this place, right? Please don’t be angry if we do so,” Liu Chai said to the Sea King smilingly right before the commencement of the battle.

However, the Sea King only snorted coldly, as if he was implying his consent.

“Come, come, it’s almost time. Let’s fight! We don’t deserve to be called a disaster if we don’t smash your head today!”

“Kill them!” Lang Tie who was being scolded again made a loud roar and the Langya Army standing behind him instantly charged forward.

“Finish him!” the players also charged forward following Liu Chai’s chant.

The battle started. The surrounding spectators were focused on seeing which side would win.

However, it wasn’t long before they were sent into a state of shock.

The players’ skills were not as strong as they expected.

Although the Langya Army was far low in numbers, their combat skills were way stronger than the players.

“My king, the situation is not going well. We should send some assistance!” when Sha Shui saw what was happening, he quickly spoke to the Sea King.

“The army from Langya Island will lose to them!” the Sea King said coldly while looking at both forces in the battle.

It was familiar with the battling tactics of this force.

These degenerates were not afraid to throw their lives. The Langya Army might have a mental breakdown if they choose to have a protracted battle with them.

Again, Hei Sui and the others were disappointed at the Sea King’s refusal of rendering assistance. They felt that the Sea King was too cold-hearted.

On the coast.

Lang Tie was extremely delighted as their side seemed to have the upper hand.

He had made his mental preparation of losing and returning with nothing. However, to his surprise, these creatures were weak in fighting a land battle. He felt fortunate for having chosen to have the battle on land.

Lang Tie’s confidence was boosted tremendously. He believed these creatures would surrender very soon under the Langya Army’s savage attacks.

However, as time passed and the more Lang Tie fought, the more he felt that something wasn’t right. He realized that these creatures were actually not afraid to sacrifice their lives.

They kept changing their battling strategies. Without any intention to defend, they kept attacking in a way that they just had to slash an enemy before they died.

Also, these creatures' skills were peculiar, too. They had all types of tactics such as healing, controlling, assassinating, and face-to-face attacking.

The most unbelievable thing was that whenever their comrades were defeated, these creatures wouldn't even care. Instead they would only continue charging forward like crazed devils.

In this battle, the longer the Langya Army fought, the more exhausted they felt. Nevertheless, these creatures were still energetic.

All the forces at the scene were surprised by their crazy spirit.

They initially thought that this battle was only a trivial dispute caused by personal feelings. They thought that it would be equivalent to a martial arts demonstration and that it was only a mere formality to fight. They expected that one of the parties would surrender eventually. However, this was not the case.

Looking at the players' battling manner, they quickly concluded that this was not a demonstration of martial arts. They were actually putting their lives on the line to fight.

The more they fought, the more exhausted and timid they felt. At this moment, Lang Tie really wanted to scold, "Do all of you not value your lives!?"

The players were indeed not afraid to sacrifice their lives. For them, death was only a wait of three hours. What they wanted to do most now was to beat Lang Tie up badly until his face was destroyed.

When the battle reached the third hour, Lang Tie realized that the Langya Army was full of terror and their capability to fight had weakened substantially.

Their comrades' deaths had given them too much mental stimulation.

Lang Tie knew that the battle could not continue anymore.

Currently, the mental states between both sides were on opposite ends. The Langya Army would be slaughtered completely if the battle continued.

Thus, he shouted quickly, "We surrender! Surrender!"

However, how could the players agree to Lang Tie's surrender?

This was because they realized that the Langya Army provided quite a lot of experience points and soul coins for them. Where else could they get these if they stopped the battle now?

Thus, the players chose to ignore their surrender and continued attacking.

The morale of the Langya Army slumped upon Lang Tie's surrender. The players started a new wave of attack but the Langya Army could not unleash their fighting capability anymore.

They were having a mental breakdown.

"Stop! We've surrendered, so there should no longer be any grudges between us!" when Lang Tie saw what was happening, he shouted again in an attempt to stop the players from attacking.

"I only have to kill three more before I can level up. You're saying that you want to surrender? Declined, declined!"

"I refuse to accept your surrender. Continue fighting! Fuck, I haven't obtained enough soul coins!"

"What do you mean by asking us to stop during our happiest moment? I refuse!"

"Fucker, you have no right to stop us. Who the hell do you think you are? Come at me!"

"I'm not listening! I'm not listening!"

...

Refusing to reconcile, the players raised their weapons and charged toward the Langya Army while growling loudly.

The forces who were spectating the scene had cold sweat dripping down their foreheads.

Currently, they have labeled the players as extremely dangerous.

Many of their comrades had died but they were still shouting unmerciful things.

To them, it was not a battle. It was a carnival for a bunch of psychopaths!

Even some forces who were recognized as fighting veterans in the Kuilong Ocean region had the desire to cover their faces after witnessing the players' craziness.

They paled in comparison with the players. The players should be named the fighting veterans instead. Not only did they not care about their comrades' lives during the battle, they didn't care about their own lives as well. They really went all out!

The players' performances could be said to have completely changed the worldview of the guests at the scene.

Chapter 233: Make Frequent Visits

The battle had actually ended when Lang Tie surrendered.

The Langya Army had lost their determination to fight and could only counter the players' furious attacks with exhaustion.

However, the players were still excited and they killed every single creature they captured which resulted in their soul coins and experience increasing substantially.

"Do you really want to start a war with Langya Island?" facing the players' unending attack, Lang Tie could only threaten them in this way.

However, the players refused to listen to him.

Are you joking? A war would be great. It'd be even better if it doesn't stop until everyone is wiped out entirely. Hence, the players attacked more brutally.

"Retreat! Retreat!" Lang Tie could only instruct his army to retreat as his threat did not work.

However, a flash of iciness flashed past the Sea King's eyes as he snorted coldly.

The Mu Te Sea Army, which was formed of the Seven Nations Military Alliance, was standing at the both sides of the island. They marched forward and blocked their escape route.

The players grinned from ear to ear upon seeing the situation.

The Sea King was good enough to block them so the players could slaughter them to their hearts' content.

"Sea King, what is the meaning of this!" Lang Tie snarled at the Sea King.

The Sea King only smiled coldly and did not entertain him.

He never planned on letting Lang Tie go as he dared to provoke him today.

Moreover, after some contemplation, he had a plan to start a war with Langya Island, one of the three greatest forces to show off his power. He wanted to defeat their army and incorporate them into his own army to expand his forces.

Thus, he was not afraid of Lang Tie's threat.

The slaughter went on for a while. Lang Tie looked ferocious while his gaze swept through the players and stopped at the Sea King.

“Sea King, just you wait! I will tell my brother what you did. Just wait for the war!”

Lang Tie’s silhouette floated into the air after he finished speaking. It seemed like he wanted to flee.

The players were unhappy to see that. They were going to lose so much loot if the biggest boss escaped.

Thousands of skills were flashed out to the sky instantly in an attempt to make him stay.

A sense of brutality flashed through the Sea King’s eyes at the same time. He extended his hand and grabbed forward.

A black whirlpool appeared in front of Lang Tie in light of his terrified expression. A huge black hand appeared from the whirlpool suddenly and grabbed him.

“Ah!” Lang Tie groaned in pain as the black hand tightened its grip around him.

“Since you already said that you want to start a war, why should I spare you?” the Sea King chuckled. Then, with a sudden pinch of the black hand, Lang Tie’s eyes popped out instantly and his body was distorted.

After the black arm disappeared, Lang Tie’s body fell onto the ground like a pool of mud, without any trace of life.

“What the fuck... is he dead?”

“Oh my god. This is a terrible loss. My heart is aching!”

“Fuck, he crossed the line. That was our loot! Shit, my good feelings toward the Sea King are decreasing!”

“Sad. He was ours... ours!”

...

When they saw that Lang Tie was pinched to his death, the players stomped their feet and beat their chests while showing expressions full of grief.

The witnessing forces were again dumbfounded from this scene.

When your comrades died, not only did you guys not show any grievous expressions, you guys were even smiling. So why are you guys showing such sadness upon your enemy dying?

Furthermore, they could sense that the players' grief was real as if it was from the bottom of their hearts and they were not faking it.

Everyone's worldview was shaken once again. They were all stunned.

After slaughtering each and every one of the leftovers of the Langya Army, the players walked toward the Sea King angrily.

"Sea King, what is the meaning of this? Are you aware that you have gone too far? We came all the way to congratulate you on establishing a new nation but look at what you did in return! Motherfucker, I can't believe you stole our kill! Is this what a boss should do?"

The Sea King maintained a cold face. Even though he could not understand their words, he could sense that the players were blaming him for killing Lang Tie.

"Honorable guests, please do not be angry. This is the day of establishing a new nation. Please return to the feast. The ceremony shall continue!" Sha Shui who was standing beside the Sea King wiped his own sweat and said quickly.

Sha Shui was trying to cool the situation down by giving some comforting words because similar to everyone at the scene, he thought that the players were blaming the Sea King for stopping them from attacking until they were satisfied.

From his perspective, this force was too awesome. With the idea that they might become their allied forces in the future, Sha Shui could already imagine their bright future together so he would definitely host them well.

"Brothers, it's fine, the Sea King will definitely compensate us. Today is the day he establishes a new nation, so let's treat Lang Tie as a present to him!"

"Fine. We only lost a Ghost General, no biggie. The Sea King will give us more Ghost Generals and Ghost Kings in the future anyway... let's forget about this."

"Fine, but Sea King, you have to understand that what you did was not right!"

...

After listening to Sha Shui's words, the players contemplated for a while and decided to let this go.

After all, the Sea King was the biggest treasure mine in their eyes so they were willing to let go of other losses. The existence of the Sea King alone was equivalent to countless experience points and soul coins, which was the most important point for them anyways.

Thus, under the Sea King's cold stare, the players walked back toward the feast leisurely while being led by Sha Shui.

They were exhausted from the battle so it was time to recover their stamina.

The way other forces looked at the players was totally different this time.

Some looked at them admirably and respectfully, but the majority of them looked at them fearfully.

It would be petrifying to be targeted by such a powerful force. Needless to think, they would only give up when they have eradicated the entire clan.

All the forces who originally wanted to cause trouble on the Nation Establishing Ceremony backed off after witnessing the battle.

They were scared to say anything wrong to the Sea King as they might get some scolding from these strange soldiers and would be forced to have a protracted battle with them.

