

The Boss Behind The Game - Chapter 41

Chapter 41: The Stone Coffins In The Naraka Realm

After she finished the carving in the Naraka Realm, Bei Li extracted a default soul from the Artifact Channel. She introduced the settings of an Instance Dungeon Facilitator into a default soul before she left the underworld with Lu Wu.

After reading the comments, he realized that the players were all trying to picture the appearance of the Instance Dungeon. After some contemplation, Lu Wu made an announcement on the main page.

“Game maintenance is complete. The Instance Dungeon has been launched: Naraka Realm. New NPC: Instance Dungeon Facilitator”

[Naraka Realm (Instance Dungeon)]:

The Naraka Realm contains eighteen levels of different settings for players to train and upgrade their levels. Every level has multiple monsters of the highest level and powerful creatures. For more details, please approach the Instance Dungeon Facilitator.

Prerequisite to join Instance Dungeon: Your team should be made up of a minimum of ten players.

After they heard the news, impatient players immediately logged into the game and flooded the Instance Dungeon’s portal.

“Wow. This is a major Instance Dungeon. We can only access it with a ten-player team. Do they have to set such a high requirement for this?”

“Sob. I’m a loner who’s looking for a team to adopt me!”

“Our assassin team is recruiting. Join us, assassins... it’s time to hunt for materials for our class advancement!”

“I can’t believe there is a time limit for the quest. We can only stay in the dungeon for an hour. This is unfair for the clumsy players!”

After the Instance Dungeon Facilitator briefed the players about the Naraka Realm, many players were excited to experience the Naraka Realm for themselves.

At this point, Bei Li had also created a mage character class for herself in order to mix into the crowd.

Bei Li had never been to the Naraka Realm either. Therefore, she was very curious about it and wanted to visit the place, too.

Lu Wu had no reason to stop her. After all, her presence was virtual and she would not be physically threatened.

To strengthen their first attempt, many teams were busy expanding their teams, trying to recruit as many players as possible. That was how Bei Li took the chance to join one of the teams.

Coincidentally, the team she joined was Ye Xue'er's Association of the Guardian Angels.

Anyone who intended to join the team was required to first join the guild. After she submitted the form, Bei Li's application was quickly approved and she became one of the members of the guild. She was then assigned to Ye Xue'er's team.

Being the team leader, Ye Xue'er did the headcount. Once she made sure that there were thirty players, she made an announcement through the guild live chat channel, "Let's go!"

She reached out to access the Instance Dungeon's portal, prompting a menu to pop up.

[Instance Dungeons]:

1. Naraka Realm

There was only one option. Ye Xue'er chose the only option and the entire team felt an abrupt loss of gravity.

According to Bei Li's settings, for the group transportation, the system would first bring the players to the Artifact Channel. During this entire period, the player's senses would be shielded. Then, they would be transferred from the artifact to the Instance Dungeon.

This was for the convenience of the players. After all, it would be very slow and troublesome if they were to jump into the passage one after another.

As for where they would be transported to, the system would program it randomly. They would appear at any place depending purely on the players' luck.

When the players regained their senses, the team realized that their surroundings had undergone a vast change.

The dry land beneath their feet was full of cracks with red molten lava flowing within. Even if their senses were reduced, they could still feel the heat waves charging at them.

“Eighteen levels of Naraka, Level One”

Before long, the words which indicated the players' location gradually faded away.

“The Naraka Realm looks so realistic. This is so cool!”

The players were astounded by the environment of the Instance Dungeon and the Naraka Realm. There were even players who reached into the cracks to touch the lava before they quickly felt a sharp pang on their arms. Meanwhile, a number appeared above their head, implying the loss of their health.

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“Alright. Let's not touch anything and continue our journey as a team. According to the Instance Dungeon Facilitator, there are many precious materials and treasures in this place. Let's look carefully and not miss anything.”

Ye Xue'er checked her surroundings before she spoke through the guild live chat.

The team began their exploration.

After ten minutes, a waterfall made of lava appeared before them.

Initially, Ye Xue'er intended to take a detour to bypass the waterfall. However, at this moment, a sharp-eyed player noticed a cave on the left of the waterfall and notified the team via the guild live chat.

Considering that they were here for treasure hunting, Ye Xue'er was rather curious about the cave. Ye Xue'er beckoned the team to follow her as they approached the waterfall.

As they got closer to the waterfall, the temperature continued to increase. Other than the strong berserker, all the mages were losing their health by one point every five seconds.

Fortunately, they had already arrived at the entrance of the cave. Otherwise, they would be too afraid to continue their venture.

Ye Xue'er walked to the side of the cave and popped her head into the cave to scan the place. Realizing that it was impossible for her to see the end of the cave, she beckoned her members over and led the team into the cave.

The cave was close to the lava waterfall. However, the team was surprised to feel absolutely no heat after they entered the cavern.

As they went deeper, they were overwhelmed by extreme cold that sent chills down their spine.

As their vision got increasingly obscured, Ye Xue'er gestured her team to make use of the torch they bought from the shop. In a flash, their surroundings were made bright.

Owing to the burning flames, the chamber appeared eerie and terrifying. The graphical scene caused some of the timid players huddle up together.

