

## The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 61

he opening of the new expansion pack had made all the players feel excited again. Hence, shortly after the maintenance period, a large number of players poured into the game.

Upon entering the game, the players' vision moved to the new CG trailer associated with the expansion pack.

The sight of the words 'Ferocious Waves' appeared to them in dark blue characters. Thereafter, the scene switched from Liuli District to the Mansion of the Dead to the sky above the Underworld Sea.

The graphics kept on changing, showing seabirds singing in the sky as fish leapt out of the water from time to time, creating splashing waves of white amongst the blue. Everything seemed extremely pleasant and peaceful.

At this time, the words 'Void Ocean' emerged, followed by a huge black warship that broke through the words to land heavily on the surface of the sea, setting off a huge wave as it did so.

As the warship appeared, the sky flashed and thundered while the wind picked up to form a hurricane. Countless sea monsters emerged from the sea, roaring in the direction of the warship as they swarmed toward it.

Surrounded by the sea monsters, the warship looked like it was about to be torn into pieces at any time.

"Roar!"

At that moment, a loud roar resounded from within the warship, overpowering the roars of the sea monsters. With that, a huge phantom of an eight-clawed monster appeared above the warship.

"Moira! It's all up to you now!" at the foredeck, a man clad in black robes waved and pointed at the densely packed monsters at sea.

The huge monster called Moira turned and looked at the black-robed man, then its twinkling scarlet eyes blinked as if to answer the man. Subsequently, it broke away from the ship to pounce toward the sea monsters.

The moment Moira came in contact with the sea, a huge vortex suddenly appeared on the sea's surface. Almost immediately, the surrounding sea monsters were pulled into it and torn into pieces.

After tearing apart all the sea monsters, Moira waved its eight claws as it let out a loud roar to the sky before floating back onto the warship in phantom form and slowly fading away.

At this moment, the black-robed man came to the edge of the boat and leaned against the railing. He looked at the sea that had been dyed red from blood and smiled.

“Moira! Time to eat!”

As soon as he finished his sentence, the scarlet color in the sea visibly faded whereas the hull of the ship began to shine with a dark red light. Vaguely, a slowly wriggling on the surface of the hull could be seen, as if this was not a warship at all, but a living monster.

Thereafter, the graphics slowly dimmed while a row of introductory data emerged.

[Moira Level 13 (Calamity Specter Warship)]: Top-level Warship Moira bred through ingestion of a large number of sea creatures' blood and spiritual materials!

Attribute Introduction: Hull Hardness Level 14; Navigation Speed Level 12 (A total of 24 levels from low to high)

Abilities Introduction: Wrath of Moira; Armored Impact; Sea Spirit's Blessing; Bloodlust (Special Passive Skill)

[Wrath of Moira]: Summons the spirit of Warship Moira for 30 minutes. The cooldown period is one day.

[Armored Impact]: Speed is increased by 100% in one minute while hull hardness is increased by two levels. The cooldown period is six hours.

[Sea Spirit's Blessing]: With the blessing of the sea, navigation speed is increased by 30% for three hours. The cooldown period is one day.

[Bloodlust (special passive skill)]: Under the cultivation of the captain, Moira obtains a new evolutionary direction. Besides being able to evolve through ingestion of spiritual materials, it also acquires the special ability to ingest the blood of sea creatures for evolution.

Overall Evaluation: A Disaster Level Warship with Bloodlust as its evolutionary direction.

As the data slowly disappeared, a line of words emerged again at the end of the graphics.

[Would you like to own such a warship, named and cultivated by yourself? Then, the sea is your ideal choice!]

Upon watching this CG trailer, the players burst into rapid discussion on the forum once again as lines of comments flew through the CG continuously.

“How should I cultivate to get a warship like Moira? I really want it!”

“Damn, different cultivation methods induce different abilities! How challenging! What should we do if we cultivate a weak warship?”

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“In reply to the one above, only the weak will cultivate a weak warship. My warship will definitely be the strongest! Roar~”

“I’m selling myself for a sugar mommy, I want to cultivate a ship.”

“I have decided on a name for my ship, I will call it the Golden Meryl!”

“Can the one upstairs shut up? That’s my boat! Put it down! No one is allowed to take this name before I collect enough soul coins to build the Golden Meryl. This wand will only give warning once!”

“All I want is Moira, already in tears!”

“Slams the table, do you all even have enough soul coins? What are you arguing about without soul coins? Even though I too want Moira! Cry!”

“I want to cultivate a warship with an invincible defense. The name is already decided, it shall be called Invincible. I’m already in a fantasy and I can’t extricate myself. My heart is full of anticipation!”

“Looking at the surging waves on the CG, I wanted to recite poems for everyone, but I am uncultured, so I can only say, damn the waves are so big!”

“Good poem up there, I’ll give you a thumbs up”

“Oh sea, you are all water!”

“Shut up, the one upstairs! You’re even more uncultured.”

“I feel as though the price of materials is going to increase. Players should go to the auction house quickly to buy spiritual materials. The price is definitely going to skyrocket!”

“It’s time to hoard lots of materials and make a fortune. We just need to wait for the filthy rich to buy at a high price.”

“Fuck, why did you guys say that out loud, don’t you know how to keep quiet when making a fortune? (Angry)”

“We’re still short of three people to make up a ten person group. Come on, anyone with soul coins and a good character. Each of us will pay 20 soul coins. Let’s set sail first! As for the name of the ship, we can discuss it! In addition to that, our captain is a beauty~ The ownership of the ship also has to be given to the captain.”

After seeing the contents of the CG, the players began having a heated discussion on the cultivation methods and the names to be given to their respective Specter Ships.

The opening of the new expansion pack could only be considered as a brand new experience for the players, making them look forward to the follow-up of the game.

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The death of Cha Na’s army during the Christmas battle had made Lu Wu a fortune of soul coins.

In collecting enough soul coins, the material storage room and the equipment depot of the Mansion of the Dead had been built during the maintenance period.

As for the Specter Ship that was seen by the players, it was originally a blueprint from the weaponry room that had been researched and digitized by the omnipotent Bei Li.

It was seemingly Lu Wu’s intention to open the main quest from both sides at the same time.

After all, besides the Rock Ghost King, the Sea King was also an overlord that was a big headache for Lu Wu.

With the threat of the Sea King, the players were not safe in Liuli District, so Lu Wu simply allowed the players to start the ocean development route in advance. When the players became stronger, then there would naturally be no reason to fear the Sea King.

At the same time, Lu Wu also set up a portal between the Mansion of the Dead and Liuli District so that it would be more convenient for the players to go back and forth.

In the shop, there were also many new things besides the most important specter ship.

Such as fishing tackle, bait, and so on.

The emergence of such things excited some players in the game because they had learned from the expansion pack on the official website that the Spiritual Fish of the Underworld Sea were all gems.

It was also because of the emergence of these new items that there was a new category of life players who would make a living with this in the game.

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After logging on to the game, all the players walked out of the Mansion of the Dead in surges as they headed toward the Underworld Sea region.

This could only be attributed to the anticipation created inside the players' hearts from the update notice and expansion pack that described and illustrated the Underworld Sea region.

Meanwhile, on the official website's livestream platform, the number of viewers on one of the livestream channels was growing rapidly, catching the attention and curiosity of Lu Wu.

“Build your personal raft, become a fisherman, labor for soul coins to buy a ship!”

On the channel, two players relying on the resources from the beach were making a tutorial on how to build a raft, teaching players in extreme detail the method to do so. Since most players could not afford to buy Specter Ships, a lot of them were actually learning and observing very earnestly.

By chopping down trees to form suitably sized wooden columns and using vines to replace rope in tying the wood together, these two players had built a simple raft within the span of three hours.

Looking at their finished product, the two players smiled.

“Everyone, now that the first step of laboring for money in order to buy a Specter Ship is done, let's head out to sea!”

Thereafter, these two players spent 10 soul coins on buying fishing equipment and bait before pushing their raft off to the Underworld Sea, using wooden oars to paddle them toward the high seas.

From the comments:

“It looks so crude... why do I get the feeling that this raft will probably fall apart with a single wave?”

“My two brothers, I hope your fishing endeavor end up favorably, and that you end up earning enough soul coins to buy a Specter Ship. Let's work for it together!”

“Hope you get a good harvest! If you guys fish up a Spiritual Fish, I'll buy it!”

“To be honest, rather than use this kind of raft, wouldn't it be easier to just go diving. I mean, you wouldn't even need fishing equipment like that, it saves money (funny)”

“What do you do if you meet a monster at sea? (frightened)”

“I have a deep fear of the sea and there's actually monsters in this one, I will not set sail unless it's in a ship! Over my dead body!”