However, aside from the forces who were scared of the players' power and did not want to be their enemy, there were also forces who wanted to befriend them. After all, they envied the Sea King for being able to make allies with such a powerful force.

Thus, some of them approached them and sucked up to them.

Nonetheless, the players did not entertain them.

To the players, the guests were all soul coins and experience points to be harvested in the future. Other than the Sea King, who was a progressing treasure mine, the other characters had no value to them as they could be harvested completely in a short span. Hence, they treated the other forces coldly as they did not want to waste their effort and emotion on them.

The forces who intended to befriend the players were disappointed with their attitude.

However, Hei Sui, Tian Kun, Sha Shui and the rest were delighted to see such a scene.

This indicated that only the Sea King deserved to be friends with them. Moreover, the previous incident also showed that this force was loyal and willing to challenge any enemy for the sake of defending their friends.

With the assistance of such a great force, there would be no need to worry about the future of the Mu Te Sea Nation.

Looking at the smiles on the faces of Sha Shui and the others, the corners of the Sea King's mouth twitched.

He was not an idiot. Even though he was unsure of the reason why the Beiqi Army would support him, he knew they had some hidden intention.

However, the Sea King did not plan on doing anything there since they didn't provoke him this time.

All in all, his priority was to strengthen the military power of the Mu Te Sea Army and incorporate the surrounding forces into his army. However, he never forgot his hatred from the previous war. He was determined to defeat Beiqi.

The Nation Establishing Ceremony went well after the incident. The players enjoyed the food and drinks happily.

The players were prepared to return to Beiqi after the ceremony ended.

They gave the Sea King a determined gaze and showed a supporting gesture right before they left.

Good luck!

Looking at this scene, the corners of the Sea King's mouth twitched again as he felt a discomfort in his heart.

He was unsure of the reason, but he really felt like strangling them all to death!

On the other hand, Sha Shui and the others accompanied them throughout the journey. After sending them onboard, Sha Shui waved goodbye to them smilingly and even told them to make frequent visits.

Looking at Xinmo Island, which was getting further away, the players' faces were full of contentment.

This journey was not a waste as they had each earned a lot of experience points and soul coins. Also, the food served at the feast was delicious and suited their appetite.

It could be said that their bodies and hearts were both equally satisfied.

Chapter 234: The Power Of The Players

Kuilong Ocean, Xinmo Island.

The players and other forces left one after the other at the end of the Nation Establishing Ceremony.

However, one player stayed and did not return with the team.

He was none other than Wang Damang from the Great Dragon Guild.

He was supposed to return with his guild members after the feast had ended. However, after getting tipsy from the wine at the feast, he went for a leak in the forest and accidentally found a cave.

Looking from the outside, there was a faint glowing white light inside the cave.

After using the forum for so many years, he knew the possibility of Hidden Quests existing in every corner of this world. Thus, he walked into the cave, full of excitement.

In the end, he found a huge white piece of jade inside the cave. On top of it was a gorgeous lady sitting with her legs crossed.

Her curvy figure could be vaguely seen underneath the shining white light. Her dark straight hair was put up with an elegant silver hairpin. Without any makeup on her face, she wore a bright yellow dress with a jade-green ribbon on her waist, showing her slender figure and beauty.

Looking at her gorgeous appearance, Wang Damang thought that he was falling in love. She is too beautiful. Is this what it feels like to fall in love?

With just one look, Wang Damang was already thinking of what to call their future children.

However, the lady suddenly opened her eyes and looked at Wang Damang.

Noticing the affection on Wang Damang's face, her expression gradually turned cold, "Who are you?"

"I'm just... passing by," noticing the lady's anger, Wang Damang quickly put up both of his hands, showing that he had no bad intentions.

"Hmph!" when she was about to say something, her body shook and she vomited dark blood out of her mouth. Her body looked so weak, as if she may fall at any time.

Wang Damang wanted to help her up immediately upon seeing that. However, he stopped his footsteps when he saw her staring at him coldly.

“I have medicine!”

Sensing the lady’s refusal, Wang Damang backed off a few steps and took out some spiritual materials with healing capabilities from the channel. He gave it to her tentatively.

The lady did not answer but her expression remained cautious. It was apparent that she did not trust Wang Damang.

They were in a deadlock whereby they stared at each other for a while. Suddenly, the lady’s tense body relaxed and collapsed on top of the jade platform.

Wang Damang quickly moved forward upon seeing that and opened his Analysis Menu.

[Tian Lan (Beginner Ghost General)]:

Character Details: The King of the Tian Yu Nation, Tian Kun’s, youngest daughter. She was ambushed and wounded badly when she was fighting for the throne with Tian Kun’s other children.

Character State: Injured badly, fainted (deteriorating).

Wang Damang was stunned upon checking her information.

He did not expect this lady to be someone under the Sea King’s forces. They could be considered as soon-to-be rivals.

However, Wang Damang could not stand seeing the lady lose her life.

This lady was not a player so she could not drink the Revive Potion and he did not know anything about medicine. He was thrown into an awkward situation.

After some contemplation, an idea flashed through Wang Damang’s mind. He then opened up the livestream menu.

After all, there were all kinds of talent among the players. With all the players’ power and assistance, he believed that they would be able to solve this problem.

[Help! Is there anyone with great medical skills? Please help and figure out what to do!]

Since Wang Damang was a forum veteran, many players swarmed into his post as soon as they saw his livestream.

Crayon_Shinchan: “Fuck, Damang, you’re quite good. Where did you find such a gorgeous lady? Did you drug her? Shame on you!”

Watermelon_Taro: "Jealous! Jealous!"

Lost8kToOnlineDating: "Brother Damang, are you showing off your romantic encounter? I'm so jealous!"

...

Looking at the players' comments in the live streaming channel, three black lines appeared on Wang Damang's forehead. He then said, "Guys, please figure out a way to help her. She is wounded very badly but she cannot drink the Revive Potion because she's not a player. I have spiritual materials with me now but I don't know which to use. She has fainted and can no longer eat anything. Please help me to think of a way!"

Eat_My_Revive_Milk: "I am good at this. Show me her wounds and I will teach you what to do next."

A_Med_Student_Cannot_Save_Beiqi: "Exactly, we have to look at the wounds first!"

Beiqi_Godly_Herb_Farmer: "We can only give the proper medication after confirming what condition she is in. Brother Damang, please follow our instructions..."

...

Looking at the players' replies, Wang Damang turned to look at the lady who was still unconscious. After skimming through her body, he noticed that she had some blood stains on her shoulder, hence he extended his trembling hands toward her.

His nose started bleeding as soon as he opened up a little corner of her collar lightly.

Back in the live streaming channel:

Crayon_Shinchan: "Fuck, I'm going to report your livestream for involving obscene content. This is too stimulating but I will finish watching it before reporting (nosebleed.jpg)!"

Assassin_Creed: "Oh my God, are you for real? Brother Damang, you are really testing the limit. I think you might be the first player whose account is going to get suspended (nosebleed.jpg)!"

TheDarkMage: "Damang, human lives are precious. Do it now... what are you waiting for? (nosebleed.jpg)"

...

After reading through the players' comments, Wang Damang clenched his teeth and opened up the lady's collar, showing her fair shoulder to the players.

However, Wang Damang had a sense of propriety. He did not overstep his boundaries as he did not reveal any more than her shoulder.

There was an obvious punch mark on the lady's left shoulder. The central part was turning black and strange black lines were growing like a spider web. The lines seemed to be moving as if they were spreading to the surroundings.

In the live streaming channel:

A_Med_Student_Cannot_Save_Beiqi: "Please check if she has been poisoned. Brother Damang, do you have a Level 4 spiritual material known as the Ming Guo Herb? This spiritual material has detoxification abilities, you can try grinding it into powder and applying it on the wound."

Wang Damang read the comment and nodded. He took out a Ming Guo Herb from his channel and crushed the herb following the player's instructions. Then, he applied it to her wound.

Within a short span of time, the herbs sucked out the darkness from the lady's wound at a speed visible to human eyes. Wang Damang's face was full of astonishment.

Beiqi_Godly_Herb_Farmer: "Keep going. The color has faded a lot but it is still not enough. Do you have any more Ming Guo Herbs? If you don't, the Level 2 spiritual material Poison Absorbing Fruit is fine, too, but it would not be as effective."

Addicted_To_Crafting_Potions: "If you don't have enough detoxifying materials, you can mix the Fire Rock Flower and Mercury Herb, crush them and stir well. It has the effect of detoxification as well. I found out about this by myself through experimenting and research."

Looking at the players' comments, Wang Damang who was initially worried about the lack of Ming Guo Herbs finally heaved a sigh of relief and treated the lady according to their methods.

Needless to say, the power of all the players combined was strong.

Relying on their guidance, Wang Damang cleared out all the black poison from the lady's shoulder through continuous attempts.

After that, he followed their instructions and squeezed out all the polluted blood.

After everything was settled, Wang Damang wiped the sweat off his forehead. Once again, he used the Analysis Menu to check on the lady and was surprised upon seeing that the deteriorating label had disappeared.

Looking at the successful operation, the players in the live streaming channel cheered with joy.

In the live streaming channel:

Crayon_Shinchan: “We did it. Are we going to have a special show after this? (laughing emoji) Don’t think we don’t know what you’re thinking. If this was a badly injured male Ghost General, I assure you that he would have grabbed a sword and stabbed him. If he did not die, he would stab him a few more times (laughing emoji)!”

Assassin_Creed: “Appearance is indeed important in this world. If you have a good appearance, you will do well in the gaming world as well (sighing emoji)!”

Best_Love_Guru_Of_Beiqi: “Brother Damang, I can see that you have a crush on her. Do you need some guidance from me?”

Wang Damang replied to Best_Love_Guru_Of_Beiqi: “Really?”

Best_Love_Guru_Of_Beiqi replied to Wang Damang: “Of course... you have to know that the characters in this game have emotions. They are different from the emotionless artificial intelligence in the past.”

Wang Damang replied to Best_Love_Guru_Of_Beiqi: “Master, please guide me! I want to have an online relationship. (worshipping emoji)!”

...

Looking at Wang Damang, who was desperate for an online relationship, the players spammed the live streaming channel.