As they progressed, they reached the end of the cave and were welcomed by a bend. The team stopped in their tracks.

A gust of sinister wind, which originated from the bend, swamped the players. It was so terrifying that they felt as if there was a monster hiding around the corner.

Ye Xue'er took in a deep breath and walked in front of the team. Likewise, she was afraid. However, as a team leader, her dignity was more important than her life.

After they passed the corner, an empty and extensive room came into their sight. Following their arrival, flames appeared on the rock wall and lit up the entire place.

When the team finally checked out the place, they were all taken aback.

They were at a burial chamber, with dozens of coffins, which were organized neatly, in front of them. The scene brought a great shock to Ye Xue'er and her crew.

Ye Xue'er reassured herself that everything lying before her was not real.

She took in another deep breath and led the team toward the coffins.

When Ye Xue'er reached the center of the room and was about to take a closer look at the coffins, she was startled by a deafening bang. Instantly, her face turned pale as she tried to stop herself from screaming.

She turned to trace the source of the sound, only to realize that it came from her brother, Ye Chen. He was destroying a stone coffin with his greatsword.

"Brother, what are you doing?" Ye Xue'er could not hold back her anger and reprimanded him.

"There must be an inheritance within the coffin, if not a treasure," Ye Chen replied with a serious answer before he swung the sword once again.

After a brief stun, Ye Xue'er changed her mind. Ye Chen might be right. After all, treasures are always found in hidden places.

Seeing that Ye Xue'er was no longer against Ye Chen's idea, a few other players were convinced, too. With their staves, swords, and daggers, they destroyed the coffins, hoping to earn a hidden character class.

The symphony of bangs and thuds left the players breathless. Depressed, they stared at the unyielding stone coffins.

"This is infuriating! They should've just installed a switch for this! Do they still want us to play the game? What a poor gaming experience!" Ye Chen ranted.

The other players grimaced as they listened to Ye Chen's tirade. Did you install a switch on your ancestor's coffin?

"When I die, I will install a switch on my coffin. Everyone will be able to open and close it with a mere flick," Ye Chen continued to mumble.

His words left the other players speechless.

The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 42

Chapter 42: Fire Gobbling Dragon

Ye Chen's words left the entire team speechless.

At this moment, Wang Zuoshou, his best friend, asked, "Brother Ye, would you prefer a sliding lid or a flip lid?"

Ye Chen was flustered.

"A touch screen seems more savvy," Bei Li, who had been silently observing, piped up.

Noticing that all eyes were on her, Bei Li was embarrassed as she raised her wand and took a few steps backward.

"What should we do? There are treasures here but we cannot reach them. That's awful," Ye Chen looked at his sister, Ye Xue'er.

"It seems like we have to give up for now. Mark the location. When we grow stronger, we will come back to open the coffins," Ye Xue'er said weakly.

Although they gave up on opening the coffins, the team continued to search the burial chamber, not wanting to overlook any treasure.

Eventually, they found three sealed earthen jars.

After multiple attempts to break the jars open, the team realized that the stone jars were made of identical materials as the coffins. There was no way they could crack them open.

“Actually, there may not be any treasure in the jars. We have many similar jars buried under the ground of our village. If you are lucky, you might find some good old wine brewed by the ancestors,” a mediocre-looking berserker among the team commented.

“And if you are unlucky?” the team gazed at him curiously.

“If you are unlucky, you might unearth one of your ancestors.”

His answer baffled the others.

Upon listening to the blunt berserker’s theory, the team’s perception of the three jars had changed. They were disgusted at the thought of holding cremated ashes in their hands and decided to leave the jars on the ground.

Seeing their reactions, Bei Li took a few steps forward and carried the three jars in her arms, “I’ll bring them with me if you don’t want it!”

The members found it hilarious when they saw the petite Bei Li carrying the three big jars. Yet, they shook their heads.

Bei Li put on a smile. With the jars in her arms, she disappeared into the Artifact Channel.

None of them thought this was strange.

Nonetheless, every player had their personal channels. Unbeknownst to them, the personal channels were essentially part of the battle artifacts channel which had been segregated into portions for each player.

After they scanned the burial chamber once again and made sure that they did not miss anything, the team followed Ye Xue’er out of the chamber. In the meantime, they marked the location down, intending to return when they grew strong enough.

The moment they left the cave, the team was swamped by the strong wind and extreme heat.

They lifted their gaze to see a huge fire dragon charging at them. Underneath the fire dragon, some ten players were frantically trying to escape while their leader held a fiery red egg in his hand.

“Brothers, help, help!” noticing Ye Xue’er and her team, the leader seemed immensely relieved as he bolted toward them.

“Damn, brother. Don’t come near me!”

Seeing this, Ye Chen pointed at the other players, who were running toward them, with his greatsword before he yelled hysterically.

“Brother, save us!”

“Don’t come near us!”

The players on both sides continued to shout at each other.

“The dragon is this level’s boss. I’ll let you be the first to slay it. Help!” the leading player cried.

“Nonsense. Why don’t you kill it first? If you come one step closer to us, I will kill you,” Ye Chen howled.

Looking at the dragon which hurtled toward them, Ye Xue’er and her group screamed in fright, hoping that the egg thieves would not drag them into their misery.