With the well-wishes of the other players, the two players paddled their way out to sea.

An hour or so later, land had already faded away from sight and was hardly visible. The two players then stopped paddling and took out their equipment to begin fishing.

As time passed, the creel on the players' raft began filling up with fish. Yet, although these two players were very experienced at fishing at sea, they seemed to not have the luck to match it. They had spent around two hours fishing, but they had not caught a single Spiritual Fish.

At this moment, the fishing rod began shaking again, and the player, Ba Mu's face lit up with eagerness, his hand slowly reeling in the line.

However, this time, he did not reel it in as smoothly as he did the past few times. It seemed as though the fish that had been hooked was especially vicious and was violently struggling to get away with surprisingly enormous strength.

The situation made many watching players realize that this was probably the moment they had been waiting for.

At the same time, Ba Mu's face was also shining with glee, but his glee soon turned to anxiety as he realized that this fish was just too strong and no matter how hard he was tugging and pulling, he could not reel in the fish. At this point, the raft had also begun to move further toward the ocean with increasing speed because of the force exerted by the fish.

“Bro, help me out here, we've got a big one!” faced with such a tough struggle, Ba Mu could hardly hold on any longer and was quick to seek help from his companion.

Subsequently, the both of them began pulling together, holding on to the fishing rod stubbornly as they leaned backwards, locked in a battle of strength with the fish.

From the comments:

“Wow, a live version of the old man and the sea.”

“You've definitely caught a shark this time!!!”

“If you all continue moving like this, I’m afraid you won’t be able to find your way back, brother!”

“Hang in there, work for that Specter Ship! Imagine the wondrous future, just hang in there!”

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“Maybe it’s a small-sized sea monster (funny)”

“I bet it’s a Spiritual Fish!”

It was quite obvious that Ba Mu and his little companion were just no match for the creature at the bottom of the sea. At this point in time, their faces were already red from their efforts and their hands that were holding the fishing rod were also trembling.

Hence, Ba Mu grit his teeth and simply spent two soul coins at the shop to buy two bottles of endurance tonic in recognition of the situation they were in. Taking turns to gulp down the tonic, they then continued their battle of strength.

Both of them felt somewhat better after taking the tonic, but the battle of strength had no end in sight and they were now floating further and further away from land. In fact, they could no longer see any land at all. All they had now were directions on the map and even so, they were still very confused as to where they currently were.

This battle of strength lasted a full five hours. Most of the watching players who went off for a meal had come back only to see that these two people were still trying to reel in the fish.

Just as the two players were on the edge of giving up, the force pulling on the fishing rod was suddenly released, making them almost fall backward into the sea.

While the two players blustered in confusion as to what had just happened, a large red fish broke through the ocean’s surface and leapt up, splashing waves that glittered colorfully under the sunlight before diving back in.

The two of them hurried to pull on the fishing rod again as both their faces lit up in joy.

This was because in the instant that the fish had leapt out of the water, they had seen the attributes of this fish.

[Hawthorn Fish (Sea Spirit level)]: Sea Spirit level fish with gentle qualities, earns 10 to 30 additional points of related attributes after ingestion, also provides a small probability of oceanic capability comprehension

(Note: option to sell to shop for 200 soul coins)

In the comments:

“Damn, you’ve struck gold, you’ve hit the jackpot!”

“Well I’ll be damned, you guys actually reeled in a Sea Spirit level fish. Thankfully, it’s gentle, otherwise you guys wouldn’t have been able to defeat it! (funny)”

“What’s that note underneath the attribute section? Option to sell to shop? I fucking regret selling my Netherworld Pearl to the shop, I mean, the selling price for it on the market now is 150 soul coins!!!”

“I agree, I didn’t know it before but selling to the shop is a great loss.”

“I’ll buy this fish for 250! Sell it to me! Sell it to me!”

“I’ll have it for 300!”

“Sell it to our Myth Guild, our chairman has soul coins, but we can buy it with cash. You name the price.”

The comment area suddenly burst with discussion at the sight of a Sea Spirit level Spiritual Fish and there were already offers for purchase and negotiation. Seeing this, Ba Mu and his companion were once again filled with determination to reel in this Hawthorn Fish.

Although it was of a gentle nature, the Sea Spirit level Hawthorn Fish was extremely strong and it was still very hard for the two of them to handle it.

Yet as time began to pass, the Hawthorn Fish’s energy started depleting and the raft that was being pulled on slowed down as the resistance to the fishing rod reduced as well. Noting the change, hope was reignited within the both of them and they hastened to pull on the fishing rod, wanting to bring the Hawthorn Fish onboard the raft.

Just as they expected, there were only a few bursts of resistance when they reeled it in as the Hawthorn Fish had already expended all its energy struggling to swim away.

With victory so close in sight, Ba Mu and his companion both smiled.

However, exactly as the Hawthorn Fish was about to be pulled out the water, a dark shadow of something about a thousand meters wide appeared beneath the raft.

As this gigantic shadow floated upward rapidly on the livestream, all of the watching players held their breaths.

When the Hawthorn Fish finally broke the water’s surface, large jaws appeared from the depths of the water to swallow both the raft and the Hawthorn Fish whole.



Immediately, the two players grappled around unsteadily, but as a wholly dominant energy surrounded them, their bodies were instantaneously ripped apart.

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Now, the players, who were watching the live stream, could finally see the true face of the creature.

Its head, that was exposed above the water, was over a kilometer wide. Similar to a tiger's head, there was a red king-like character blazing on the center of its head. Light gleamed on the brown-colored scales on part of its body that was seen above the water.

The players could feel its overbearing aura even through the live stream.

As the giant beast dove into the water, a message popped up.

[Taowu (Overlord of the Void Ocean): The supreme king of the ocean who has ruled the Void Ocean for tens of thousands of years. Its ability has reached the level of an Ocean Spirit!]

Specific information: ? (Unidentifiable!)

In the comment section:

“Wow~ They caught an Ocean Spirit of the highest level...”

“Damn, it's so huge! This creature is gigantic. I reckon a creature as big as this can swallow a dozen Cha Nas in one gulp!”

“I'm terrified!”

“Well, I'll be damned! What kind of creature is this? It's at least 10,000 meters long! This is so horrifying!”

“Damn. I once secretly wished to get lucky and catch a Spiritual Fish of the Ocean Spirit level, thinking that I'd make a fortune from it. But, can I fucking catch this? I'm speechless.”

“You can certainly catch it. Why not? Didn't you see how our two little friends successfully caught it? Although they did pay a huge price for it (this is hilarious).”

“So this is the level of an Ocean Spirit... I'm so scared!”

“I'm dumbstruck. If this Ocean Spirit was caught, I reckon that even a warship like Moira would be defeated immediately!”

“The brothers were abundantly lucky. They met the most powerful one in the Void Ocean the first time they sailed. It’s such a waste that the Hawthorn Fish is gone. They are now finished alongside the boat!”

“Damn. Can you not compare a vicious beast of this level with Cha Na? It’s too ferocious!”

“Oh my god. For a second, I thought that I was watching a disaster film about a giant beast... no one could beat the luck of these two men. It was a Spiritual Sea Fish. Then, it upgraded to the supreme Ocean Spirit. That’s so scary!”

“Ding~ Congratulations to the two brothers. You have successfully become the fisher of the Ocean Spirit. Congratulations!”

“This is the Overlord of the Void Ocean? The Sea King’s boss? Wow. It’s so difficult to conquer the water!”

“I accept the challenge. My Naraka Warship has already aimed its main cannon at it!”

“It’s just an Ocean Spirit. Believe it or not? I can fight a round with him!”

“I believe that you’ll be eaten within one round? (hilarious)”

“I think that the Hawthorn Fish probably attracted Taowu’s attention. Perhaps, it was too hungry and conveniently swallowed the brothers, too. They were really lucky.”

All the players, who were watching the live stream, were startled when the live streaming channel blacked out.

The size of the Taowu was sufficient to distress a person immensely, not to mention that it had not shown its ability yet. All the players felt that they were no match for this powerful overlord of the ocean.

However, challenges were supposed to act as motivations. After a heated debate, the players vowed to take down the strong rival and share the Spiritual Meat of the Ocean Spirit with one another.

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Even Lu Wu and Bei Li were extremely shocked by Taowu’s advent.

One could only explain this as a coincidence when the overlord, who spent most of its days resting at the bottom of the Void Ocean, would unexpectedly appear at the surface of the sea to hunt for fish. It even ate the two fishermen who really had terrific luck.

Before long, a message was published in the forum. The audience quickly crowded around.

“What happened? Where is my Spiritual Sea Fish? I am confused!”

Watermelon\_Taro: “I’m taking up the front row! By the way, congratulations on catching an Ocean Spirit!”