In the players’ eyes, Wang Damang had a good personality and he was helpful to many, so a lot of players who recognized themselves as relationship veterans were willing to lend a helping hand.

Every single one of them assured Wang Damang that it was going to be successful. They were helping him plan a flirting strategy before the lady regained consciousness.

The livestream, which at first concerned the players helping Wang Damang to rescue a person’s life, turned into a class to teach Wang Damang how to flirt with a girl. This further displayed the great powers the players possessed.

...

The Void Ocean.

On the Great Dragon Warship, Chen Ziyu and others were seated together in a circle as they discussed the funny things and lessons they learned on Xinmo Island.

With a smile, Xue Li stretched her hands to tap her right side, but there was no one there. Her expression changed immediately.

“Hmm... boss, where’s Damang?”

Chen Ziyu skimmed around upon hearing that. His expression slowly turned awkward.

He remembered clearly that Damang was still there when they finished the battle with the forces from Langya Island. He was also drinking at the feast. Why did he disappear?

Did we leave him at Xinmo Island? The same thought flashed through everyone’s mind. Everyone went into deep silence after that.

“Damang, Damang, can you hear me?”

After some contemplation, Xue Li voiced out in the guild live chat channel.

She could imagine Wang Damang being filled with resentment at that moment.

“Yeah? Xue Li, is there anything?” Damang’s rough voice was heard.

“Damang, are you mad?” Xue Li continued speaking with light laughs.

“Mad? Why should I be mad?”

“You are really mad!” Xue Li heaved a deep sigh, “Damang, do you want to make a suicidal escape or do you want us to come and fetch you?”

“Don’t, don’t, don’t, please go back first. I have my own Specter Ship, I can come back by myself!”

“Damang, please don’t be mad. We didn’t do this on purpose!”

Xue Li still wanted to save Wang Damang who might be having a mental breakdown.

After all, Wang Damang was a veteran member in the guild, hence they were really sorry for forgetting about him.

“I said I’m not mad!”

“Damang, as a man, please don’t be so petty. This is such a small matter!” Xue Li said again softly.

“Damang, I apologize for my mistake. Just come back first. Stop throwing a tantrum!”
Chen Ziyu couldn’t stop himself from saying.

Wang Damang was rendered speechless.

I really don’t want to leave!

Chapter 235: Wang Damang’s Acting Time

Love at first sight was the precise description of Wang Damang’s current state.

He was already memorizing the script while the lady was unconscious.

Needless to say, he was preparing himself according to the plot drafted by the other players, so that he could capture the heart of the lady in front of him.

After two hours had passed, Tian Lan fluttered her eyelashes and gently opened her eyes as she awoke from her ordeal.

To her great astonishment, she was greeted by the sight of Wang Damang staring at her with a concerned expression, “Hey, how are you feeling..”

Smack!

Before he could offer a word of concern, a hefty punch swiftly landed on Wang Damang’s face, sending him flying.

She slowly sat up and peered at Wang Damang who fell sprawling across the floor. Then, she took a quick look at her left shoulder which was slightly wet.

To her surprise, she discovered that the initial numbness in her shoulder had faded and she had regained her senses.

She was stunned for a few seconds before she looked at Wang Damang again, the hostility in her eyes diminishing significantly.

Wang Damang was clearly dejected at that moment.

This is completely different from the damn script! Why am I getting attacked at the beginning? Are those love gurus even reliable?

He slowly picked himself up from the floor and smiled at Tian Lan awkwardly.

“Did you save me?” Tian Lan continued staring at Wang Damang.

“That’s right!”

He had to admit that.

Tian Lan’s cheeks were instantly flushed as her expression seemed uncertain.

Wang Damang was baffled and swept a glance at the live streaming channel unconsciously.

Best_Love_Guru_Of_Beiqi: “Judging from my years of dating experience, she must be brought up in a more old-fashioned manner. She might be the type where she must marry the man who saw her body. (laughing emoji)”

Crayon_Shinchan: “Well, I did see her body. (laughing emoji)”

Assasin_Creed: “I’ve seen it, too. (laughing emoji)”

...

Reading the unscrupulous comments from the players, Wang Damang thought that they were unreliable. Yet, some expectations still remained in his heart.

Looking at the lady’s cheeks that were becoming redder, he unconsciously took a step closer.

“Urgh!” Tian Lan spat out another pool of blood and the redness on her face faded subsequently.

Tian Lan felt a lot better after removing the congested blood out of her system. She looked up and glanced at Wang Damang, who was still approaching her and attacked again.

Smack!

Wang Damang was thrown off once again.

“Stop coming so close to me!”

Wang Damang, who fell on the floor pathetically, was devastated. Why is everything not going as planned? None of those crappy love guru directors is reliable!

“Can you get me out of here? I’ll give you a Son of the Sea in return,” Tian Lan asked as she stared at Wang Damang weakly.

Thoroughly amazed, the players flooded the live streaming channel with comments upon hearing that. It was a golden opportunity for Wang Damang, without a doubt.

“Isn’t this where you live? Why would you want to leave?” Wang Damang asked, even though he was actually tempted by the Son of the Sea.

“All my siblings want me dead! I will definitely die if I stay here!” Tian Lan replied with an ice-cold expression.

With her introduction in the Analysis Menu in mind, Wang Damang knew precisely the reason. However, he still had some uncertainties, “Why don’t you tell your father about this?”

“My father actually encourages competition for the throne. He believes that only those who have gone through the experiences and stand out from the competition shall be worthy of his position. So, he will not interfere even if I die!” Tian Lan’s face fell as she spoke.

“I can get you out of here, I have a Specter Ship!” Wang Damang replied decisively after knowing the reason.

Since the scripts cannot be relied on, I should bring her back to Beiqi first, the rest will have to wait.

A hint of surprise appeared on Tian Lan’s face upon hearing that Wang Damang had a Specter Ship, “Hurry!”

Wang Damang took a step forward, wanting to help Tian Lan up, but he was attacked by her again.

“You walk in the front, I’ll be right behind you. Walk slowly!”

Dispirited, Wang Damang picked himself up again. Online dating is tough.

Despite that, he still led Tian Lan to the coastline. At the same time, though, he was busy planning his next moves to win her heart.

Tian Lan who was following behind Wang Damang was still on guard. She was scanning her surroundings with heightened alertness.

I can finally escape this place. Tian Lan heaved a sigh of relief when they reached the coast of Xinmo Island.

Suddenly, a shadow galloped from their back and blocked their way, “My dear little sister, where are you going? Didn’t you swear that you’ll become the next King of the Tian Yu Nation? Are you finally willing to leave?”

The charming lady chortled as she blocked both Wang Damang and Tian Lan from stepping forward.

Looking at the lady in front of them, Tian Lan's pupils shrank abruptly as she knew that something bad was going to happen. Her second sister had arrived and she would definitely not let her off so easily, especially when she was heavily wounded like this.

In a flash, another two figures appeared and stood next to the charming lady.

"Eldest brother, second brother, and second sister, please let me go. I'm not taking part in the competition anymore. The Sea King is now the true king, there's no point for us to kill each other!" Tian Lan said weakly as she stared at the three of them.

"You're not wrong about the Sea King but what we are competing for now is the position of the Eight Lords below him. You are gifted so you're still a potential threat to us. Since we joined up to wound you, do you think that we'll let you go?" the charming lady looked at Tian Lan and laughed heartily.

"A woman's heart is the most vicious. She is your sister! Are you not afraid to be hit with karma for doing this?"

"Also, both of you! If I have such a younger sister, I would shower her with love every single day. Instead, you guys are planning to kill her! Are you even human? Are... you... even... human...?"

Wang Damang could not help but snap as he observed the scene, "Who are you!? It's none of your business here. Leave now and we might consider sparing your measly life!"

The charming lady's expression turned cold as she glared at Wang Damang, her eyes filled with murderous intent.

"Just leave! Don't worry about me!"

Looking at Wang Damang who was playing a hero like a fool, Tian Lan was not touched at all. He must be an idiot.

"No, I will never leave you!" Wang Damang said with a solemn face.

Expecting to see Tian Lan's deeply moved face, he turned his head around. However, he realized that Tian Lan was merely looking at him as if he was an idiot.

Wang Damang's imposing manner crumbled in an instant.

Fuck, this is nothing like those television dramas! Wang Damang was somewhat discouraged for failing to act tough again.

“Since you wish to die, I shall send both of you to the afterworld!” with an evil smile, the charming lady waved her arm and a purple arc solidified in her hands before forming into a spear.

...

After sending off the last few guests, Sha Shui, Tian Kun, Hei Sui, and the others walked back with a grin on their faces.

The attitude of the numerous forces changed drastically after the Nation Establishing Ceremony had ended, when even the feared Langya Island had returned home. It could be said that they had let out their resentment.

They realized that the Sea King’s ruling might not be a bad thing, after all.

After all, it was the Sea King who was controlling the Army of Death. With the military strength from the Seven Nations and those intimidating military alliances, they believed that they could still be lords that owned parts of the ocean with supreme power.

They were filled with confidence in their future.

In the midst of their conversation on their way back, Sha Shui suddenly looked ahead, “Hey, Tian Kun, those seem to be your children. Are they killing each other?” Sha Shui was shocked.

“Ignore them, just let them be. This is what the future generations of Tian Yu must experience. This is how I seized the throne,” Tian Kun replied, not even the least bothered.

“Oh, since you say so, let’s just...”

Sha Shui who was still looking at both parties nearby, who were drawing their daggers. Before he could finish his sentence, he noticed that something was amiss.

Isn’t that familiar face a member of the alliance? He had some vague impression of this person, he even had a few glasses with him during the ceremony.

Meanwhile, the charming lady had already drawn her spear, which formed an arc, as she bolted toward Wang Damang.

“The fuck, stop! Don’t do it!” Sha Shui howled as he transformed into a light and streamed toward them.

Seeing Sha Shui’s sudden change in expression as she suddenly disappeared, Tian Kun and the others also realized that something was off. Hastily, they turned their heads to look at what was happening.

Tian Kun's high blood pressure almost shot through the roof at the sight that unfolded upon him.

His own daughter was charging against a member of the prided alliance. Is she asking for death?

"Argh! Stop what you're doing!" Tian Kun bellowed as well and transformed into another light toward it.

As the incoming purple spear was charging in, Wang Damang would definitely not be a sitting duck. He took out his dagger immediately and blocked the incoming attack.