“Quick! Get into the cave!”

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As the fire dragon advanced toward them, Ye Xue’er quickly led her team into the cave.

In less than five seconds, the earth began to quake before they were showered by crushed stones.

“Roar!” the fire dragon’s howl resonated across the atmosphere.

The cave shook once again and more stones rained down.

As the team scrambled to find their footings, they found that they were joined by three other players.

They stared at the player who was carrying the dragon egg. Everyone in the room went silent for a few seconds before Ye Chen slowly raised his greatsword.

Despite everything that was happening, Ye Xue’er was moved when she suddenly heard the innocent cry of the baby dragon from the egg.

She was adept at manslaughter and pillaging. Hence, she did not try to stop Ye Chen.

“Brother, let’s talk about this. Please don’t hurt us!” the leading berserker put on an awkward grin as he held the dragon egg closer.

“Surrender the egg!” Ye Xue’er drew her dagger and ordered angrily.

The berserker was especially distressed at this instant. His team thought that they would be safe if they ran away after they stole the dragon egg, not knowing that it was impossible for them to bring the egg into their personal channel. After the fire dragon noticed that its dragon egg was missing, it traced the egg with the help of its smell.

As a result, they were down to three players. They knew that they were no match for Ye Xue’er’s team if they were to fight.

Looking at Ye Xue’er’s team who were ready to fight, the corner of the berserker’s mouth twitched as he prepared to distract and argue with his opponent verbally. Before he could do that, he lost his balance as the cave began to shake again.

This time, the quake was even worse than before. Following the dragon’s shriek, they felt as though the cave was going to blow up.

What fell on them was no longer crushed stones but huge rocks.

“Thud! Thud! Thud!”

The players were buried by the rocks one after another while the quake intensified. Apparently, they had driven the fire dragon up the wall.

At this point, Ye Xue’er leapt forward and mercilessly kicked the berserker who was holding the dragon egg. Then, she snatched the dragon egg in his hand.

The berserker was completely stunned. Their team had sacrificed greatly for this dragon egg. Furthermore, the value of the dragon egg was certainly priceless.

However, when he intended to retrieve the egg, a huge rock from above fell right on top of him.

Getting ahold of the dragon egg, Ye Xue’er immediately attempted to hide it in her personal channel. To her surprise, she was not allowed to do that. Instead, the channel responded with a message.

“Living things are prohibited in personal channels.”

At this crucial moment, a pure and innocent moan came from the dragon egg as fiery red flare began to run around the egg.

“Crack!”

A crack appeared on the egg shell before it continued to lengthen.

“Boom!” the egg broke and a cute little fire dragon flew out of the egg.

“Howl...” the baby fire dragon immediately raised its head and let out a gleeful roar.

However, Ye Xue'er nipped the little fire dragon by its neck and held it before her.

Relentless, Ye Xue'er made another attempt to bring the baby fire dragon into her personal channel.

Something unexpected happened. The little fire dragon transformed into a streak of light and disappeared into her body.

[Server Announcement: Congratulations to player Ye Xue'er for hatching her first pet, a Fire Gobbling Dragon (Infant)]

As the announcement was released, a deafening roar echoed and flattened the cave. At this moment, Ye Xue'er was also drowned by the stones.

Chapter 43: The Guild Tournament

The fire dragon egg hatched at the crucial moment and was digitized by the artifact to be stored into Ye Xue'er's inventory. With that, she obtained her first pet in the game by mere luck.

As for the berserker and his team who had their dragon egg snatched away from them, they were beyond furious. Immediately, they started an argument in the online forum.

Even the berserker's guild, called the Demolition Officers, had declared hostility against the entire Association of the Guardian Angels.

The increase in the number of players resulted in the establishment of many new guilds. The Demolition Officers were originally a strong guild from another game. After the rise of Battle Online, the players had moved their base and settled down as a new guild in Battle Online. Even though their guild was fairly new, their capabilities were exceptionally strong, almost comparable with that of the Association of the Guardian Angels.

Right then, Ye Xue'er was feeling extremely pleased. Although her first attempt at the Instance Dungeon ended very quickly, she felt that it was worth it since she had obtained a fire dragon egg.

She also became more convinced that manslaughter and pillaging were the true significance of joy in the game. She was also not wary of the challenge from the Demolition Officers and instantly accepted their challenge in the forum. She was

prepared to go head to head with them in the wild after her respawn. It would be a major battle between the guilds.

However, the other players were not interested with the feud between the two guilds. Instead, the fact that pets can be obtained from the Instance Dungeon in the Naraka Realm had captured everyone's attention.

This incited envy from many of the players. Many casual players had also joined together in teams to take on the Naraka Realm in hopes of hatching a pet for themselves.

Nevertheless, the first level of the Naraka Realm was already perilous to these players. Even the players, who worked in groups, found it difficult to beat the weakest fire dragon. Although there were relics and treasures lying around, it was extremely difficult to find. The task was nearly impossible without either skills or luck.

For instance, despite the fact Ye Xue'er's team managed to find the stone coffins, it was pointless because they failed to open them.