Ba Mu replied to Watermelon\_Taro: “I’m asking about the Spiritual Sea Fish. Don’t talk nonsense!”

Watermelon\_Taro replied to Ba Mu: “I saved the video of your live stream. You should have a look! (hilarious) — Video Attachment”

Strike\_Gold: “Whoops! Congratulations, brother! You’ve successfully shown us Taowu’s charm! He’s so charming!”

Crayon\_Shinchan: “Bro, do you want to take revenge? (hilarious)”

Xueli\_The\_Strongest: “Is that the original poster? Hugs~ The Hawthorn Fish is currently in Taowu’s stomach.”

Invincible\_Loneliness: “Many of my guild members told me to watch your live stream just now. They said there were great deals, asking me to purchase them. But, I was speechless the moment I entered the live streaming channel and saw the scene!”

Cultivating\_Longevity: “Taowu? The vicious beast is so scary. I predict that it is not far from becoming a god.”

Ye\_Chen\_The\_Most\_Handsome: “Can I kill it with a single arrow?”

A\_Mammoth replied to Ye\_Chen\_The\_Most\_Handsome: “Of course! Brother Ye Chen is always the strongest man!”

Xueli\_The\_Strongest replied to Ye\_Chen\_The\_Most\_Handsome: “Of course you can! Our big brother, Ye Chen, is a headwind artifact. One Taowu is nothing. For him, two Taowus are only worth one arrow!”

Assassin\_Creed replied to Ye\_Chen\_The\_Most\_Handsome: “Brother Ye’s arrows are unstoppable. Be it Taowu or the Ocean Spirit, he can kill them with a single arrow. He can even puncture the heaven vault and bring down the sun to make it into a ball!”

Crayon\_Shinchan replied to Ye\_Chen\_The\_Most\_Handsome: “Brother Ye, you’ve been rather confident lately (hilarious). Also, @everyone: Promise me, let’s not be an obsequious dog, okay? (hilarious)”

Crayon\_Shinchan @everyone: “But first, let me pat the dogs who have just commented (hilarious)”

Ba Mu: “I’ve finished watching the video. What the hell! Taowu was too harsh. Give me back the Hawthorn Fish! (grief)”

After watching the synopsis of the video, many players, who missed the live stream, were stunned, too. The players started to discuss enthusiastically about Taowu’s strength in the forum.

However, the players’ astonishment did not die down. Three hours later, Ba Mu respawned at the Mansion of the Dead and logged into the game again. Following that, he created another post in the forum.

The post immediately caused a tumult within the forum and attracted the attention of all the players.

“Hmm, when I was swallowed, I might have grabbed something by accident. It seems to be something amazeballs. Let’s take a look at this! This is its first appearance. We should evaluate it and guess its price!”

A picture was attached to the post. A light blue spine, which was about the length of an arm, appeared before the players’ eyes, coupled with a screenshot of its attributes.

[Demonic Dragon Skeleton (fragment): The skeleton of a Demonic Dragon, a vicious beast from the ocean of a Sky Spirit level. It can be used to make Purple Weaponry and Armor.]

(It can be sold in the shop in exchange for 800 soul coins!)

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The players were envious of Ba Mu to be able to obtain such a treasure from the ocean even after his death.

As a result, the players became more avid to explore the Void Ocean.

There was even a phrase going around the forum:

“Do you want treasure? Then, set sail!”

Within a few days’ time, there were a hundred warships from the guilds, while the number of the minor Specter Ships had reached tens of thousands. The navy of the Beiqi Army had gradually taken its form.

On this day, Battle Online posted another notice on its official website, attracting the attention of all the players.

[Notice of the New Year's Countdown Event]:

Thanks for the players' constant support to our game. In conjunction with the celebration of a new year, we will launch a special event. Players with outstanding performances throughout the event will earn special rewards.

Throughout the three days of the event, all players will earn 10% extra from defeating monsters. The event consists of three activities...

First activity: New Year's Countdown Fishing Competition (Day One)

This event will begin on the night of New Year's Eve. Players can look for the Sea Navigator on the coast of Liuli District to register for the event beforehand. After the event has officially started, players will earn points for every fish they catch, while the score is dependent on the type of fish that is captured.

The first 1,000 players will win a Level 20 Red Weapon or armor (based on player's choice) of the player's respective character class. The top 100 players will be rewarded with 200 soul coins, while the top 10 players, 300 soul coins. The top three players will gain 500 soul coins. Last but not least, the winner will be rewarded with 1,000 soul coins and crowned with the event title, the New Year's Star.

The corresponding points for different fish types during the event:

Normal fish (1 point)

Fish of Spiritual Level (50 points)

Fish of Sea Spirit Level (500 points)

Fish of Spirit Channeling Level (4000 points)

Fish of Sky Spirit Level (80000 points)

Fish of Ocean Spirit Level fish (Immediate advancement to the Championship!)

Fish of special types (1000 – 80000 points)

The players were thrilled to learn about this event. Looking at the corresponding points for different fish types, the players could no longer stay cool.

Xueli\_The\_Strongest: "I'm clenching my fists. Developers, please come here and take this fishing rod. Show me how to catch Taowu of the Ocean Spirit level with this!"

Crayon\_Shinchan: "(covering my face) That's a little too much! You're even thinking about the Ocean Spirit already. If someone catches it, I'll eat shit on a live stream!"

Strike\_Gold: "For players like us, the Sea Spirit Level is already our limit. Even if we work as a team, the most we can handle is a fish of Spirit Channeling Level. But, are we supposed to sacrifice our life to catch this Ocean Spirit? (covering my face)"

Invincible\_Loneliness: "Hehe~ That's interesting. On the day of the event, I'll go fishing in the deep sea with my Black Pearl Warship~"

Watermelon\_Taro replied to Invincible\_Loneliness: "Boss, bring me along. I have neither a ship nor a warship. I'm afraid that I will never be able to catch anything by the shore!"

Cultivating\_Longevity: "I haven't gone fishing for at least sixty years. Hehe, how I miss it~"

Soda\_Water: "You're all finished. I'm going to bring out my grandfather, the fishing addict. He is a strong competitor!"

Crayon\_Shinchan replied to Soda\_Water: "What? Even your grandfather's joining, too? That's so cool!"

Soda\_Water replied to Crayon\_Shinchan: "Not only my grandfather, my parents love fishing as well. Our whole family shall fish together! (cool)"

Second activity: New Year's Treasure Hunt (Day Two)

Throughout the event, the New Year Certificate will auto-refresh every ten minutes at the Mansion of the Dead and Liuli District. All players can search for this certificate in these two areas during the event period. Players can redeem the rewards from the NPC Festive Messenger, with the certificate.

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List of rewards:

1 New Year Certificate: Ten bottles of Revive Potion

5 New Year Certificates: One random Level 30 Blue Weapon

20 New Year Certificates: One random Level 30 Red Weapon

50 New Year Certificates: One Level 50 Skill Book of corresponding character class

100 New Year Certificates: Event title, the New Year's Star

New Year's Star (Blue title): The movement speed of the player, who wears this title, will increase by 10%

300 New Year Certificates: Inheritance of Character Class (Ghost Monster)

Upon reading the summary of the second activity, the forum was once again full of discussions.

Strike\_Gold: "I'd like to know if the New Year Certificates can be traded. This is a very important question."

Invincible\_Loneliness: "If it can be traded, then on the day they release the New Year Certificates, I will be standing right next to the ambassador and buy them all in cash~"

Crayon\_Shinchan: "Horrible. Wealthy players are so presumptuous. Wait till I gather all 300 certificates to redeem the inheritance."

Xueli\_The\_Strongest: "I don't think it can be traded. It's time to depend solely on our luck. I, Xueli, am not asking for much. I only want the title of the New Year's Star. Next time, I shall be called as Xueli\_The\_Fleet\_Footed!"

Ye\_Chen\_The\_Most\_Handsome: "Will this be predestined as well?"

Crayon\_Shinchan replied to Ye\_Chen\_The\_Most\_Handsome: "Please don't be predestined anymore. It's terrifying. You'll give us a very bad gaming experience!"

Ye\_Xueer\_is\_the\_cutest: "I've achieved class advancement to be the Cursed Apostle. So I'll just take the event title..."

Third activity: Sales at the shop (Day Three)

On the third day of the New Year's event, there'll be a 10% discount on all items in the shop. This event will last for an hour. Players are encouraged to make the most of the time to make their purchases.

The three activities were specially customized by Lu Wu for the players to celebrate the advent of a new year.

It was apparent that Lu Wu introduced the third activity to compensate the expenses.