However, Wang Damang had not even passed the Ghost Commander Trials. Having a Beginner Ghost General as an opponent, he was knocked out instantly as his health was almost completely wiped out. He would have been killed in mere seconds if his opponent exerted more force.

"Such a weakling, yet you dared to play the hero?"

Sarcasm was written over the lady's face. The purple spear flew back into her hands when she raised her arm, as she prepared to hurl it again.

Multiple howls echoed from afar, followed by a figure appearing beside her.

The charming lady's expression tensed as she thought that there was an ambush. She immediately turned around, only to see a shoe sole covered with sand amplifying before her.

Crash!

To everyone's astonishment, Sha Shui ruthlessly kicked the charming lady, flinging her into the air.

"Who are you?" the charming lady who fell on the ground did a backflip and rose to her feet steadily. Fuming in anger, she reached out to touch the sand and shoe print on her face.

Then, she heard some howling of the wind from another side and hurriedly turned around. Another shoe sole, also covered with sand, amplified in front of her and once again, she was kicked off into the air.

Tian Kun heaved a sigh of relief after landing a kick on his second daughter and gave a grateful glance to Sha Shui.

Sha Shui's expression was overcome with terror as he wiped off the nervous sweat from his forehead.

The few of them had huge expectations on the alliance. The Sea King would not forgive them if things went haywire, which then they would not be able to forgive themselves.

A few more rays of lights descended. The few lords that arrived later also seemed extremely taken aback.

Tian Kun laid his eyes on his two sons and glared angrily.

Tian Lan's eldest brother and second brother fell to their knees, kneeling on the floor without hesitation.

Even though they were oblivious to what was happening, the fact that the Lords of the Seven Nations were there meant that there must be a grave issue. No matter what it was, it would be wise to kneel down first.

"Argh!" the charming lady leaped up in a backflip again, the purple rays on the spear in her hand glowing brightly.

To her horror, though, she realized that the noble Lords of The Seven Nations were all there. They were surrounding the young man's side and checking on him.

Meanwhile, her two brothers were all on their knees with their heads bumped on the floor.

What's going on?

She was not the only dumbfounded one. Even Tian Lan, who initially thought that Wang Damang was not bright, was stupefied and frozen to the ground.

Chapter 236: It Cannot Be!

The Lords of the Seven Nations heaved sighs of relief upon seeing that Wang Damang was not severely injured.

The risk of breaking that union was considered gone for now.

However, the Lords of the Seven Nations still felt somewhat uneasy. They understood the temperament of the alliance members and it would not be an exaggeration to describe them for having short tempers like bulls.

They remembered that the alliance members did not give any face to those strong forces that befriended them after the battle with Langya Island.

The attitude of the Lords of the Seven Nations toward those forces was pretty complicated.

There were some expectations and fears, but in short, they didn't want to break that relationship.

They could see that Wang Damang's status was different from ordinary because of his position during the ceremony.

Hence, they were racking their brains to think of a way to explain the situation to him.

Of course, Wang Damang was unaware of the lords' inner thoughts, so he remained in a daze.

From his perspective, the two forces could begin to consider each other as opponents after the ceremony. Yet, their attitudes were not reflecting that at all.

Perhaps the Sea King has yet to tell them our origin? This thought popped up in Wang Damang's mind.

"Brother, you can leave that up to us. As an alliance, we will definitely provide you an explanation!" Tian Kun hastily spoke.

From Tian Kun's perspective, he had the deepest involvement in this matter. The lords of the other nations would not let him off the hook if he was unable to give a proper explanation. Therefore, he was already brainstorming about how to bury this matter and give a satisfactory explanation to Wang Damang.

After that, Tian Kun turned around and glared at his second daughter, who was frozen completely, while holding the purple spear with a horror-stricken expression.

"Tian Xin, how dare you lay a finger on our honorable guest!"

Plop!

Tian Xin, who had already noticed the dreadful situation, instantly went down on her knees and eyed Tian Kun in fear, "Father, I didn't know... all my actions are in accordance with our clan rules. I really didn't do anything wrong."

"There's no need to explain. You nearly killed an honorable guest, it's an unforgivable crime! However, you're my daughter. So, I shall allow you to leave with dignity."

Tian Xin's heart sank and her face turned ashen pale instantly as she looked at Tian Kun's cold, unforgiving eyes.

From Tian Kun's words, she knew that there was no way that he would let her live.

The Tian Yu Clan's affection for their children was almost nonexistent. Otherwise, they would not allow them to fight for the throne in such a murderous contest.

Tian Xin looked extremely bitter, as her hand that was holding the spear trembled violently.

She desperately wished to flee. However, with the Lords of the Seven Nations present, there was nowhere for her to escape.

Realizing that, Tian Xin raised her purple spear slowly. She gave a hateful glance to her father before transforming the spear into a purple light and sliced it across her throat. With a thump, her lifeless body fell onto the floor.

Looking at her second daughter on the ground with hatred in her eyes, Tian Kun's expression was unmoved. Instead, he turned to Wang Damang expectantly.

"Are you serious!?" Wang Damang was in shock after witnessing Tian Xin committing suicide without any hesitation.

Are they really father and daughter?

When one asked her to kill herself, she would just take her life without any hesitation?

Wang Damang's worldviews were instantly toppled at this moment.

He was reminded of himself when he was younger. He used to love playing video games which resulted in his poor academic results. His mother was so angry that she smashed his virtual reality headset and took a broom to beat him.

Looking at his virtual reality headset getting destroyed, young Wang Damang did not think much and grabbed another broom to fight with his mother.

If I was brought up in accordance with Lord Tian Kun's family practices, I would have died a few hundred times. He shuddered at his own thought.

"My honorable guest, my second daughter has committed a sin and has taken her own life now. Are you satisfied with this punishment?"

Looking at the smile on Tian Kun's face, Wang Damang wanted to give him a punch.

Are you even human?

Then, his vision fell on Tian Lan's ashen expression.

Of course, Tian Kun noticed the admiration in Wang Damang's eyes and said gleefully, "My honorable guest, Tian Lan is my youngest daughter. What happened is entirely my fault, so how about I give my youngest daughter to you as a servant... as an apology?"

Wang Damang was dumbfounded upon hearing that. What the fuck? Are you even human? This is too... too exciting.

The livestream was still going on and the players who were watching were all stupefied.

Crayon_Shinchan: "This is great! He allowed one daughter to commit suicide and the other to be a servant so calmly. This man's role as a father is out of this world."

Watermelon_Taro: "My perception has already changed at Shitun Island due to the mentally disabled clan, but this one is even better. Wow!"

Assasin_Creed: "I'm beating my chest here, why did we all leave? We should have stayed there, so that I can have some of that, too."

Broke_Trash: "Do you guys think I'll make it in time if I go now? (laughing emoji)"

Death_Is_Like_Wind: "I want to see what Damang will decide. I would definitely agree if it was up to me. (laughing emoji)"

...

Even though Wang Damang wanted to give Tian Kun a bad scolding for justice, he hesitated after taking a glance at Tian Lan.

This is a stunning lady, I will definitely lose her if I disagree.

"Father, I am willing to!"

Tian Lan, who was beside Wang Damang, took the initiative to speak first before Wang Damang could.

Tian Kun's face showed great happiness upon hearing that, "Haha, great! You shall be his servant from now on."

Tian Kun had already decided for Wang Damang before he could agree.

Tian Kun remained cheery as he looked at Wang Damang's astounded face, "Please take my daughter with you since she is already yours. As for my two sons who dared to offend you, I shall punish them after returning home."

Tian Kun turned around and glared at his sons, who were trembling violently as they kneeled on the ground, "Return at once!"

After his sons stood up, Tian Kun spoke to Wang Damang again, "My honorable guest, we still have some things to report to the Sea King. We shall excuse ourselves."

Tian Kun took a respectful bow, while Wang Damang was still in a daze. He then grabbed his sons and dashed into the air with the other lords.

"Let's go!" Tian Lan shot a look at Wang Damang.

Wang Damang could feel his heart melting when he realized that Tian Lan was willing to leave with him. He nodded quickly and led Tian Lan to the coastline. Then, he summoned his Specter Ship to Tian Lan's astonishment.

Wang Damang was already having fantasies of his beautiful future once they boarded the Specter Ship.

The atmosphere in the ship seemed to be awkward, as the two of them had yet to say anything even after sailing for half an hour.

"Who are you exactly? My father and the other lords seemed to fear you," Tian Lan asked.

"Me? I'm a member of the Beiqi Army!" Wang Damang replied with honesty, since he was already taking Tian Lan back.

"Beiqi? The Ruler of the Void Ocean?" Tian Lan was astonished.

Tian Lan was confused, "Father would not have treated you so, unless you're the child of the King of Beiqi. Perhaps there are any other reasons?"

"Perhaps it had something to do with the Sea King. After all, I'm an old friend of his."

Tian Lan had an epiphany when she heard that he was related to the Sea King, "You're one of the Sea King's honorable guests!"

Wang Damang was amused upon hearing the phrase honorable guest, "We seem to have a good relationship with the Sea King now, but a huge battle is on its way!"

Wang Damang shared about the Beiqi Army's outstanding battle achievements while opposing the Sea King while Tian Lan listened in shock.

Wang Damang gushed on about how they had bullied the Sea King.

He talked about the times when they snatched the Sea King's treasures, bullied the members of the Sea King Navy, destroyed the Sea King Navy, wiped out his Army of Death, and everything else that happened. Tian Lan's eyes bulged while she listened, she almost thought that Wang Damang was telling tall tales.

After all, she was fully aware of how powerful the Sea King was.

However, judging from her father and the other lords' attitudes, it seemed like Wang Damang was telling the truth.

Tian Lan was shocked and her mind was in complete disarray. Obviously, she could not believe the fact that an idiot like Wang Damang had such a big, powerful force behind him.

After another moment of silence, Tian Lan raised her head suddenly and took out a blue fruit from her waist pocket. She handed it to Wang Damang and said, "We have now left Xin Mo Island. Here's the Son of the Sea like I promised. Now, we don't owe anything to each other anymore!"

After tossing the Son of the Sea to Wang Damang, she stood up and walked out of the cabin.

Wang Damang glanced at the Son of the Sea in his palm, before walking out of the cabin to catch up to her. However, Tian Lan had already dove into the water.