Yet, as more players rushed into the Naraka Realm to try their luck, coupled with the many images that were posted in the forum by others to flaunt the materials or treasures they found, the player's enthusiasm to challenge the Naraka Realm had only increased. It was as if they enjoyed being tortured by the Instance Dungeon of a gruelling difficulty.

After the cooldown period of her respawn ended, Ye Xue'er logged into the game again expectantly.

She clicked into her Attributes Menu and her gaze fell upon a new section for pets.

[Fire Gobbling Dragon – Level 0 (Infant)]:

Pet Details: Beast of fire attributes that thrives in high temperature zones year-round and is immune to fire.

Pet Attributes: Strength 4, Agility 4, Endurance 4, Willpower 6

Pet Quality: High (From lowest to highest starting with Low, Medium, High, Spiritual Beast, Yin Soul Beast, Divine Beast, Omnipresent Spirit)

Pet Skills: None (Able to develop apperception)

Growth Requirements: Consuming fire type Spirit Stones can increase pet's experience

(Note: You can purchase pet revival pill from the shop to revive your pet after it dies)

Regarding the settings for the pet, Bei Li had already planned everything out beforehand. After all, there would be some diminution to the pet's spirituality, especially because they had to be completely digitized.

For example, the Fire Gobbling Dragon should be ranked as at Spiritual Beast, but after being digitized, it could only be a high-ranking beast at most. The downgrade of the pet was inevitable.

In fact, in order to digitize the pets, the pets must be recently hatched and still an infant. They had to be collected into the artifact the second they were exposed to the outside world. It would not be possible to digitize a pet that had already matured, even with the help of the artifact.

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Regarding the revival of the pet, it was obvious that Lu Wu would not let the players use the artifact for free. The players would be charged at a high price for it. Each revival would cost 30 soul coins.

After she was done reading the pet's Attributes Menu, Ye Xue'er clicked the option to summon her pet. A black whirlpool immediately appeared in front of her before a chubby little fire dragon flew out eagerly, flapping its wings excitedly.

"Howl... howl..." the little fire dragon flew around Ye Xue'er before it snuggled into her arms.

Having seen the little dragon's action, Ye Xue'er grabbed the little fire dragon by its scruff and held it up before her eyes to scrutinize it.

"It seems pretty weak. Yet, I still have to spend time to cultivate it. How troublesome!" Ye Xue'er was rather disappointed.

The little fire dragon seemed to be able understand Ye Xue'er's words. It puffed its cheeks and spat with all its might. "Cough... Cough..."

Ye Xue'er stared at the weak flame emotionlessly.

"This is perfect to light a cigarette!" Ye Chen, who was standing by the side, scoffed.

Ye Xue'er placed the little fire dragon back into the pet channel before she turned to glare at Ye Chen, "Prepare our men. I believe the Demolition Officers are ready. Let's go beat the crap out of them!"

"Sure!" Ye Chen grinned as he lifted his greatsword and rested it on his shoulder. He then turned to leave.

At that moment, Lu Wu was discussing with Bei Li about the recent issues of the disputes between the guilds.

Since the launch of the Naraka Realm, the conflicts between the guilds continued to intensify, mainly because of the players who constantly fought with each other for materials and treasures.

The squabbles between the Association of the Guardian Angels and the Demolition Officers were just one of the many cases. Every guild would be involved in a disagreement to a certain extent. Therefore, Lu Wu decided to conduct the very first in-game tournament for the many guilds.

A piece of drafting paper was set before Lu Wu with the words 'Guild Tournament' scribbled on it.

Lu Wu's idea was very simple, which was to construct a huge battlefield and a hundred fortresses in the Artifact Channel. All guilds with more than 500 members would be eligible to register and participate in the Guild Tournament.

The main idea of the tournament was to capture the flag.

A blank flag would be placed in the heart of every fortress. When a guild successfully seized the fortress, they could then replace the blank flag with their guild's official flag.

However, claiming the flag is only part of the battle. Even after a certain guild had conquered one of the fortresses and replaced its flag, players from other guilds were allowed to overthrow the ruling guild and take over the fortress.

The players were required to focus on attack during the beginning of the tournament and, later, defense. The tournament would last for half a day and when time was up, the guild that had topped the most fortresses would be enthroned as the Almighty Guild. Besides that, Lu Wu had also prepared rewards for the champion.

This was certainly a big project. Even if they could easily agglomerate Yin energy in the Artifact Channel for the construction of the fortresses, it was still a massive task. Lu Wu had to commit a lot of time to build the place.

Therefore, the event was still in its early stage of preparation and would not be introduced so quickly.

Currently, there were already more than 300 guilds with 500 members in the game. Lu Wu decided that he would launch the tournament once there were 500 guilds with enough crew. Not only that, he even hoped to gather 1,000 guilds with sufficient members before he launched the tournament.

When the time came, it would be a majestic event for the strong guilds to showcase their respective strengths. It would definitely be a battle worth waiting for.

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Chapter 44: Predestined Archery (Part I)

The third day after the Naraka Realm was opened, Lu Wu finally managed to accumulate 200,000 soul coins and commence his long-awaited plan to construct the Spirit Summoning Palace.

After approximately thirty minutes, a towering pagoda appeared near the Mansion of the Dead.

At the same time, the players in the game received their first surprise after the completion of the latest system update.