The first two activities cost him greatly. On the third day, with a 10% discount, he expected a great number of players to hurry to purchase items. By then, he would be able to earn back the outlay.

After all, wool comes from the sheep's back!

As someone who held the highest authority, Lu Wu certainly understood the theory.

The introduction of the event hyped the players up. They were all enthusiastically planning out a strategy to rule the event. The forum, once again, went into a fever.

Xueli\_The\_Strongest: “10% discount! Hehe. I can finally build my cute little ship~”

Strike\_Gold: “I’m anticipating the event~ Brothers of the Great Dragon Guild, let’s all give our utmost effort during the event and get the first place!”

I\_Am\_Berserker: “The event sounds so interesting. But, where is our long-awaited top-up system? Who deleted the petition post? Come forward. Let’s see if I can twist your head off.”

Crayon\_Shinchan: “Oh yes! Now that I’m reminded, the top-up passage hasn’t been introduced. Are they planning to terminate this game? Is the boss trying to generate electricity with love? Is he going to pay us with love?”

A\_Mammoth: “Brothers, let’s create another post. We must tell them justly. We! Request! For! A! Top-up! System!”

Invincible\_Loneliness: “Agreed! How are we supposed to gain strength without the top-up system? It’s not right to do this for this game. You’re spoiling the market. What would the predecessors of the top-up passage think?”

Crayon\_Shinchan replied to Invincible\_Loneliness: “The predecessors would probably climb out from their tombs and thrash the boss of Battle Online. Explain to him what it means that we can only become stronger with the top-ups (hilarious)”

Lu Wu put on an indifferent smile as he read the comments. Then, he nonchalantly deleted the new post that was being upvoted uncontrollably!

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In the North Rocks area, within the depths of a dense forest, an ancient large tree twisted its body slowly, its branches swaying like snakes.

“Cha Na is dead? A new power within the Mansion of the Dead? Is this information reliable?” the ancient tree split open as a deep and solemn voice sounded from within.

“Lord Rock, I’ve already investigated. The information is true, and Liuli District has already been occupied by these new forces!” replied the steel zombie commander below.

“I’d already thought of him ending up destroyed in our initial discussion about the division of territory where we chose to hand Liuli District over to him, but I didn’t think



that he would have been defeated by a foreign force. I thought the Sea King would have been the one to end him instead. What a good-for-nothing!"

As the Rock Ghost King spoke, his body shook and the ground followed suit immediately as it began to tremble, making the soil below him fly up in different directions while his enormous body rose from the ground.

"Lord Rock, should we launch a war against the Mansion of the Dead? These foreigners of unknown origins are a tremendous threat!" asked the steel zombie commander instinctively.

"No. As you've said, this force is from an unknown origin. It's best if we don't brew conflict rashly so as to not let other forces reap the benefits of our fight."

"Then... then what if they attack us?"

Upon hearing this, the Rock Ghost King burst into laughter, his immense laughter shaking the surrounding trees. He cast his gaze on the steel zombie commander.

"I am not Cha Na. Besides, aside from those old corpses buried under the ground, who else has the confidence to fight my army of Tree Demons within my territory in the Land of Beiqi?!"

The Rock Ghost King seemed to have thought of something, and he looked at the steel zombie commander again.

"By the way, what is the situation of the Wood Spirit Clan?"

The steel zombie commander was taken aback, but then he immediately replied, "Stubborn. They still refuse to surrender to you, my Lord."

"My patience has run out. I have been very lenient towards the Wood Spirit Clan, but since they're so unwilling, let's just exterminate the entire clan!"

As the Rock Ghost King spoke, the trees in the entire forest began to twist and sway. From above, it almost looked as though demons and monsters were dancing riotously.

.....

Before the New Year's event began, the players still chose to prioritize leveling up by fighting monsters. After all, there was only a small amount of players who did have enough soul coins to build their own Specter Ship and set sail out to sea.

At that moment, a few hundred players had congregated outside the entrance of the Ghost Mountains, their expressions grave as they looked at the dozens of figures before them.

The figures being surrounded all had the appearance of the human race, moreover, they looked incredibly attractive. It could even be said that they had wholly conformed to the human race's standards of aesthetics.

However, the players knew that these people were not players of their own faction as they all had light green hair and dark green pupils. It was obvious that they were a foreign clan!

[Wood Spirit Clan]: A humanoid race masterful of the way of the Wood Spirit. Adults of the Wood Spirit Clan possess special abilities of growth, healing, divine protection, and so on.

"Wood Spirit Clan? Boss, should we kill them?" questioned a man with a wand in his hand.

The man who was called the boss did not reply, instead he looked at the members of the Wood Spirit Clan surrounding them and shouted loudly.

"Hey, what're you doing here at the Mansion of the Dead? Don't you know that this is the territory of the Beiqi Army?"

Upon hearing those words, the members of the Wood Spirit Clan who were initially unwavering in their determination to rebel like their lives depended on it all seemed startled.

A handsome man from the Wood Spirit Clan with a long bow on his back stepped out from the group. Sweeping his gaze across everyone at the scene, he then turned toward the leader of the Demolition Guild, Liu Chai.

"You say that you're the Beiqi Army?"

"Duh, if not us, then who else?! You?" Liu Chai glared at him.

"As far as I know, the Beiqi Army of the Lord King of Beiqi had already been scattered. How could the Beiqi Army possibly still exist?" the man from the Wood Spirit Clan appeared to be very astonished.

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"Millions of descendants of Beiqi exist, how could the Beiqi Army possibly collapse?"

Liu Chai glared at him again, "Speak up, what is your origin and why are you here? If it wasn't for your human appearance, my brothers and I would've cut you all down long ago!"

Upon hearing the threat of action in his words, the man panicked a little, “We are the Wood Spirit Clan, a medical clan appointed by the King of Beiqi.”

“Appointed by the King of Beiqi?” Liu Chai was a little confused.

Subsequently, the man from the Wood Spirit Clan explained how his clan had been cornered in the North Rocks area after the death of the King of Beiqi. When they vowed to die rather than surrender to the Rock Ghost King, their entire clan was eventually exterminated and only a few dozen people had managed to escape.

After listening to the man from the Wood Spirit Clan, all the players present were stunned.

“So they’re allies?”

“Could they have been sent by the Rock Ghost King to spy on us?”

“I still think we should be cautious, let’s kill them!”

“We don’t know if they’re trustworthy. Go ask an NPC, they ought to know.”

The players of the Demolition Guild immediately began to discuss heatedly.

“Everyone, be quiet. Although you say that you’re allies, I don’t believe it, so let’s do it this way. You can come with me to see the butler of the Mansion of the Dead. If he says it’s true, then you can stay in the Mansion of the Dead, if not, then hmm...”

“Butler of the Mansion of the Dead?” the man from the Wood Spirit Clan was startled again.

Having stayed in Beiqi for so many years, not only had they never met the force before their eyes, they were also oblivious to the fact that the Mansion of the Dead had a butler.

However, under the pressing circumstances, the man from the Wood Spirit Clan only looked at the meager remainder of his clansmen with a trace of sorrow in his eyes and chose to compromise.

As a result, the few dozen members of the Wood Spirit Clan had their weapons confiscated by the Demolition Guild as they were escorted to the heart of the Mansion of the Dead.

Naturally, Lu Wu was already aware of this situation and had already asked Bei Li about it.

However, Bei Li was also utterly surprised by the existence of the Wood Spirit Clan. In her opinion, the forces that were extremely loyal to the King of Beiqi should have already been wiped out by the rebels. She had never expected that the Wood Spirit Clan still exist.

“I think I know the reason, it might be the specialty of the Wood Spirit Clan!” after pondering for a while, Bei Li lifted her head to speak.

“Specialty?”

“Yes, the Wood Spirit Clan aren’t the same as the other battle-type clans. They have extremely weak fighting abilities, but they’re an auxiliary-type clan that possess healing and restoring abilities. Evidently, the Rock Ghost King plundered this clan, wanting to retrieve them for himself to improve the combat strength of his own forces, but he didn’t succeed!”

After Lu Wu found out that the Wood Spirit Clan was truly loyal and devoted, he gave the butler a new command prior to the arrival of the Demolition Guild and the others.

Upon arrival of the members of the Demolition Guild, they met with the butler whose gaze suddenly turned to the Wood Spirit Clan who were encircled in the center.

“You... you all are still alive!”

The Wood Spirit Clan was confused.

“It must truly be the blessing of the King of Beiqi. I never imagined that you would actually be able to survive the ambush of the rebels,” the butler’s eyes were brimming with tears as he spoke.

The Wood Spirit Clan was now even more confused.

At that moment, they were stupefied. Who in the world is this emotional old man before us? He acts as though he is very familiar with us!