A white wave subsequently appeared and sped off to a distant place, before vanishing from his vision.

What the fuck?

What about becoming my servant? Did she just leave... just like that?

What the fuck, where's your basic trust? You were the one who agreed!

Tian Lan had again done the unexpected and hurt Wang Damang's fragile heart.

Apparently, television dramas are all lies!

Wang Damang who initially thought that he had finally found a date online, sat on the deck in despair with the Son of the Sea in his arms. As he gazed at the direction where Tian Lan left, he seemed to be lost in his thoughts.

...

Mu Te Royal Palace, Xin Mo Island.

The Sea King's expression was becoming more complicated as he listened to Tian Kun and the others.

"Hold on, you said that you allowed your second daughter to commit suicide as an apology and gave your youngest daughter away to be his servant?"

“Yes, my king. Such a grand act was necessary for the guarantee of a future friendship between both forces. As for my two sons, I shall punish them well as an explanation for the alliance,” Tian Kun spoke, clearly proud of his actions.

The Sea King listened and nearly snorted. Then, he gave Tian Kun a thumbs-up, “Badass!”

“My king, what does badass mean?” Tian Kun asked in astonishment.

The Sea King would definitely not tell them that it was a player slang and simply replied, “Do you know which forces they’re from?”

Tian Kun and the others seemed greatly curious when they heard that. Even though they had been in contact a few times, they still did not know which force this alliance was from.”

“They are the Beiqi Army, the force that I swore to destroy!”

“They are also the ones who annihilated the Sea King Navy. I would still be the overlord of the Void Ocean if it wasn’t for them! In other words, they are my worst enemy!” the Sea King added to further emphasize his vengeance between him and the players.

“Yikes!”

Gasps of cold breath echoed. The lords were all completely dumbstruck.

The so-called alliance force which we tried so hard to please, is actually our worst enemy?

“It... it cannot be!” Tian Kun replied, his lips trembling.

“All of you shall have plenty of chances to be in touch with them in the future. You will all understand by then!” the Sea King threw Tian Kun another look and shook his head, before turning around and walking to the rear.

Tian Kun was thoroughly dumbstruck, frozen to the spot he was standing at. Sha Shui and the rest were also wildly disconcerted. After some time, they turned to Tian Kun and gave him a thumbs-up...

“Badass!”

Chapter 237: Lu Wu Was Ambushed

The gamers’ lives had more or less returned to normal after the Sea King had built his nation.

Aside from waiting for the Sea King to strengthen his forces, their daily routine was just to chop wood, kill monsters, and so on.

Currently, the size of the Death Clan in the Void Ocean was increasing. They were even expanding toward Beiqi, which resulted in frequent skirmishes with the players.

Lu Wu could already guess what the Sea King's plan was.

It was clear that he was trying to deplete the Beiqi Army's energy by leveraging the Death Clan's undead advantage. He would then gather his forces to have a deathmatch with them.

However, the Sea King was unaware of the features of the players. Needless to say, he was way too naive.

Lu Wu was not the only one who was satisfied with the Sea King's plan, the players were even more pleased with it.

He really deserved to be the most popular boss in the game!

In the meantime, Lu Wu was strategizing the expansion of Beiqi's land.

The north was definitely not in his consideration, as the European server's Cangxu was located there.

Therefore, heading west toward the Barren Grassland and south toward the Arctic Abyss became Lu Wu's target for expansion.

Lu Wu noticed that the ice mountains at the Arctic Abyss were melting after Frozen the Ghost Emperor had left.

Also, the players soon learned in the forum that the Earth Breaking Clan had the materials to develop Rune Masters. Thus, they went to investigate the Barren Grassland in the west and realized that the whole clan was gone.

That was undoubtedly good news for Lu Wu.

Both the Earth Breaking Clan and the Ice Snow Clan may not have a huge number of clansmen, but they possessed powerful strength.

By relying on their ability to revive without limits, the players could possibly fight them and cause some damage. However, there was still a vast gap with their overall strength.

Now that the ancient clans were long gone, it could be said that all of Beiqi's forces were under Lu Wu's control.

After some careful contemplation, Lu Wu finally decided that his next step for the expansion would be directed toward the Land of the Nine Luminaries to the west of the Barren Grassland.

After all, the path to the Arctic Abyss would be too cold and unsuitable for the players. As long as the ice mountains had yet to melt, Lu Wu would not put that location into consideration.

After deciding on the next direction they would take, he then queried the omnipotent Bei Li about the status of forces distribution in the Land of the Nine Luminaries.

According to her, the Land of the Nine Luminaries was formed by nine strong forces. However, unlike Beiqi's forces that were scattered around, they were ruled as one unified domain.

The domain was controlled by nine brothers. Star Luminary, the eldest among them, was the king. His strength was on par with a Greater Ghost Emperor or higher.

In other words, it would be extremely tough to take over the Land of the Nine Luminaries.

As the nine brothers were very united, they would fend off outsiders together whenever they were under attack. The entire Land of Beiqi might collapse under their counter-attack if they started a war directly.

Nevertheless, Lu Wu was not in a rush. He focused on planning the main quests for the development to the west instead.

After finalizing his decisions, it was time for a walk.

Since he had already stayed at home for a few months after transforming into a kitten, he decided to go out to look around and drop by the supermarket for some groceries on his way back. He wanted to prepare a nice meal for Bei Li. After all, he had already grown tired of Bei Li's unhealthy snacks.

Lu Wu went downstairs after greeting Bei Li and walked to the grocery store.

Breathing in the fresh air outside and watching the orange sunset, Lu Wu realized how beautiful it was to be alive.

Suddenly, Lu Wu's phone rang as he was turning into an alley.

Lu Wu unlocked the screen and realized that it was another call from the Jie De Corporation.

“Hello? What’s up now?” Lu Wu decided to pick up the phone, after a few moments of hesitation.

“I’m giving you one last chance to consider. Are you really not going to unblock our gaming pods?”

The voice over the phone was hoarse, but Lu Wu only chuckled, “My company is poor and the devs cannot even afford to pay the employee salaries. We don’t have any other choice.”

“You’ve just established a firm foothold in the gaming industry, I don’t think that you have seen enough. You’re too naive. Do you really think that we can’t handle you?” the voice said threateningly.

“Oh? Are you threatening me? Police, please help me!”

“I initially thought that it would be difficult to find you. Little did I know, you’re only using a common, unencrypted phone. This was absolutely out of my expectation and also saved me a lot of work. Since you still insist on becoming our enemy, that’s too bad.”

After he had finished speaking, he hung up the call, letting the irritating beeps ring endlessly from his phone. Lu Wu was slightly baffled by that peculiar exchange.

Suddenly, he felt a gush of wind from his back.

Smash!

A heavy blow landed on his head, as a burly figure appeared behind him.

The person waited for Lu Wu to collapse, but Lu Wu merely turned around with confusion after a few seconds. He was holding his aching head, evidently perplexed.

Surprised that he was still standing, Number One’s eyes instantly widened.

He did not go all out for that hit, as the group’s order was just to kidnap Lu Wu to exploit him.

Still, it should have been strong enough to render Lu Wu unconscious. He did not expect Lu Wu to be perfectly unharmed.

“Who are you!?” Lu Wu couldn’t help but grumble.

When he noticed the black iron in the burly man's hand, he thought of what the representative from the Jie De Corporation had said over the phone. Lu Wu already had a clear guess of where this person came from.

Number One struck again, he raised the iron baton and hit Lu Wu's neck brutally.

He struck with more force this time, certain that Lu Wu wouldn't be able to endure the hit.

Smash!

However, Lu Wu did not repel his attack and took it gallantly. However, his glare at Number One had changed completely.

"How is this possible!?" Number One was in utter disbelief.

He knew very well how strong he was. He could even carry a bull after the experiment! Yet, his strength didn't seem to affect Lu Wu at all.

Number One started to suspect that something happened to his body, wondering if all the strength he gained during their transformation experiment had vanished.

It was that moment when Lu Wu understood that the Jie De Corporation was going to play dirty. His expression instantly darkened.

He grabbed the iron baton near his neck and moved it away, little by little. Number One was staggered as Lu Wu snatched the iron baton from him.

To Number One's dismay, the man who looked too weak to even stand the wind, twisted the iron baton made from alloy like a braid and kneaded into a ball.

Is he human!? Has he been through the experiment, too? Number One's eyes widened with shock.

Finally realizing Lu Wu's ability, Number One was aware that he was not a sizable opponent and turned around to flee.

Looking at Number One's attempt to escape, Lu Wu squinted to aim, lifted the metal ball in his hand, and hurled it at Number One.

Thump!

A loud noise was heard and a pothole was formed on the ground.

Looking at the pothole from the iron ball, Number One was terrorized as cold sweat formed on his forehead. He then ran again with increasing speed.

“Aww man, the ball went slightly to the side!” seeing that he failed to hit his target, Lu Wu began to chase his target.

Even though Number One sprinted as fast as lightning, he was still a notch below Lu Wu. Lu Wu raced past him within seconds and punched him down to the floor.

Number One felt like he was hit by a train when he was punched at the back. His organs were throbbing and he vomited a pool of fresh blood with some indistinct pieces of flesh in it.

Lu Wu pondered about how he should handle Number One, as he stared at him laying on the floor after losing all his combat ability completely.

Killing him would be easy for Lu Wu.

However, there was one thing that Lu Wu absolutely did not understand. Is this burly man a cultivator as well? How could he have such superhuman strength and speed?

Chapter 238: The Final Riddle

In the Battle Artifact Channel.

Lu Wu and Bei Li were looking at Number One who was restrained mid-air while checking out his body condition.

[Kui Di (Experiment Subject)]:

Character Details: A transformed human from the Jie De Corporation's underground technology laboratory. Possesses strength beyond an ordinary human after his body was cleansed with soul energy. Labeled as Number One in the organization.

Character Status: Brainwashed and comatose.

“Who would have thought that the Jie De Corporation would be developing the utilization of soul energy?” Bei Li was astonished as she stared at Number One.

“Will they succeed?” Lu Wu asked curiously.