[Server Announcement: The latest system update will introduce a new hidden character class, the Sun Chasing Archer, along with its Inheritance Trial. The hidden character class is limited to ten players only. For more details, please ask the Character Class Instructor.]

The inheritance of the Sun Chasing Archer was the first gift from Lu Wu to the players.

The valiant spirit Zhuri, known as the ultimate sun chaser, used to be the number-one archer under the King of Beiqi's reign. His ability was almost comparable to the Ghost King. His archery skills were unmatched throughout the land of Beiqi, making him one of the King of Beiqi's most valued henchmen.

However, he was sacrificed by the patriarch of the Cursed Clan during the skirmish to annihilate them in order to activate the Prajñā Scarification.

Zhuri's death broke the King of Beiqi's heart. Deeply saddened by his loss, the King of Beiqi knew that there was nothing he could do. However, the King of Beiqi managed to retrieve Zhuri's soul and keep it in the Spirit Summoning Palace, installing him as one of the valiant spirits to be worshiped by the later generations.

The Sun Chasing Archer was the first hidden character class created by Bei Li after the recent restoration of the Spirit Summoning Palace.

As the game was true to life where archery skills were difficult to master by any ordinary people, Lu Wu had only made available ten limited spots for the players. In the meantime, he introduced a pilot challenge for the players to inherit the hidden character class.

The prerequisites to join the pilot challenge were fairly simple. First, all the players who registered for the challenge would be teleported to the shooting range in the Artifact Channel that was built by Bei Li.

Then, players had to undergo three tests. They were required to shoot fixed targets at the 50 and 100 meter range, and then a moving target at a 150 meter range.

Every player was given five chances. The top ten players with the highest marks would be rewarded with the inheritance of the hidden character class, the Sun Chasing Archer.

The pioneering project had excited many players. However, it was apparent that the trial was extremely difficult. An arrow would always travel in a parabolic path. Any ordinary

person who had not gone through a proper training could hardly hit an immobile target, not to mention the moving target at the 150 meter range, where the difficulty would be at its highest level.

Despite the hard challenge, the enthusiasm of the players to achieve the hidden character class was not hindered. Other than the players who were not interested in archery, most of the players had registered for the Inheritance Trial.

The registration ended on the next day and the number of applicants peaked at 250,000 players.

The trial that had been keeping all the players on pins and needles finally began. All the registered players were teleported to the shooting range in the Artifact Channel.

To prevent players from affecting one another, they were separated in different spaces. From the shooting range, a scoreboard could be seen in the distance which conveniently allowed the players to check their scores and rankings.

The first test was conducted at the 50 meter range. There were five rings marked on each target. The players would get 10 points by hitting the bullseye. Whereas for the other outer red circles, there was a decrease of one point in accordance to the order of the rings from the center. The players would secure just 5 points by hitting the target but not the ring. Of course, they would earn no points at all if they missed the target completely.

The minimum requirement to pass the first stage was to earn 10 points.

When the test officially began, an iron bow appeared in every player's hand. Meanwhile, they were also given five arrows, respectively.

Although the first test was only conducted at a distance of 50 meters, it was already challenging for the players who had no experience with archery before. After finishing their five attempts, out of the 250,000 players, there were less than 40,000 who advanced to the second stage.

Lu Wu, who had been spectating, simply felt helpless. Obviously, the archer character class, was too difficult to achieve. It was something that not everyone could do.

Before long, the second test started. All the players who succeeded in advancing the first test fixed their gaze upon the scoreboard.

First place: Li Lin (50 marks)

Second place: Su Mu (50 marks)

Third place: Ye Chen (50 marks)

Fourth place: Mo Lingtian (50 marks)

Actually, all the current top ten players managed to reach a 100% target hit rate.

For most of the players, these people must be experts who had been practicing shooting in real life. Otherwise, it was impossible for them to have such high accuracy and hit rate.

However, Ye Chen disagreed.

Seeing the target being rearranged to 100 meters, he was gaping in disbelief.

He did not expect to achieve much from this archery inheritance and simply participated for the fun of it. He certainly did not foresee that his amateur shooting could still land his arrows on the center of the target.

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Ye Chen's face was flushed red when he saw that he was ranked third place on the scoreboard.

When the second test began, new arrows were distributed. Ye Chen once again took out an arrow from the quiver and put it against the bowstring.

"Whoosh!"

With a soft whistle, his arrow pierced through the wind.

"Ding!" The scoreboard in the distance lit up: 10 points

Ye Chen was completely stunned this time. Understanding that he had never been taught archery skills, nor had he ever touched a bow, he was flabbergasted by his luck.

Perhaps, I was born a talented archer?

Therefore, he took out an arrow once again and placed it to the bow. He made a nonchalant effort to aim at the target before he released the bow.

"10 points!"

"10 points!"

"10 points!"

"10 points!"

After the fourth arrow was shot out, Ye Chen was full of admiration toward himself and his skills. Claiming to be a prodigy now, Ye Chen thought that archery was way too easy for him.

Entering the third round, there were only less than 3,500 players left. Ye Chen's ranking still remained at third place, causing him to feel increasingly elated.