## **The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 66**

After asking the butler, the players found out that the members of the Wood Spirit Clan were indeed allies.

This allowed the players to let their guard down, and they began to engage in small talk with the members of Wood Spirit Clan.

The Wood Spirit Clan was also curious about these players that called themselves the descendants of Beiqi and were very willing to talk to them.

However, the more they talked to them, the more confused the Wood Spirit Clan became. They almost thought that they had crossed over to the Mansion of the Dead in a different dimension.

This was because the Mansion of the Dead that the players spoke of was definitely not the Mansion of the Dead that they knew.

For example, according to the players, the King of Beiqi and the Black Dragon King had perished together. The Wood Spirit Clan only wound up even more confused as they did not even know who the Black Dragon King was, only that he seemed like a powerful person.

The Wood Spirit Clan was also extremely confused as to who Lu Mo and Fatty Chef were. As they took in bits and pieces of information, they started to have an existential crisis, wondering if the life they knew to be was fake. It was either that or the players themselves were fake.

However, the same thought occurred to all of the Wood Spirit Clan after they had heard how the players had united as one and killed Cha Na after a night of fighting.

These people are so good at bragging that they do not even blink when they do it!

The Wood Spirit Clan suspected that these players would continue bragging until the cows came home if they were not stopped.

In their opinion, although Cha Na was weaker than other Ghost Kings and Ghost Generals, he could not possibly have been as weak as described.

However, this doubt turned to shock when they saw Cha Na's decapitated head hanging on the wall of the Mansion of the Dead. They realized that these guys truly were strong.

The appearance of the Wood Spirit Clan was quickly revealed in the forum by the players, with many curious players from around the world flooding in just to catch a glimpse of the Wood Spirit Clan.

The players' friendliness had made the Wood Spirit Clan let their guard down, and they too began to mix around the players.

However, the players' enthusiasm had also made some maidens of the Wood Spirit Clan feel very uncomfortable as they felt that these players were approaching them with some sort of intention.

In the forum:

Kindred\_Spirit: "What a pretty and gentle girl from the Wood Spirit Clan, a thought suddenly appeared in my mind."

Assassin\_Creed replied to Kindred\_Spirit: "It is impossible, all the girls are very kind, don't even think about flirting with them."

Xueli\_The\_Strongest: "The guys of the Wood Spirit Clan are very handsome too, unfortunately I already have a boyfriend, so I can only enjoy some eye candy~"

Millenium\_Cold\_Iron: "I got injured when I leveled up at the Ghost Mountains, but then I met a girl from the Wood Spirit Clan who healed me, I feel like I have fallen in love (Embarrassed~)"

Cutie\_King\_Slime: "Sure enough, 2D beauties are the real beauties. My lonely soul burns, I want to reserve one in advance!"

Crayon\_Shinchan: "I seem to smell the stench of loneliness... (funny)"

Watermelon\_Taro replied Crayon\_Shinchan: "You're probably the most powerful troll in this forum! (funny)"

Crayon\_Shinchan replied to Watermelon\_Taro: "Hehe~ (funny)"

Pmurt: "Going out to sea to watch the sunrise and sunset with a girl of the Wood Spirit Clan, together in the beautiful sunset..."

Crayon\_Shinchan replied to Pmurt: "I suspect that there's an important message hidden in your ellipsis, I will report you first! (funny)"

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.....

Lu Wu welcomed the arrival of the Wood Spirit Clan and had further requested the butler to arrange an area between the Mansion of the Dead and Liuli District to become the new domain of the Wood Spirit Clan.

According to Bei Li, the Wood Spirit Clan were loyal to the King of Beiqi, and they had outstanding abilities that would allow them to play the roles of military doctors during battles, all of which could help the players.

The Wood Spirit Clan and the players had different thoughts on the history of Beiqi, so in order to be safe, Lu Wu had instructed the butler to bring the Wood Spirit Clan to the Mansion of the Dead. Using the excuse of having them swear their loyalty upon the statue of the King of Beiqi, Lu Wu had them read out the pledge of allegiance on the artifact prepared by Bei Li.

After the artifact had received the pledge of allegiance, the Wood Spirit Clan were then sent into the artifact for memory modification to become new NPCs.

Lu Wu did not care whether the players intended to flirt with the Wood Spirit Clan, as there was a set regulation in the game that only allowed players to be together if it was consensual.

This regulation, proposed by Lu Wu and set up by Bei Li, was initially set to protect the players. Later, protection for NPCs was added and players were then only allowed to have intimate contact if their intimacy levels had reached the score of 100.

Lu Wu also used the artifact to include the Wood Spirit Clan into the protection list, so the players were unable to cross the line unless everything was consensual.

During this period, the Wood Spirit Clan integrated into the crowd of players quickly. To them, the players were gifted combatants with special talents and were part of a secret force cultivated by the King of Beiqi.

However, the Wood Spirit Clan were stunned when the players showed them their gift of the undead for the first time.

These beings had the terrifying ability to return to normal within three hours even if they had died. The sheer knowledge of this shocked the Wood Spirit Clan to their core.

Now they knew how these people, who called themselves players, and the descendants of the King of Beiqi, had defeated Cha Na.

They also felt the absurd relief of having allied themselves with these players.

However, since the Underworld was enormous and mystical, they slowly got used to the idea of it after getting closer with the players. At the same time, they used their inherent talent and capabilities to become the players' medical aid station.

In the beginning, they felt panicked when players would come to them for help after getting poisoned or seriously injured, and they would give them emergency treatment. Yet after a while, the Wood Spirit Clan got used to it and became calmer, in fact, even calmer than the players themselves.

When they came across those who were seriously injured, they could even mention phrases that they had learned from the players.

"Bro, why are you scared? You'll be fine after three hours. Your injury is incurable, it's better to die earlier and return online earlier!"

"Ah, your injury is too troublesome, why don't you die first and empty your bed for the next person?"

“Hey bro, your injury is a little scary. Let’s not waste any more time, could you please die first?”

The changes in the Wood Spirit Clan stunned the players, but as a result, the cultural and societal gap between them had disappeared. Now, they would even mix around and chill with the players.

In addition, the Wood Spirit Clan had another ethnic characteristic, which was wine-making.

The wine produced by the Wood Spirit Clan tasted mellow and had the effect of regenerating vitality points. Moreover, it was not intoxicating at all. The players loved it very much and were often found trying to curry favor with the people of the Wood Spirit Clan in order to drink some wine.

After getting closer to the players, the people of the Wood Spirit Clan were inevitably affected as well. Occasionally, some internet slang would spill from their mouths, and these kinds of changes shocked Lu Wu. One’s environment truly does determine the character of a person.

Even the peaceful, easy-going and elegant Wood Spirit Clan were unable to escape the destiny of being badly influenced when they were together with the players.

The reputation of the Fourth Disaster was truly well-deserved!

## **The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 67**

New Year’s Eve.

Countless players walked out of the Mansion of the Dead in pairs toward the coast of the Underworld Sea in Liuli District.

That was where the activity would start.

With the arrival of dusk, the coast was seen to fill up with ships and rafts of various sizes while the shore was crowded with people.

The players rubbed their hands together, waiting for the activity to start. They were getting ready to compete with each other by sailing out to sea.

Lu Wu, who was already prepared beforehand then began to condense an enormous clock above the sea.

[The activity is about to start. Everyone, please get ready, any player that leaves the shore to enter the ocean before the activity starts will be deemed to have forfeited their competitive rights!]



Accompanying the countdown on the clock were countless brilliant fireworks that filled the air above the coastline, illuminating the sky.

Soon after, the sound of the countdown bell rang.

Dong! Dong!

Ten... Nine... Eight... Seven...

One!

At the end of the countdown, the game notification sounded again.

[The New Year's activity has officially started! This activity will last for six hours, all fish caught during this time guarantees an accumulated reward. The fishing contest begins!]

Gazing at the sky overflowing with fireworks, all the players cheered as they set sail with their mates, heading toward the direction of the brilliant moon hanging above the sea line.

The players who did not have guild warships or ships followed along, rowing their small rafts.

This activity relied mainly on the enthusiasm of the players because it really did not depend on how strong one's ability was, but how much luck that one had.

However, because many players had already seen the video of Ba Mu fishing, most of the players moved around in small squads. After all, if the Spiritual Fish was of a higher class, it would be harder to handle for one person. Furthermore, if there were more people, they could look after each other.

As for the players who had neither Specter Ships nor rafts, they fished around the shoreline. Even though the chances of getting a Spiritual Fish were lower, they decided to try their luck since this activity was based on luck. Maybe fishing near the shore would bring about a lavish reward.

Not only did the New Year's activity this time attract all the players, even the Wood Spirit Clan had rushed over due to curiosity.