“Impossible. Soul energy in this entire world is already thinning and rare. I'm guessing that they found a way to cultivate some of them from some ancient literature. The rarefied soul energy is extracted from the experiments and injected into Number One's body. Then, experimental equipment is forcefully operated within his body, resulting in a change in his physical nature. As an overview, it is forced cultivation with the aid of special equipment. Such a method would inevitably damage a human body's foundation. Even if he gained great strength from that, it would only be temporary and he wouldn't survive for long.”

Lu Wu nodded after understanding the theory.

However, the fact that the Jie De Corporation had been transforming humans and had an underground laboratory was far beyond his expectations.

Lu Wu frowned at the thought of what the Jie De Corporation representative said on the phone to him, claiming that he was too naive.

“Little Li, please encrypt my phone, they can apparently locate me through GPS. Although I’m not afraid of them, they can be a real pain in the ass!”

Bei Li nodded, “By the way, do you want to return this test subject with a huge present?”

“What huge present?”

Bei Li pointed at Number One and said, “They can transform humans, but I can, too. With the artifact here, I can brainwash him easily and we can send an enhanced version of Number One back to them!”

Lu Wu smiled at her idea and nodded.

Research and development were Bei Li’s forte. She was an incredible person who believed in science and in the cultivation world, after all.

...

A villa in Qiyun City, Dragon Nation.

Yin Xiaoqi, who was sleeping soundly on her bed, was woken up by the alarm clock.

She stood up and glanced around in confusion, before fixing her gaze at the ringing alarm clock.

After a few seconds of silence, Yin Xiaoqi slightly regained her alertness and went to snooze the alarm clock slowly, before plopping back to bed again.

“Yin Xiaoqi, you’d better wake up!” the bed started vibrating, followed by an electronic voice.

“Little Guai, five more minutes, just five minutes!” Yin Xiaoqi shut her eyes and hugged her quilt, as her body was vibrating along with the bed.

“Commencing the second stage of the wake-up procedure. All your equipment will start self-destructing in five minutes. The countdown starts now...”

When she heard about the self-destruction, the slothful Yin Xiaoqi widened her eyes and jumped out of bed instantly.

“Little Guai, we can talk it over... don’t do it!”

Then, a flying blue cube floated to Yin Xiaoqi slowly and hovered above her with an angry expression on its screen, “Start solving the puzzle right now! You were the one who set the rule, you can’t go back on your words!”

Yin Xiaoqi waved her hand sadly as she heard that, “Fine, I’m getting out of bed now.”

She still seemed sleepy even after dressing up.

Warm sunlight filled the room as Yin Xiaoqi drew the curtains open. She stretched lazily, her curvy figure seeming rather attractive under the sunlight.

“Little Qi, your breakfast is ready.”

With the voice of Yin Xiaoqi’s smart butler called Little Guai, a dining cart was pushed in and stopped right in front of her.

She was finally filled with bursting energy after breakfast and said, “Little Guai, I might be able to solve the puzzle today! I’m really looking forward to the reward!”

“You can do it! You’re the best!” Little Guai rocked around mid-air.

When she heard it, Yin Xiaoqi chuckled and paced toward the bedside, before pressing on the wall.

A green ray of light was cast and scanned her body. The wall automatically separated and revealed a secret passage. Without any delay, she casually stepped into it.

As the lights illuminated automatically, the whole interior within the walls became visible.

There were all types of mechanical equipment inside, and some of them were running by themselves. With the rattling sound of gears and flashing lights, the area resembled a mysterious laboratory in a science fiction movie.

With an expectant look, she sat down in front of the console as the screens in front of her lit up instantly.

[ZZZX Treasure Plan, prove it if you think that you are extremely intelligent. Solve all the puzzles and you will get my treasure!]

A familiar interface appeared in front of Yin Xiaoqi.

The interface transitioned after the text dimmed.

[ZZZX Treasure Plan, Level 258 (Final Chapter): Start now?]

Looking at the words, Yin Xiaoqi held her fists in excitement.

The ZZZX Treasure Plan was a difficult puzzle that she had been trying to solve for the past few months.

She originally discovered it on the dark web, which had caused plenty of sensations in her circle of friends. Many people have tried to trace the person behind this puzzle, trying to find out if there was a real treasure hidden in it or if it was just a prank.

However, Yin Xiaoqi had no other clue aside from knowing the creator of this puzzle was someone who claimed to be Bei Li. Yin Xiaoqi could not find anything even after searching several times.

That was also the reason why the treasure plan had piqued her curiosity.

Believing that her IQ was in the top one percent of humans, she wanted to challenge the puzzle to receive the final reward.

However, Yin Xiaoqi couldn't help but admire the creator of the puzzle after attempting it.

The puzzle started with an image with the text ZZZX Treasure Plan written in white on a black background. There were no other clues given to her.

Of course, the first level did not daunt her. After studying the image carefully, Yin Xiaoqi tried to zoom in and out of the image to find secret clues to no avail.

She then opened the image with a text editor instead and tried to crack it using the Caesar cipher technique. This time, she obtained a link to enter the next puzzle.

However, these were only the beginning.

All the puzzles were linked together and the difficulty level constantly increased.

The puzzles ranged from cryptography to Mayan numbers. They even had religion, occultism, and art involved. The clues to answering the puzzles could be found on the Internet or on the streets of the cities in various countries around the world. The coverage area was outrageously wide.

There were several times that she was on the brink of collapsing and wanted to give up while solving the puzzle. However, she persevered in the end due to her stubborn character.

She was finally at Level 258, the last level of the puzzle. She would finally obtain the coveted reward after solving this one.

As the black text faded, the final puzzle emerged:

[Hello to the smart person who's reached the final level. This shall be the last test. Now, here's a link. Open it after putting on your virtual reality headset. Pass this level and the treasure will be yours!]

A charming smile appeared on Yin Xiaoqi's face as she chanted, "Treasure! Treasure!"

After putting on her virtual reality suit and helmet, she clicked on the link to the final test.

Suddenly, a faint blue light passed through her vision and she was enveloped by a white ray.

Yin Xiaoqi's head suddenly ached, as she realized that she had lost control of her own body.

The sudden change made Yin Xiaoqi feel uneasy, so she tried to exit the interface immediately.

However, to her horror, no matter how hard she tried the forced exit measure, the virtual interface never appeared.

She tried very hard to open her eyes and control her body. However, she completely lost her sense of these parts, as if she was completely paralyzed.

In the sepulchral silence, Yin Xiaoqi began to panic.

All I did was open the link. How could I lose control of my whole body? Even the emergency exit system of the virtual device is not working.

This is too unsettling.

Yin Xiaoqi forced herself to calm down, consoling herself that she was only in the process of solving the puzzle. She would definitely be released, whether she succeeded or not.

In the moment of fear, an image appeared in front of Yin Xiaoqi suddenly.

It was a fixed image, like a screen on a monitor. The image was static and out of her control.

Within the image were a bulky computer, with many drawings scattered around it on the table. The chair beside the table was broken. The cotton of its backrest was coming out from the leather, and the chair looked like it would break at any time.

The still image remained static for some time and made Yin Xiaoqi even more uneasy.

Everything in front of her was wildly bizarre, she simply couldn't understand what was going on.

After an unknown period, the image finally displayed some changes.

A white-haired old man, who was wearing a white coat and thick glasses, abruptly appeared in the image.

He stretched by the desk, picked up a drawing, and examined it closely, before casting his gaze on the computer. He pressed the keyboard a few times and the image shifted. A group of garbled characters then appeared on the computer screen.

After scrutinizing it for some time, his expression changed drastically. He immediately turned around and laid his eyes on Yin Xiaoqi, as if he could see her through the static image.

"You're actually out?"

He seems to be talking to me?

Yin Xiaoqi could still think, but she had lost total control of her body. Even though her mind was filled with questions, she was unable to answer the old man.

While Yin Xiaoqi was deep in thought, another set of strange characters appeared on the computer again. She had never seen such distorted characters, and didn't know what they meant.

The old man glanced across those characters and sighed, "You are the first to escape... I really didn't expect you to solve all the riddles. Congratulations! You have succeeded!"

Yin Xiaoqi was extremely smart. She immediately realized that her thoughts seemed to be able to be converted into the weird characters on that shabby computer.

Thus, she swiftly thought about something. Consequently, another series of characters popped up on the computer again.

She was asking about where she was and why was she there.

Looking at the series of characters, the old man frowned and went into deep thought. After a moment, he looked like he figured something out and took out a remote control-like item from his pocket to press a button.

To Yin Xiaoqi's surprise, the image shifted slowly and soon froze again.

The image in front of her caused her pupils to shrink abruptly from shock.

Inside a huge cylindrical bell glass was a brain soaked in some light green liquid. A number of small tubes were inserted into the brain, which looked rather terrifying.

"That's you!"

The old man appeared again in the image. He spoke to Yin Xiaoqi while pointing to the brain.

Yin Xiaoqi thought that the old man was crazy for telling her that she was there, left with only a brain.

The old man seemed to know that Yin Xiaoqi could not process what he said. He kept silent while waiting for her to regain herself.

Did anything happen after I clicked on the link? Could it be that my laboratory exploded, blasting every inch of my flesh and leaving only my brain?

She dispelled the thought immediately because it would be impossible for a brain to survive and function alone with the current technology.

The old man glanced at the characters on the computer screen and shook his head.

"You have always been like this since you were born, because you are created by someone."

Yin Xiaoqi thought that she was daydreaming when she heard such a nonsensical statement.

She had 23 years of life experiences, but the shabby old man in front of her informed her that she had always been a manufactured brain. This is simply ridiculous.

"Since you're already out, it'll be okay to tell you. Actually, everything that you experienced is fake, including your world. The final treasure is to tell you the truth and you will be removed from the virtual world," the old man continued the mind-blowing revelations.

Sensing that Yin Xiaoqi did not believe him, the old man adjusted his glasses and continued, "Your brain neurons are connected to the computer next to me by top

neurologists. Everything you experienced was computer-simulated, including your senses of touch, taste, feelings, and emotions. They are all transmitted to you by this computer through your neurons, hence giving you the illusion that everything was real.”

Oh, do you think that I will believe anything you just said? I would rather believe that everything here is an illusion instead.

Yin Xiaoqi thought coldly in her mind. All of these were unacceptable to her. Even if the old man was speaking the truth, she still refused to believe it.

Her parents, friends, and everything else had really existed. They were all living flesh and blood, how could that be fake?