When the third test started, the target, unlike before, was no longer fixed. On top of that, the distance of the range had been increased to 150 meters. The difficulty was greatly increased as every player was given only thirty seconds to shoot.

Looking at the target which was moving back and forth in an arrhythmic manner at 150 meters away from him, Ye Chen was slowly losing his confidence.

He took out an arrow and placed it on the bowstring. After he roughly predicted the movement of the target, he released his arrow.

“Thud!”

“Ding! 10 points!”

His bowstring was still vibrating when the scoreboard announced his score from afar.

“Haha, I'm a real genius!” Ye Chen was ecstatic when he managed to score ten points once again.

The next four shots happened just as what Ye Chen predicted. Every shot hit the bullseye. When the final result was announced, Ye Chen was extremely proud of himself.

[Server Announcement: The ranking for the Inheritance Trial is as follows. The top ten players will begin the inheritance for class advancement.]

First place: Ye Chen (150 marks)

Second place: Mo Lingtian (149 marks)

Third place: Li Lin (143 marks)

Fourth place: Su Mu (141 marks)

Even though I wanted to keep a low-profile, this must be my actual ability! Seeing that he was in the first place, Ye Chen could not help but laugh out loud.

Immediately after the ranking from the Inheritance Trial was revealed, Lu Wu looked at Bei Li and said, “Let's start the inheritance!”

Bei Li nodded and transferred her consciousness into the artifact. Ten sets of the inheritance of the Sun Chasing Archer were copied and transferred to the ten players' templates. Besides that, Bei Li spent 2,000 soul coins for each player to help them to build a new body template so that they would be able to adapt to the inheritance.

At the same moment when the inheritance began, Lu Wu also satisfied the curiosity of the inquisitive players by allowing ten live streams of the shooting range, each focused on one of the ten winners who inherited the hidden class.

Notifications appeared in Ye Chen's and the others' mind after the inheritance began.

"Congratulations! You've successfully advanced your character class to become the Sun Chasing Archer. More details and information of the character class can be found in the Attributes Menu. Meanwhile, the shooting range will continue to stay open for the next thirty minutes. Hurry up and practice your new skills at the shooting range!"

The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 45

Chapter 45: Predestined Archery (Part II)

[Sun Chasing Archer: Inheritance of the best archer in the Land of Beiqi]

Character Class Background: The Sun Chasing Archer, the man who was enthralled by archery, had devoted decades to mastering his archery skills. However, even until later in his life, archery still had not become his forte. When his Yin Flame was about to be extinguished, he witnessed the silhouette of Emperor Jin Wu passing by amidst the sunset. Looking at the Scorching Flame that was scattered across the entire sky, the realization hit him hard. All of a sudden, he gained the apperception of the Sun Chasing Aura. His life was revamped and his lifespan was subsequently prolonged. He outdid himself and, within the next three years, became the best archer in the Land of Beiqi.

Cultivation of Character Class: Attributes will be enhanced by 50% every time the level of the player increases. Players will also receive a unique supplementary passive power, Eagle Eyes, and an extra energy bar, Sun Chasing Aura.

"Eagle Eyes (passive):" Enhancement of visual ability. Players will be able to adjust pupil's focal length independently.

"Sun Chasing Aura (100 energy points):" Every Sun Chasing shot will consume one energy point. Meanwhile, the application of the skill will constantly consume energy points. The energy points will recover by one point for every three seconds.

Additional Skills: Sun Chasing Dispersion, Sliding, Annihilation

“Sun Chasing Dispersion (consume five points)”: Players will be able to shoot five arrows that have been strengthened by the Sun Chasing Aura, and execute an area damage.

“Sliding (consume three points)”: Players are allowed to flexibly utilize the Sun Chasing Aura and apply it onto their feet, enabling the players to perform a short-distance rapid slide. (It can be used to avoid attack and approach opponents.)

“Annihilation (consume all remaining energy)”: Players will be able to consolidate all the Sun Chasing power from the entire body and forge an arrow of soul energy to release a deadly attack. (No arrow is needed to apply this skill.)

“The second stage will begin after the player has reached Level 100 and completed the class development. Details can be obtained from the Character Class Instructor.”

Character Class' Weapon: Bow and arrow.

The players, who had been watching the live stream, enviously looked at the Inheritance Menu of the Sun Chasing Archer.

“The ten Archery Masters have gained the inheritance with their own capability. I respect them!”

“I'm envious but not jealous for you have obtained the inheritance with your own ability. Even if I had your character class, I will not have hit the target with my ability.”

“I acknowledge this! In order to master this character class, it really requires talent in archery. An ordinary person will never be able to do this!”

The audience unanimously approved the ten players who were about to receive the inheritance. After all, they had earned this with their own ability rather than merely by luck. All the other players were genuinely happy for them.

Soon after Ye Chen achieved his class advancement, he was overjoyed to immediately receive three new skills.

Knowing that he had another thirty minutes to test his skills, Ye Chen felt ambitious.

He lifted up the iron bow and drew one arrow from his newly acquired quiver. Then, he locked the arrow to the bowstring. He aimed at a fixed target that was 50 meters away and released the arrow confidently.

“Thud! Zero points.” The scoreboard displayed the score from afar.