They smiled widely as fireworks burst open in the skies and the cheers of the players rung in their ears.

To them, this was one of the celebration ceremonies for the players' culture, so they joined in curiously as well, looking at the players fishing. They were so enthusiastic that they even set up a barbecue, grilling fish for the players that were fishing.

As the first player caught a fish, the ranking board appeared as well. All the players could clearly see the translucent ranking board hanging on the upper right corner of their screen, stating their current ranking.

Below the ranking board was an activity chatroom, an area where the players could communicate with each other.

After about half an hour, a hundred Guild Level Specter Warships sailed into the Void Ocean. Once they entered this part of the ocean, they then went their separate ways, each choosing a different spot to start fishing.

At the same time, the ranking board was changing almost every second, the ranking of the players moving back and forth. At this stage, it was hard to tell who would be the winner.

.....

At the edge of a cliff along the coastline, a bald man held a fishing rod in his right hand and a bottle of Wood Spirit liquor from the Wood Spirit Clan in his left. He took a sip of the liquor every now and then lazily, but his piercing gaze remained on the water's surface.

Shi Hu was absolutely sure that he would not win any of the top spots in this fishing competition. After all, a boorish and unrefined person as himself had no knowledge about fishing. Moreover, he was clumsy when it came to fighting monsters to level up. He had entered this competition just for fun.

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That was why he had chosen not to work with a small team. Instead, he had found himself a remote cliff edge to casually fish upon while watching the moon and feeling the sea breeze.

As for the potential harvest, Shi Hu was still very excited about it.

He was excited to send the fish that he had caught to the shore for the brothers of the Wood Spirit Clan to cook scrumptiously and did not really care for the marks accumulated in the competition.

From his point of view, he was just as useless as a salted fish. Rankings and rewards did not exist for him! The most important thing was to wine and dine to his heart's content.

Shi Hu effortlessly excused his mentality by calling himself a player for life. All the fighting and killing was too bloody for him. In his mind, to live a life of ease and leisure was the real relish of being a human.

Drowned deep in his thoughts as the sea breeze swept across his face, Shi Hu fished calmly, not even the slightest bit as nervous as other players.

He had pretty good luck as he had already caught three marine fish, three Lischke, and a huge lobster within two hours.

The elated Shi Hu glanced at his creel, preparing to send his catch to the Wood Spirit Clan's barbecue stall after catching one more fish.

Subsequently, he cast his fishing rod and waited patiently again.

At that moment, the sound of the game notification could be heard, while a line of red-colored words appeared on the ranking board in the upper right corner.

[Congratulations to player Sun Qi who caught a Tiger Fish (Spiritual Sea level), obtained 500 points, currently placed second on the board!]

When the notification appeared, a picture appeared in the chatroom.

The picture was of a white puppy enthusiastically holding a fish bigger than the size of its own body in its jaws with a line of words below the picture.

"Sure enough, Gou Zi is the king of the game, obtaining a Spiritual Sea Fish, hehe, the Myth Guild blesses you!"

Shi Hu cast a brief look undisturbed, then went on to admire the moonlight.

[Congratulations to player Meng Shao Chun who caught a Blood Spirit fish (Spiritual Sea level), obtained 500 points, currently leaping to third place on the board!]

Another notification appeared, causing Shi Hu to sigh. He gazed at the ocean and nagged uncontrollably.

"Those with great luck like to show off all the time, while those who have bad luck can only look in their empty bags and weep. I curse all of the lucky ones and hope that they'll stay single for all of their lives!"

After speaking, Shi Hu felt his fishing rod quiver slightly. He realized that a fish had taken the bait and snapped out of his distracted mood as he started to reel in the fishing line.

It was just as he thought, the rod was easily lifted. Clearly, there was no good outcome.

Yet after Shi Hu lifted his fishing rod, his mind went blank for a moment. What kind of trick is this?

A weird-looking fish with the head of a dragon and the tail of a fish was hanging on the fishhook. He remained stunned for a while before he started using the Artifact to analyze.

After he saw the analyzed characteristics, Shi Hu widened his eyes as a notification was announced throughout the whole region.

[Congratulations to player Shi Hu who caught an extremely rare fish called Ao (Spiritual Sea level), obtained 1000 points, currently leaping to the first place on the board!]

[Ao (Spiritual Sea level)]:

Legend has it that during the olden times, the golden-colored and silver-colored carps wanted to jump over the dragon's gate to fly into the clouds and become dragons, but the moment that they jumped over the gate, it closed, so they could only have the head of a dragon with the tail of a fish. Thus, they were named Ao. Male Ao are golden-scaled and gourd-tailed while female Ao are silver-scaled and hibiscus-tailed. Always roaming the sea, this kind of fish is a branch of the offspring of Ao, and its blood is not pure.

(Note: This fish does not have the pure blood of an Ao, although it is listed as a rare fish, it will be divided into the Spiritual Sea level. After the conversion of the accumulated marks, it will be listed as the lowest type of rare marine species at 1000 points.)

Looking at the Ao in his hands, Shi Hu had a mental breakdown.

He had accidentally just levelled up as king of the game... Can I take back my words now...

## **The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 68**

Based on the occasional pulls, it seemed to be a rather weak Ao. Thus, Shi Hu appeared to be stunned.

As he glanced at the scoreboard, he realized that his name came in first place. The corners of his lips twitched as he recalled the curse earlier on. All of a sudden, he found the situation both funny and extremely embarrassing.

The moment Shi Hu caught Ao, numerous questions asking for the selling price started to arise in the event's chat box.

Yet, Shi Hu ignored them. Instead, he chucked the Ao into the creel. Then, he swiftly lifted the creel and headed toward the sandy shore.

For sale? He would not put it up for sale. Even though he did not consider himself realistically wealthy, he still owned and sublet more than ten houses. In other words, he was neither short of food nor clothing. Playing games was something he did just for fun, hence the issue of money never crossed his mind.

Thus, it turned out that the Sea Spirit Level fish was the first of its kind to be placed over the barbecue pit.

A few fellows from the Wood Spirit Clan were dumbfounded by Shi Hu's action of generously grilling such a premium-priced Spirit Fish. To them, this was a reckless waste of natural resources.

If it were up to them, they would have used it to make elixirs or rear the creature to see whether there was room for nurturing.

However, since Shi Hu was insistent, they did not speak any further.

In a flash, the sandy shore was filled with the meaty fragrance of Ao.

As he gazed at the spam questions asking for the selling price in the event's chat box, Shi Hu contemplated before chuckling. Then, he moved the cooked Ao which was skewered on a twig to the corner of his mouth and triggered a screenshot.

"Ka-cha."

Immediately, Shi Hu meanly uploaded the screenshot into the event's chat box.

"I heard that you guys are looking for this? Mmm~ It tastes quite good~"

After posting the photo, Shi Hu sat by the barbecue pit and savored his food while reading the replies of the enraged players in the chat box.

After munching for a bit, Shi Hu's eyes widened.

The Spirit Fish had a silky smooth and tender texture. When the shredded meat was broken into delicate strands at every bite, a rich flavorful fragrance would fill his palate. The aromatic scent was caused every inch of his body to relax.

This sort of intense experience on his taste buds bewildered Shi Hu.

He had never eaten anything as scrumptious as this. At the same time, he could not stop munching and it was not until he bit into the twig when he realized that his food was gone.

[Digested Ao, earned a free attribute of 15 points!]

When the game's prompt appeared, Shi Hu threw the twig aside and let out a breath of hot air. At that moment, his entire body loosened up and his desire for the Spirit Fish grew.

With an insatiable appetite, Shi Hu stood up and gazed at the girl from the Wood Spirit Clan before pointing at the creel,

“Miss, I'll gift this creel to you~ I shall continue fishing now.”

The girl from the Wood Spirit Clan was stunned as she nodded her head. She was still astonished as she found it hard to believe that the Sea Spirit Level Ao was gone just like that.

After consuming the Spirit Fish, Shi Hu was overcome by the pleasure on his taste buds which he knew he could never experience in real life.

There was no point in continuing his original plan of having a big seafood feast. This time around, he decided to return to the beach and try his luck. Who knows, today might be his lucky day.

.....

The fishing competition resumed with endless announcements popping up periodically, stimulating the desires of the players for the Spirit Fish.

Even if they could not catch a Spirit Fish, being short-listed would ensure the reward of an equipped weapon equivalent to the price of a standard Spirit Fish. All the players were hoping to be the lucky one.

The shores of Liuli District were scorching. Everyone was fixed on their fishing rods as they hoped that their next catch would be a Spirit Fish.

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Meanwhile, at the region of the Void Ocean, while there were plenty of fish in the sea, sea creatures would emerge from time to time.