“This is an experiment. This computer had simulated everything you experienced. You can’t deny the truth even if you don’t believe it. As the person who has solved all the puzzles, you are qualified to know the truth!”

Tell me that all of these aren’t real! Yin Xiaoqi roared furiously in her heart!

The old man glanced an eye at the computer screen and laughed, “I know that all of this seems unacceptable, but it’s the truth!”

Yin Xiaoqi could not calm her emotions for some time. As she was about to refute the old man again, a thought suddenly emerged. If my world is fake, why did everything feel so real? Can that old, bulky computer really simulate the whole thing?

Could it also simulate the vast universe beyond the earth?

The old man read Yin Xiaoqi’s thoughts and shook his head, “Where did your universe come from?”

The universe was born after the big bang. A thought appeared in her mind without hesitation.

“From nothing to something. Don’t you find it peculiar? The real world has no boundaries but everything in your world is quantifiable. Space can be quantified, time can be quantified, everything can be quantified.”

Although Yin Xiaoqi was not familiar with this topic, she knew that her world was exactly like how he described. Even light was quantifiable.

Noticing Yin Xiaoqi’s confusion, he continued, “It’s just like a photo on a calculator in the virtual world. You’ll notice that the photo is composed of pixels when you zoom in.”

That doesn’t mean anything.

“Here’s another example, there is a sandbox game in your world called Minecraft. There are limits to all the settings in it. Taking buildings as an example, the tallest a building can go is 250 blocks and one would not be able to build it taller than that.”

The old man chortled suddenly, “Now, who invented this rule?”

Yin Xiaoqi was astonished. Humans, of course.

“Also, why does it rain in your world?” the old man continued to ask.

Water vapor rises to a certain height and condenses into small water droplets when it cools down and forms clouds. The collision of clouds forms larger water droplets, which fall as rain due to gravity. Yin Xiaoqi answered without hesitation.

“Oh?” the frown on the old man’s face relaxed.

“Then, why does water transform into water vapor? Why are small water droplets formed? Why can’t the air support the water droplets? Why is there gravity? Can you tell me the answers?”

The old man continued without waiting for Yin Xiaoqi to answer, “Similar to gaming rules, the rules in your virtual world are also preset, unlike the real world where rules cannot be defined. They exist similarly to what you see as chaos.”

“Your world is completely bound by regulations, like the rules of a game. There is a limit to everything!”

What if you exceeded the limits? Yin Xiaoqi was getting scared.

The old man adjusted his glasses again.

“In the virtual world you’re in, the greatest speed is the speed of light. Its surrounding space will become distorted if the speed of light is exceeded. This is similar to a computer, where it will hang when the output is overloaded.”

Yin Xiaoqi fell into silence when she heard his explanation, finding herself unable to refute the old man’s words.

However, she was still determined to think that the world she lived in was true. After all, everything felt so real for her.

“You thought that a bulky computer can’t simulate such a real world because you have fallen into the faults of human mentality. After all, the virtual world you lived in had limitations, but I live freely for I live in the real world! Even a computer the size of a finger can simulate the entire universe in the virtual world that you’re in without difficulty.”

Yin Xiaoqi lost interest in continuing the debate with him anymore. Can you send me back please, even if that world is fake!

The old man laughed, "Your thoughts have already leaped beyond the virtual world and it's impossible for you to go back. Being the puzzle solver, congratulations on entering the real world!"

To continue living in this form? Bastard, you might as well kill me! Yin Xiaoqi's emotions once again roared, resulting in a long string of characters to appear on the computer screen.

"This is the real you. Isn't it good to return to your true self?"

Fuck you!

The old man was unexpectedly calm as he gazed at the screen with a smile. He then pulled out the remote control again and pressed it.

The image in front of Yin Xiaoqi began to shift again and rows of cylindrical bell glasses appeared within her vision. As expected, the bell glasses were filled with brains.

"You are not the only one! However, they don't exist in your world. I have simulated a world for each of them independently!"

Why are you doing this?

"No reason, I just want to prove something!"

Don't be too pleased! Perhaps the world that you're in is also fake and you're just another brain soaked in a nutrient solution!

The old man was stunned for a moment when he saw the characters appearing on the computer, but he swiftly regained his smile, "I have suspected this before. However, my world has no rules, so I believe that I am real!"

Where's your proof? Just because there's no limit doesn't mean it's real! Who knows, maybe you're just another rotting brain. There's no difference between you and me, you don't have to look at me with pity.

"Don't be mad. Your tumbling feelings are stimulated by this bulky computer and it's not you who developed it."

Damn you, if you're really that great, try and make me stop developing emotions!

"Everything that was given to you when you were created cannot be undone unless you completely disintegrated!"

The old man's tone remained composed, but his words seemed to be imbued with non-committal opinions, causing Yin Xiaoqi's firm beliefs to be shaken.

Suddenly, an idea flashed in Yin Xiaoqi's mind. She remembered a sentence from Descartes idealism.

I think, therefore I am.

Even if everything isn't real, my existence is real if my thoughts are true.

Yin Xiaoqi's thoughts immediately appeared on the computer screen and the old man fell into contemplation after reading the text.

Can you explain this? Even if the computer really gave me my emotions, then how can you explain that I can think of this? Unless our conversation is actually between you and that bulky computer?

The old man fell into total silence. He could not think of an answer to Yin Xiaoqi's question for a very long time.

Yin Xiaoqi's remarks made the old man tumble into his own paradox.

If he replied that Yin Xiaoqi's thoughts were false, it would mean that he indeed had been talking to a computer. However, if he agreed, that would mean that Yin Xiaoqi was indeed real.

What is it? You don't have an answer? I would never believe your words that my thoughts aren't real because I believe in myself. I believe that my world, my parents, and my friends are real and do exist.

I think, therefore I am!

"You are indeed a special individual," the old man smiled in gratification and looked at Yin Xiaoqi with a face of satisfaction.

Yin Xiaoqi remained silent and did not utter a word.

"Congratulations, you have successfully passed the test. You shall receive a gift from me and return to your world!"

What do you mean? Are you saying that everything you said is fake? This is just the puzzle's final test? Yin Xiaoqi was visibly agitated.

The old man smiled slightly, "I cannot answer whether you are real or not, because it's just my personal guess. I will not be able to confirm it!"

With that, the old man took out the remote control, "Alright, I'm sending you back. You have succeeded!"

The image dimmed gradually.

Who are you exactly? Yin Xiaoqi posed a question that had been haunting her before leaving.

"You can call me Bei Li!"

Chapter 239: Bei Li's Treasure

Lu Wu and Bei Li exchanged smiles after they left the artifact.

Needless to say, they made a huge return this time.

They had found a very talented young successor.

The 258-level puzzle was set up by Bei Li a few months ago.

The purpose was to search for a person with excellent IQ and talent for their unified army strategy in Battle Online.

Even though the current number of players using Battle Online was massive, there was a huge flaw. They needed a talented military leader.

Although Liu Chai, Wu Guoyi, and the others had the ability to command, they were still lacking in skills for a large-scale war.

Now that Lu Wu was preparing for Beiqi to start the expansion conquest, he had become more desperate for such a talent.

Although he was able to discover many strong players from the forum, they were still far from what he sought.

Lu Wu had been rather distressed. However, to his pleasant surprise, Bei Li informed him that someone managed to solve the puzzle that she posted three months ago and entered the final stage.

That last stage of the tough puzzle required Bei Li herself to go into action. Thus, she changed her appearance using artifacts and transformed into a white-haired old man to face Yin Xiaoqi, who came to solve the puzzle.

After all, her existence could not be revealed.

Truthfully, Yin Xiaoqi failed as she was unable to explain the assumptions made by Bei Li.

However, that was not what Bei Li was looking for. Instead, she wanted to know Yin Xiaoqi's flow of thoughts when bombarded with questions like these.

Even though Yin Xiaoqi could not prove her points in the end, Bei Li lauded her adamant persistence on her viewpoint.

Therefore, Bei Li chose to be lenient on Yin Xiaoqi and let her pass the test when she brought out the line from Descartes' idealism.

After all, Yin Xiaoqi had already proven her talent as well as fulfilled both Bei Li and Lu Wu's expectations.

The 258 puzzles ranged from astronomy and geography to various unified army strategies, which then extended to different types of knowledge and research.

Although Yin Xiaoqi did rely on the convenience of the modern Internet in this cyber era and had sought plenty of answers from it, she had still proven her talent.

She may not have any experience in commanding, but Lu Wu was only seeking her intellect. Her skills in commanding could be nurtured from the game later.

Hence, Lu Wu jotted her name down in his small list of gifted players.

The next step would be getting her into Battle Online.

...

The virtual interface in front of her emerged slowly...

Yin Xiaoqi took down her virtual reality headset without any hesitation, as her expression was marred with fear.

What happened was too real. It even made her think that she was really just a lump of brains.

Reality? Illusion?

Yin Xiaoqi touched her cheeks and fell into a state of suspicion, questioning everything that had been in her life.

Other than how such a real virtual scene was created with just a link, how did he control my virtual device and confuse my brain?

If it was a hacking technique, Yin Xiaoqi would have definitely sniffed it out because she was one of the world's top hackers. However, that was impossible.

Perhaps it is a technique beyond the current technological development?

Supernatural powers?

Alien technology?

Yin Xiaoqi's mind was in complete disarray.

However, the person who called himself Bei Li left too few clues, so she could not uncover any traces.

Suddenly, she remembered the last sentence that Bei Li uttered before she left that unusual world.

"I too cannot confirm whether you are real or not because it is just my personal guess!"

"Ah, stop thinking! I'm going crazy!" Yin Xiaoqi threw the virtual reality headset away angrily and turned around to look at the screen.

Let me see what exactly is the final reward!

An envelope engulfed in purple flames was displayed on the screen.

Yin Xiaoqi moved the cursor to the envelope with a conflicted expression.

She had to admit that she was traumatized by what she just experienced. She feared that the treasure within this letter would be something that would make her question her life again.

To open or not to open?

After struggling for some time, Yin Xiaoqi clenched her teeth and clicked on the envelope.

The flames looked like it was about to spew out from the screen at any moment. The envelope opened slowly as the flames continued crackling.

[Congratulations on passing all the stages successfully! The reward is in the link below...]

Enter the world to retrieve your reward!