“Cough. This is a mistake. It's a mistake,” knowing that he was on a live stream, Ye Chen put on an embarrassed grin before he took out another arrow.

However, before long, Ye Chen's laughter had been completely extirpated.

He made five consecutive attempts and none of the arrows managed to hit the target.

Ye Chen was appalled by the result.

With his trembling hands, Ye Chen aimed at the target that was 100 meters away and activated his Eagle Eyes. He could clearly see the distant target with his naked eyes.

Ye Chen lifted up the bow again and took a deep breath before he slowly let go of the bowstring in his hand.

"Thud! Zero points."

"Thud! Zero points."

"Thud! Zero points."

Ye Chen, who refused to give up, focused his gaze upon the moving target that was 150 meter away from him and began to shoot frantically.

"Thud! Zero points."

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"Thud! Zero points."

The consecutive nils left Ye Chen dumbfounded.

And the players, who were watching the live stream, were as astounded as him.

A_Mammoth: "Isn't he the champion? The result... I have a terrifying idea."

Crayon_Shinchan: "Predestined Archery. The player will be able to hit the target only during the right times. I think that the other player is having the same idea."

Ye_Xueer_is_the_cutest: "I was skeptical when I saw my brother's outstanding archery skills as he has never undergone any training before. Now, I understand what's going on. This is such an overwhelming truth."

Strike_Gold: "This is really overwhelming. Can this really be the legendary Predestined Archery?"

Invincible_Loneliness: "Perhaps he shut down the automatic aiming system and accidentally exposed his real ability."

Watermelon_Taro: "So... will his account be scrapped?"

Guard_With_Knife replied to Watermelon_Taro: "Basically... it's scrapped..."

Golden_Saint_Seiya: "It seems a little tense now. Well, I have a question, can I laugh now?"

The_Bronze_Player replied to Golden_Saint_Seiya: "Hahaha, I'll start first!"

At this moment, Ye Chen realized how major the issue was.

Perhaps the previous fifteen shots on the targets were merely coincidence!

This idea turned Ye Chen's face pale and his gaze soulless.

After he achieved the class advancement and became an archer, bow and arrows were the only weapon that he was equipped with. At the thought of this, Ye Chen's hand, which was still holding the bow, trembled uncontrollably.

He tried to extract the blue greatsword from his channel.

"Reminder: You have achieved Class Advancement and are now a Sun Chasing Archer. Your default weapons are bows and arrows. You are not allowed to use a greatsword."

"Oh my god! Can I downgrade myself to be a berserker again?" Ye Chen squatted on the floor and growled helplessly.

In the comment section:

Crayon_Shinchan: "What a show! Congratulations on driving someone crazy!"

A_Mammoth: "Don't cry, my brother. You can show off your Predestined Archery to the audience."

Strike_Gold: "Don't cry, you still can use your bow... to whack your enemies, hahaha!"

Watermelon_Taro: "Can you share some sympathy to this man? Look at how hard our champion is crying, or rather, how sorrowful he is!"

Ye_Xueer_is_the_cutest: "Brother, there are some things that you can't change. You can do this! Start practicing your archery skills now. You'll soon become an Archery Master!"

Crayon_Shinchan replied to Ye_Xueer_is_the_cutest: "Predestined Archery Master? (This is hilarious.)"

Ye_Xueer_is_the_cutest replied to Crayon_Shinchan: "Are you guys from Great Dragon Guilt trying to pick a fight?"

Crayon_Shinchan replied to Ye_Xueer_is_the_cutest: "We don't have the audacity to do that. You guys have the Predestined Archery Master on your side. We're afraid to be shot in the head. (This is hilarious.)"

Looking at the comments under the live stream, Ye Chen grew more distressed.

Remembering how he used to be a simple and ruthless berserker, he regretted not cherishing that character while he could and made a bad decision to join the trial.

He grew even more bitter when he realized that he was actually the champion.

Chapter 46: The War Is Coming

At Liuli District.

On the Skeletal Throne, Cha Na looked at the mountains in the north with a gloomy expression as he slowly clenched his fists.

Never had he foreseen that Du Yan would betray him, but he was more upset by the fact that Du Yan had stolen all his Yin souls.

He was in a tight spot right now.

First of all, he had promised to offer 100,000 Yin souls to the Sea King as sacrifice. Besides, his ability was supposed to surpass the realm of the Ghost King and this batch of Yin souls was one of the keys to his breakthrough.

However, he had lost all of them now.

He recalled the news from his envoy, saying that Du Yan had sought refuge from the Rock Ghost King by offering all his Yin souls. Cha Na's eyes turned fiery.

Both the Sea King and the Rock Ghost King were more powerful than him. The breakthrough that he was initially confident about had been hindered, and Cha Na was completely lost.

"Lord Cha Na, since it is unsafe for Liuli District to be in the middle, why don't we move our base camp and seek shelter at the Mansion of the Dead? We can then deliberate over the issue after you break through the realm of the Ghost King."

Cha Na was astounded by the proposal. After some contemplation, he reckoned that the idea was feasible.

Although, the Mansion of the Dead was not rich in resources like Liuli District, it was a place far from the Underworld Sea. He believed that the Sea King would not travel from Liuli District to the Mansion of the Dead to retrieve the 200,000 Yin souls from him.