Once a small sea creature is spotted, none of these large associations would hold back. Instead, they would immediately steer their Specter Warships and ram it!

The simple collision had no significant effect on Specter Warships as these battleships had self-healing powers.

Waves of small naval battles were taking place within the Void Ocean.

Even though the players were unfamiliar and untrained in naval battle, they continued to mess around in exhilaration together.

Some players even went to the extent of posting mischievous photos of fished up sea monsters on the activity chatbox. The festive atmosphere of the whole game was filled with joy.

Due to the overcrowded situation at the Wood Spirit Clan's barbecue stall by the shore, no room could be spared for the remaining players. Many players then cleverly improvised by setting up their own barbecue pits. Unfortunately, they were not as accommodative as the Wood Spirit Clan because they imposed fees and earned lots of soul coins through their services.

As long as the players had tasted the Spirit Fish, they would naturally be captivated by its excellent fragrance.

This experience was deeply relatable to Lu Wu. At this moment, he and Bei Li were observing the happenings in the game while feasting on a Spirit Fish that was left in a shop by a mindless player.

The Spirit Fish's acquired flavor was addictive to Lu Wu, not to mention the glutton Bei Li.

After devouring the entire Spirit Fish, there was no effect on Bei Li's face yet Lu Wu's face reddened. It felt as if a warm current was flowing through his body, causing him to fall into a relaxed state.

While rubbing his belly, Lu Wu was already mentally plotting the tactics of conning a few more Spirit Fishes from the players.

.....

The launching of this event ran smoothly. When the event came to an end, a bell was sounded off, ringing from the ears of the players as the jumping scoreboard came to a halt.

[The New Year's Fishing Competition has ended. The rankings are as follows]:

First place: Sang Yu

Second place: Shi Hu

Third place: Ye Jingjing

Fourth place: Sun Qi (Little White Dog)

Fifth place: Feng Xiaoxin

...

After the event had ended, all the ships and boats were on their return voyage.

Meanwhile, by the shore, countless players sat down together, sharing their rewards of the day while boasting to one another on what they had experienced at sea.

This was the first time for many people to spend a holiday in a game. They enjoyed this kind of atmosphere.

The relationship among themselves was complicated within the game. They could either be supportive comrades or notorious enemies or even a group of buddies who savored on delicacies by the beach.

This sincere attitude of treating one another with open-heartedness in the game by the beach was comforting, not to mention memorable as well.

Removing the superficial masks of reality may enhance the crudeness in them, but what was there to be afraid of?

With amplified voices, mouthfuls of liquor were gulped down as words were spoken freely under the moonlight. Standing before the campfire, a friendly challenge was held where everyone was to drink for each other. This sensation was amazing and truly enjoyable!

As the sea breeze fluttered, everyone drunkenly waited for the arrival of dawn in the dark night of New Year's Day!

## **The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 69**

On the second day, players who had taken their break offline went back online to start preparing themselves for the event of the second day.

As compared to the fishing competition, more people were looking forward to this event. Countless players were hovering between the Mansion of the Dead and Liuli District in search for their most suitable feng shui spot. Then, they waited quietly for the event to begin.

At 8pm, following the players' anticipation, the game's prompt appeared.

[The New Year's Day Treasure Hunt begins now and will last for six hours. The game credentials will be refreshed every ten minutes!]



At this very moment when the announcement was made, Lu Wu thought of something. Then, graceful and lithe figures which were clothed in traditional red dresses while carrying bamboo baskets started to appear above both the Mansion of the Dead and Liuli District.

Along with the official opening, these ladies began to waft around the air, simultaneously pulling out New Year's Day certificates which appeared like red envelopes unceasingly from their bamboo baskets, scattering them toward the ground.

All of a sudden, all the players surged and rushed toward the rain of red envelopes.

The value of New Year's Day certificates was clear-cut. It was as good as giving a free bonus to the players. Even if that person had picked up just one New Year's Day certificate, it would already be sufficient to exchange for ten potions.

The lucky red envelope rain persisted in both regions for about a full minute, covering a wide area. The players were simply ecstatic.

The most thrilling part of this event was the hidden character class. This opportunity was open to every player, and everyone was looking forward to being the lucky one.

.....

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

With the commencement of the game, Qi Ming, who was well-prepared way beforehand, pounded his staff on the ground. Dark fog tumbled on the ground as dozens of Yin soldiers emerged.

Then, with a change in Qi Ming's thoughts, the Yin soldiers rearranged themselves into a horizontal row, each three meters apart, before they began to advance.

Multitasking was simply easy for Qi Ming. So long as the red envelopes were found along their way, Qi Ming would command his Yin soldiers to collect them. In this manner, their speed of collection would be significantly faster than the other players.

Qi Ming's method quickly caught the attention of others.

A mage was extremely astonished when he saw how Qi Ming operated. He also summoned dozens of Yin soldiers to model after Qi Ming's method in collecting certificates.

However, no matter how hard he tried, these Yin soldiers appeared to be incapable of executing commands other than attack and defend.

"Damn, I'll report this!"

The indignant mage went behind Qi Ming to take a video of how he collected game certificates and posted it on the activity chatbox.

“I’m reporting this man for cheating! All of us had to go through the same compulsory education for nine years, so why is it that he can have such outstanding Yin soldiers!”

Many players became restless upon the sight of how Qi Ming collected all the red envelopes.

“Perhaps it’s like what you said, his Yin soldiers were educated, that’s why they are outstanding (comical!)”

“After watching the video, I tried it but my Yin soldiers were like broken off writing, totally unmanageable!”

“That’s multitasking. Do you know the ability to draw a circle with your left hand and square with your right concurrently? Some people are just gifted, you simply can’t compare!”

“True! So far, there are no cheaters in this game. Don’t you see that there are many honest players in this game?”

“This is so cool. Indeed, great people shall remain great wherever they go. There are more and more gods in the game!”

“A 100 meter long blanket search, this man is terrific. Look out for the one at the top of the list, it should be him!”

“Sure enough, it’s a cheater again. Here goes another suffocating operation, we mortal players just can’t hold a candle to that!”

.....

Just like what the players had said, Qi Ming had escalated to the top of the list within an hour with his super multitasking talent and was constantly widening the gap from his competitor which was ranked second on the list.

Unlike Qi Ming’s systematic and steady blanket-search strategy, other players’ games appeared to be a crazy, disorganized, and aimless wild chase.

Once again, the Wood Spirit Clan was confused upon seeing the sight.

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Based on what they could see, this race does indeed possess unique characteristics.

Yesterday's fishing was understandable, but what is going on with today's lunatic-like running on the mountain?

"Elder brother, are they all fools?" a little girl from the Wood Spirit Clan who seemed to be about seven or eight years old raised her head and asked her elder brother curiously.

This man from Wood Spirit Clan who was referred to as the elder brother patted his younger sister gently on her head,

"Mind your words, we have to respect the custom of other races!"

"Oh!" The little girl nodded, "Then I will go and play with them!"

The man's expression congealed upon hearing her, "No, do not play with the fools!"

The little girl was speechless.

.....

The treasure hunt event lasted for six hours. When the bell rang, some players yelled in excitement while some were dejected.

[The New Year's Day Treasure Hunt officially ends now. All players with game certificates please proceed to the Event Messenger Area to redeem your rewards. The certificate rankings are as follows]:

First place: Qi Ming (328 certificates)

Second place: Xueli (133 certificates)

Third place: Qi Wen Jiang (102 certificates)

Fourth place: Lu Shun (102 certificates)

Fifth place: Li Chu Xuan (101 certificates)

.....

With the powerful ability and talent of multitasking, Qi Ming surpassed everyone with his outstanding performance.

As the event ended, many players began to flock toward the Event Messenger Area based in the Mansion of the Dead. It was also a time for Lu Wu to give out a lot of things dear to him.

As expected by everyone, once the redemption activity began, Qi Ming redeemed the hidden character class (Ghost Monster).

[Congratulations to Qi Ming for successfully redeeming the highest reward of this event, the hidden character class, Ghost Monster]

Amidst the envy and praises from other players, Qi Ming felt a surge of power flowing through his body. A string of data appeared in front of him.

[Ghost Monster]:

Character class background: After 10,000 years, the most powerful ghost bred in the Ghost Mountains formed the spiritual body of the Ghost Monster. It used to be the strongest overlord of the Ghost Mountains. After its voluntary allegiance to the King of Beiqi, it died in the Battle of the Abyss and was sent to the Spirit Summoning Palace by its descendants for worshipping.

Character class abilities: Spirit Summoning, Strength of Ghost Monster, Destruction

[Spirit Summoning]: Summon all kinds of ghosts for its use. The quantity and strength of ghosts summoned increases with the character level.