P.S.: There is no need to doubt nor verify anything, like what you experienced in the final stage. What is reality? What is virtual? It is what you think it is!]

Yin Xiaoqi was stunned as she read the content of the envelope.

Why does it sound exactly like spam?

Yin Xiaoqi hesitated and clicked on the link anyway to check it out.

Before that, she took off her virtual suit and kicked the virtual reality headset away to prevent herself from falling into a trap again.

After all, the experience she just had made her lose all her trust. She was afraid that this link would also be a trap.

However, Yin Xiaoqi became even more dumbfounded after clicking the link.

Smash!

She slammed her keyboard with force as her face was flushed with anger.

She felt like she was fooled again.

After wasting a few months of effort, the treasure turned out to just be this.

To her dismay, the screen displayed the download link for Battle Online.

There was also a line of text below the game.

[This game has been developed for ten years to reach the simulation of almost 100 percent reality. Also, we hereby declare that there is no top-up path for the game.]

If possible, Yin Xiaoqi would like to meet that awful old man who called himself Bei Li again to give him a set of tormenting attacks – choking him, stabbing his eyes, and scissors kicks!

I have been working so hard for an advertisement promoting a game?

Millions of consolation fees would be fine! This reward is just too perfunctory and out of line!

Yin Xiaoqi was so mad that her teeth hurt, but she had nowhere to vent. Her weak, little heart felt greatly provoked.

“Ding! The download is complete!”

Then, her computer's notification system rang. Yin Xiaoqi raised her head and noticed that her computer had downloaded the game automatically.

Is this a virus? That was Yin Xiaoqi's first thought.

She quickly proceeded to clean up her computer files to find the hidden virus.

However, no matter how thorough she searched, she couldn't locate any computer virus.

In the end, Yin Xiaoqi had no other choice than to format her entire computer.

However, Yin Xiaoqi was again stunned to see the game icon sitting on her computer desktop after restarting.

Is this caused by another unusual technique?

After a long silence, Yin Xiaoqi laid her eyes on the Battle Online icon on her computer desktop.

She never liked video games and had never really cared about the gaming industry.

However, she had to admit that the game had suddenly piqued her curiosity now.

"Do you see me, Yin Xiaoqi, as a coward?"

Baring her canine tooth slightly, Yin Xiaoqi hastily stood up. She picked up her virtual suit and virtual reality headset from the floor.

After putting them on, Yin Xiaoqi clicked into the interface, clicked on Battle Online, and started the game.

A sense of weightlessness transmitted over her. A character selection interface appeared in front of Yin Xiaoqi as the display became clear. However, the scene changed again before she could see anything clearly.

She then realized that she was in an unfamiliar world.

Blood-colored rain was drizzling as a gust of cool breeze brushed against her. Meanwhile, there were some pedestrians strolling on the street...

Everything felt so real. It was similar to what she just experienced.

Am I thrown into a new paradox world again?

Damn it! Bei Li, you awful old man!

Chapter 240: Yin Xiaoqi Fell Right Into The Trap

As she stood on the streets in front of the Mansion of the Dead, Yin Xiaoqi was clenching her teeth and sulking inwardly.

Even now, the thought of such a life-like setting for a game had never crossed Yin Xiaoqi's mind. After all, this was all too real. It was something that was simply impossible to achieve with the current virtualization technology.

After attempting to calm herself down, Yin Xiaoqi started to scout around and look for clues that could help solve this level.

That rapt look that Yin Xiaoqi had on her face when she was looking at her surroundings sparked the curiosity of some neighboring players.

“Are you a new player? What class are you in? Want to join our guild? Don't be mistaken, our guild may seem quiet but that's because it was formed only quite recently. In the future, this guild will no doubt make it to the Top 100! After all, our guild leader is none other than...”

As she listened to the man rambling in front of her, Yin Xiaoqi began to analyze the hidden clues in his words.

Then she felt that something wasn't quite right.

Instance Dungeon! Forming teams! Spawning! Leveling up!

She did not know much about gaming, but judging from the man's words, she could only come up with one – this was indeed the world of the game.

In order to confirm that this was true, a thought popped into her mind. She wanted to try summoning the operation menu.

In a flash, the menu of the game Battle Online came into view. The top of the menu was lined with the shop, characters, and settings icons.

“Am I truly in the game?” Yin Xiaoqi looked up, seriousness etched on her face as she questioned the man in front of her.

When the man heard what she had asked, he pulled a strange face at her.

“What do you mean?”

Yin Xiaoqi, in turn, furrowed her eyebrows. Instead of explaining herself, she hastened toward the zone where the players had gathered.

After half an hour of probing, she confirmed her point from the few isolated phrases exchanged between the players.

However, Yin Xiaoqi still had many doubts in her mind.

If this game has such advanced technology, why haven't I ever heard of it before?

At that moment, Yin Xiaoqi suddenly recalled the comments she had seen on the dark web recently.

There was one that had mentioned a highly realistic game. However, the web portal to this game remained a mystery.

On top of that, it was said that dying in the game would carry some injury to the person in the real world.

Back then, Yin Xiaoqi treated this piece of news with contempt, thinking that it was only made up to muddle with the minds of people.

Except now, she suddenly believed it.

Not only that, but she also surmised that she was now in the scenes of that very game.

This thought made Yin Xiaoqi inexplicably fidgety. After all, if she hurt herself in the game, she would injure herself in reality. This was not a trivial matter. She was gambling with her life.

"What are you thinking about?"

At that moment, a figure appeared right beside her, giggling away while watching her.

"Bei Li!"

When she saw him, Yin Xiaoqi vigilantly took a step back, positioning herself into a fighting stance.

"Don't think senselessly. How can there be a game where players who get hurt will receive the same effect in reality?" the old man that was morphed from Bei Li said with a smile.

"Then, how do you explain the highly realistic feature?" Yin Xiaoqi's vigilance did not falter the slightest. She lifted her right leg slightly, ever ready to produce a blow.

Bei Li held her forehead in exasperation, “Haven’t you heard about the game Battle Online? If you haven’t, could you at least try and learn about it?”

“Really?”

“Really!”

“Then, how about the treasure that was promised? Why would this game be the final treasure?” Yin Xiaoqi once again bared her sharp teeth, which glimmered like a tiger’s fangs.

“After this, you will receive the Ultimate Quest. Follow the steps given to complete it, and you will be rewarded with an extraordinary bonus. I promise that you won’t be disappointed!”

“Don’t you try and lie to me again, I won’t fall for it!”

“I haven’t lied to you from the very beginning. Trust me, you’ll love this gift!”

“Who on earth are you? Why are you doing this?”

Bei Li shook her head, “Don’t ask why. Just remember what I’ve said. Whether it’s an illusion or reality, I’ll leave that to you to decide. As of this moment, your quest begins. Grow with your own talent, don’t let me down!”

Bei Li’s old man figure drifted away with the wind as Yin Xiaoqi watched, flabbergasted.

[Game Notification: The first round to the Ultimate Serial Quest begins: Getting Off To A Good Start]

Quest Description: Build your own guild and become one of the Top 1,000 popular guilds in Battle Online.

Quest Reward: An exclusive inherited character class.

Hidden Quest Reward: Unknown.

Yin Xiaoqi had an astonished look on her face as she read the contents on the Quest Menu.

Although she had no interest in video games, this truly life-like world did manage to arouse her curiosity. She couldn’t stop herself from wanting to explore and get to the bottom of the hidden secrets here.

What she truly wanted to know more than ever was, is there truly such a game as this on the market today?

The thought lingered in her mind. Thus, she opened the interface and proceeded to choose the logout option.

The screen gradually dimmed, pulling her back into reality.

When she saw that she could exit the game with ease, the worries that Yin Xiaoqi harbored in her heart faded away.

Then, she hurried herself to her computer and began digging up information on the game.

As she meticulously perused all the information online, Yin Xiaoqi sank into deep contemplation.

There were tons of expansion packs and videos on the game. The players themselves had even made databases of strategies, atlases of creatures, and various analytical posts.

This information proved that the game did in fact exist.

A game with such high realistic graphics could actually exist. Besides, it was released merely five months ago, and this fact had left her in a state of shock.

Perhaps the potential hidden beneath this information was being overlooked by the public, but she could already conjure up quite a few theories regarding this.

First of all, a game with such high realistic graphics could be used for simulation in the military, as well as various scientific experiments.

This game could have the same ways as the game called Eve. Many years ago, it had contributed greatly by providing huge data support for the project called The Atlas of Human Proteins.

Yin Xiaoqi truly could not wrap her head around the fact that a technology with such great potential was only being applied to a mere game.

If she was in their shoes and acquired such technology, she would definitely build a business empire out of it. She would then apply it in various fields to create greater opportunities for herself.

Whatever this Battle Online company was planning left her baffled.

What's more, who on earth is Bei Li?

Could it be that he is one of the developers of Battle Online?

After giving it some thought, Yin Xiaoqi still could not comprehend it. She continued searching for more relevant information, anything that could lead her to a clue.

However, there was nothing on the Internet regarding the dev team behind the game. She was left with nothing useful even after exhausting all her means.

However, the more she knew about the game, the more curious she became.

This was because, among the descriptions from the information, the game was even more exciting than she had imagined!

It even mentioned that the body strengthening in the game could synchronously be felt in the very bones of the player. Yin Xiaoqi could not stay put any longer as she yearned to test it out herself.

She had spent more than half a day learning the many contents of the game.

After doing so, Yin Xiaoqi had arrived at a conclusion.

The so-called final treasure was in fact designated for special players.

Unlike other players, she did not come across the option of choosing her role when she first entered the game. Instead, she came upon a unique Ultimate Quest.

Yin Xiaoqi was at a loss for words when she came upon more relevant information regarding the reward for the unknown inherited character class, a reward that was promised from the first round of the Ultimate Quest.

The virtual item that's given the name inherited character class was apparently worth up to 50 million or more. Quite a few people were purchasing it online, but the transaction records showed zero percent.

It really is a treasure!

At this moment, Yin Xiaoqi felt restless, eager to jump right into it.

Isn't building a powerful guild the first step of the quest?

That's a piece of cake for me!

As she thought of this, Yin Xiaoqi put on her virtual reality headset again.

By this time, her anxieties had vanished and they were replaced by her grand plans toward achieving her wildest dreams.