The next second, Cha Na unexpectedly put on a frown, “What about the Pool of Yin Souls in Liuli District? We can’t just desert it like that!”

The Pool of Yin souls was the Yin souls’ birthplace which had been always under Du Yan’s care before this. The Yin souls that were produced internally every year were essential for Cha Na’s cultivation. Therefore, he was reluctant to abandon it.

Upon listening to that, the soulbringer heaved a sigh, “Lord Cha Na, we don’t have time to think about that now. You can only gain a voice in the Land of Beiqi after you surpass the realm of the Ghost King. Otherwise, we’ll face a terrible consequence when the Sea King comes after us to request the promised Yin souls!”

The soulbringer’s words awakened Cha Na. At last, he grit his teeth and said, “Pass down my command. Pack as many supplies as possible and we’ll leave for the Mansion of the Dead in ten days!”

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The next day after the introduction of Sun Chasing Archer, the hidden character class, many NPCs appeared around the Mansion of the Dead.

These additional NPCs were created by Lu Wu to enrich the gameplay.

Among them, the most popular ones were the chubby chef of the dark cuisine and the old man with a goatee who taught players to brew potions out of various herbs.

The debut of the chubby chef was especially well-liked among the players as they were now able to experience tastes in the underworld like never before.

Although some players were poisoned to death by the dark cuisine after they tried to cook it with poisonous ingredients from the underworld, it was not a big deal to the gluttons.

Some players with unique palates even brought corpses of wolves and elephants to the chef. The presence of the chef was undeniably the biggest welfare for the foodies in the game.

Owing to the advent of the chubby chef, the players also gained a new hobby to search for edible ingredients, regardless of whether they were poisonous or not. Before the 12-hour game ended, they would make food with the ingredients and gobble it down.

As the game was extremely lifelike, eating in the underworld was very realistic, absolutely intriguing the players.

Players who had shrewd business acumen immediately started many cooking live streaming channels.

A foodaholic player in the forum even wrote a book called “The Record of Dark Cuisine” after he experienced innumerable deaths by tasting a plethora of poisonous menus.

It described the ingredients that could be found in the area near the Mansion of the Dead. Besides, it taught its readers ways to match the ingredients for the chubby chef to prepare delicious dishes.

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The most popular NPC was none other than Lu Mo, the leader of the newbie village.

Lu Mo was the first NPC every player would meet. He would brief the players about the thrilling and fascinating underworld that was awaiting to be explored.

In short, Lu Mo simplified the underworld and made it accessible to new players.

Moreover, Lu Mo was set to carry an amicable persona. He would often engage in heartfelt conversations with the players and listen to their concerns and worries. For the players, he was perceived as a friend rather than a virtual existence. Hence, Lu Mo was undeniably the most popular NPC in the game.

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On this day, Lu Wu received a call from Wu Guoyi, telling him that the selection, that had been going on for a month, had finally ended.

Just like what the players predicted, Battle Online, among all the other games, had earned the most number of votes.

The dark horse had surprised many people this time. However, after the public experienced the game, their astonishment turned into awe and praise.

Even Li Tianxia was unreservedly captivated after he tested the game. Subsequently, he became the vice chairman of the Avengers, one of the major forces in the game.

After the result of the selection was announced, Wu Guoyi discussed with Lu Wu over the phone, hoping that Lu Wu could start to work on the theme song of the game. According to Wu Guoyi, Lu Wu was welcomed to ask for Wu Guoyi’s help if he encountered any problems.

Consequently, Lu Wu began to deliberate over the theme song.

However, he was distressed, undecided over the singer and the production of the song.

He reached out to Bei Li expectantly, hoping that she would lend a helping hand.

However, Bei Li responded with a scoff, looking at him as though he was a fool.

“I only know how to do research. I don't know how to sing and compose a song!”

Lu Wu, who was left with no other options, passed the problem back to Wu Guoyi.

Wu Guoyi did not mind at all and accepted the challenge immediately. In the meantime, he offered to introduce a few celebrities for auditions. As for the theme song of the game, he planned to hire a professional composers to produce it.

However, he would certainly not let Wu Guoyi bear the cost.

Now that the game was on the right track, there would be many ways to earn money. Lu Wu intended to create more outfits for the characters in the game.

The different outfits would not enhance the player's abilities. Although they could only beautify the players' appearances, he reckoned that there would be many players who would willingly spend money to upgrade their look. This was also the only thing that the players could buy with their credits in the game.

As the popularity of Battle Online expanded on Platform173, the people who were in charge of the other gaming platforms grew more perturbed.

With strenuous effort, they blended into the employees of Platform173 and successfully obtained Lu Wu's contact information.

On a daily basis, Lu Wuyi received dozens of phone calls from other gaming platforms, hoping to invite him to join in cooperative advertising. They were very keen to list Battle Online on their platform.

Lu Wu declined the offers without hesitation.

Of course, Lu Wu did not reject them thoroughly. After all, he had an agreement with Wu Guoyi that Platform173 would provide a two-month exclusive advertisement for Battle Online.

Wu Guoyi had done great help to him and Lu Wu could not break his promise.

Two months later, Battle Online would have to build its own brand.