[Strength of Ghost Monster]: A 200% increment in strength attributes when used. All damage from carrying Strength of Ghost Monster will last for ten minutes. It has a cooling period of four hours.

[Destruction]: Stimulate the use of Strength of Ghost Monster for a wider damage range. After the activation, the character's body will explode within five seconds for a damage range of 100 meters. The intensity of the damage decreases according to the distance from the character.

Seeing that he finally possessed the inheritance, Qi Ming revealed a smile on his face.

After so many years of hard work, it was the first time he thought that it was just an easy task to possess the inheritance.

But when he saw the third ability of the inheritance of Ghost Monster, Qi Ming was stunned.

Isn't that a suicide attack? It doesn't really match my identity!

## **The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 70**

The third day of the new year was finally the day when Lu Wu would regain what he had given.

Just as he had expected, as a result of the once in a blue moon full discount, tons of players who had been reluctant at first had all relentlessly changed their equipment or bought whatever they needed.

Lu Wu's soul coins were finally back to their original amount.

This time the New Year's Day event had brought great enjoyment to the players and thus it created a great deal of feedback as well.

Though due to players' crave for top-ups, Lu Wu finally answered their calls in the forum and got ready to open up the top-up portal.

[Update preview. This update will open the top-up portal. All top-ups ratio will be 1 dollar : 1 dragon coin. All dragon coins can be used to buy beautiful outfits after the upcoming Fashion Auction Event!]

Fashion Auction: Three sets of fashion outfits will be presented for the auction every week using dragon coins as the bidding currency. Each outfit for each auction is limited to only 1,000 sets.

Invincible Loneliness: "Smile gradually freezing... What the heck are dragon coins? What about my soul coins?"

Cutest Ye Xue'er: "Report your addresses, time to embrace your execution you devs!"

Crayon\_Sinchan: "So happy to see how all the tycoons want it but are not able to get it (goofy)"

Assasin\_Creed: "I want soul coins. I don't care, I only want soul coins!"

Xueli\_The\_Srongest: "Devs: In spite of your voodoo, I remain unmoving like a mountain while suppressing everything with my bare hands. How dare you mortals defy the game masters. Have you seen the submerging Taowu? Would you believe me if I said that with just a few clicks of the keyboard I can pinch it to death?"

Crayon\_Sinchan replied to Xueli\_The\_Srongest: "Legit!"

.....

Lu Wu understood the reason for the players' grumblings about the top-up, but he simply did not have such a huge amount of soul coins for them to exhaust.

If he was to really initiate the top-up, he believed that his soul coins might be bought up by the players in a matter of less than ten seconds.

Lu Wu totally acknowledged the tycoons in the game. Players like Invincible Loneliness, Ye Xue'er, Liu Chai of the Demolition Officers, etc, each and everyone of them were lords of wealth.

Therefore, the passageway of soul coins top-up will never be up for grabs, not until he has made a fortune, at least.

What's more is that those soul coins are of great use for Lu Wu. Every part of the game's construction needs the soul coins, but of course, his expenditures are to enhance the earnings of soul coins whilst cultivating the capability of the players.

It was at this moment when Lu Wu reminisced the good old days of the war between the players and the Cha Na Army. It was through the destruction of the Cha Na Army that Lu Wu earned a great deal of soul coins.

Fueling war with battles will be the greatest way for the players and Lu Wu to learn and grow. He had already aimed his target at all the areas surrounding the Mansion of the Dead; ready to disclose the exploration mission again.

.....

As the curtains were drawn on the New Year's Day event, all the players were once again on the new journey of becoming stronger.

Though this time around, the players had many more choices to choose from.

Expansion of the sea, evolution of fortitude of the land, duplication of Treasure Hunt, etc, the diversity and playability of the game was slowly increasing alongside each update.

.....

Meanwhile, at the region of the Cliffs of Desperation.

Gu Yu (Invincible\_Loneliness) was with Sun Qi; a man and a hound preparing to climb to the highest peak in this area.

Ever since the climb up the snow mountain, Gu Yu fell in love with the feeling of challenging mother nature. He felt that conquering them created a sense of great accomplishment in him, hence this time he chose to take a shot at the much more treacherous Cliffs of Desperation.

As for why he brought Sun Qi along, the reason was of course because Sun Qi had the ability to regenerate vitality points. He would be a great support if they ever encountered any wild monsters along the way.

Sun Qi opposed Gu Yu's proposal at first.

Why look for trouble when they hadn't even finished tasting the miseries of life itself? To Sun Qi, this was totally how rich people would act when they don't have anything else better to do.

However, this firm attitude of his instantaneously changed when Gu Yu flung a stack of cash in front of him. Immediately, he wanted to follow, and that he actually likes mountain climbing, too!

Thus, a man and a dog came to the mountains of the Cliffs of Desperation.

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This climb was different from all the previous ones as it was much more troublesome throughout the climb, for in the Cliffs of Desperation, an abundance of monsters awaited them.

Still, everytime Gu Yu got injured, Sun Qi would help him recover by donating some of his blood to him, with a long face that is.

Both had climbed for approximately three hours, but when they looked up, the peak of the Cliffs of Desperation was still nowhere to be seen, and the end was still heavily covered by the clouds.

Initially both of them wanted to continue their climb, but it was at that moment when Sun Qi's nose twitched and it said,

"Boss, there's a scent of wine here!"

Naturally Sun Qi's ability to express was liberated by Lu Wu, reason being this guy here kept on whining in the forum just because he couldn't speak. Finding him funny yet annoying, Lu Wu eventually allowed Bei Li to change the settings, allowing him to voice out like the others.

Hearing his remark, Gu Yu stood stiff and inspected their surroundings.

"Follow me!" Sun Qi's lightly scrunched its nose and ran toward a flat ground around the mountain.

Seeing that, Gu Yu followed its footsteps.

Halfway around the mountain, both of them swiftly stopped in their tracks. To their surprise, there was actually a wooden cabin not far away and what's more was that there was a vague bonfire-like shadow emitting from the inside.

A man and a dog glanced at each other before walking toward the cabin together.

The two surveyed the outskirts of the cabin. After they made sure that they were free from danger, Gu Yu raised his hand and knocked on the wooden door,

“Is anyone here?”

No one answered, and this made Gu Yu a little curious. Just when he was about to make his way in, the door creaked open.

A shaggy, white-haired elderly man with squinted eyes popped his head out and blurted, “Need something?”

“Uh, may I ask you about the Cliffs of Desperation?” Gu Yu uttered after a brief consideration while at the same time wondering why would this old man settle down here.

“Ask,” said the white-haired old man faintly.

“Aren’t you going to invite me in?”

Sun Qi’s sudden speech startled the white-haired old man, thus he exclaimed, “Fuck, you have a talking dog? Was he demonized?”

They were dumbfounded.

After discreetly holding down Sun Qi who was at the verge of leaping and chomping someone, Gu Yu blurted out, “Old man, I am curious about the reason why you are living here. Also, how high are these Cliffs of Desperation? I want to climb to the crest and take a look.”

“The crest? With your skimpy body and a dog, you want to climb to the top? Forget it!” insulted the white-haired old man.

If it wasn’t for Sun Yu yanking him backwards, Gu Yu would have almost lost it due to the white-haired old man’s sharp tongue. No matter what, he needed to teach this white-haired old man a lesson.

Just when Gu Yu was about to say something, the white-haired old man leaned sideways, indicating that the two may come in.

Both of them were confused but they still went in anyway.

The interior of the cabin was plain. There was a wooden table and a wooden bed. There were kerosene lamps on top of the wooden table and all around the cabin. Rusty iron



pieces were scattered all over the floor, complemented with a hint of alcohol which permeated the whole cabin.

Having only a chair in the cabin, the white-haired old man signaled the both of them to sit on the wooden bed. Then, he turned, stepped into another room and brought out two glasses of fragrant fruit wine.

The two of them took the wine before Gu Yu asked, "Why did you say that we can't climb to the top of the Cliffs of Desperation? Is there any danger?"

Hearing the question, the white-haired old man's face turned solemn.

Thinking that the white-haired old man might reveal to him about the myths of the Cliffs of Despair, his expression gradually mimicked the old man's.

"Fuck, the way your dog drinks is really human-like..."

Gu Yu looked over to Sun Qi and realized that he had already helped itself on the wine, followed with a hint of crimson on its cheeks. Yet after hearing the white-haired old man's words, Sun Qi's expression instantaneously became hostile.

Once again Gu Yu quietly suppressed the bared fangs of the ready-to-pounce Sun Qi and gravely asked again,

"Do you mind giving us some useful information?"