

## Avatar 951

### Chapter 951: Chance

The fans of Team Hundred Blossoms often wished they could witness Blossoms and Blood again, but no one had thought that when they did, it would be in such a situation,

This was a Blossoms and Blood with more splendor than any pro match they had seen before. This was because, in the online game, there were many more people to kill. The blood that splattered amongst the bright lights of flashing explosions created a blood-drenched scene. The players of Blossom Valley fell continuously. They were shocked, seething, unaccepting, but also unwilling to back down. That was when another flash of blades joined. Yu Feng had finally struck back, and the two broadswords locked together aggressively.

The Blossom Valley players were panting for breath. They stared dumbly at the Berserker called Another Summer of Sleep. Just who was this? He bore the words Heavenly Justice over his head, so was he that Berserker from Team Heavenly Swords?

Originally, normal players weren't nearly as perceptive as pro players, who could estimate the player behind a character from their playstyle alone. However, for many of Hundred Blossom's old fans, Sun Zheping was a name they would never forget, and his wild and crazed playstyle was burnt deep into memories.

As they watched Another Summer of Sleep, this long unthought of name surfaced in their minds.

However, they didn't get the chance to question it further.

Another Summer of Sleep and Dazzling Spring, a Berserker and Spitfire duo that was once the target of their admiration and love, was mounting a furious offense against them. Yu Feng's Berserker jumped out to defend, but was quickly consumed by the scene of Blossoms and Blood.

It wasn't at all difficult to realize who, exactly, was protecting them now. The Team Hundred Blossom fans also suddenly realized, had they been neglecting their new core player?

"All healers, heal Captain Yu!!" Blossom Valley's guild leader, Blooming Blossom, was the first to react and yelled out a command. He was a Hundred Blossoms fan, but was also a department head in the club. At times like this, he could still keep his cool, and was the only member of their guild that still remembered what they had come here to do.

He didn't want to see things like this, meeting Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Spring and getting into such a mess. His wishes also represented Club Hundred Blossom's wishes.

The club was much more rational than the fans. They didn't want their fans to cling to Zhang Jiale's shadow like this when the man refused to look back. Zhang Jiale's influence in Team Hundred Blossoms had become a handicap they wanted to overcome.

The club had recently been continuously brainstorming a way to negate the effects that Zhang Jiale's return to the Glory scene as part of Team Tyranny had on Team Hundred Blossoms. Blooming Blossoms had also attended many such meetings.

Team Hundred Blossom's fans were too stuck on the past, and didn't seem to care about their new core player, Yu Feng. This was a problem that the club was helpless against and it gave them quite the headache.

Yet now, seeing Yu Feng's Berserker charge forth like a hero, defending against Zhang Jiale and someone who was possibly Sun Zheping's offense, Blooming Blossom realized that this was a chance they had to grab.

The new hero of Team Hundred Blossoms would be born on this day. No matter what, he had to make him shine.

So Blooming Blossoms used his yell to make all of Team Hundred Blossoms notice Yu Feng, to make everyone notice who it was that protected them when their once beloved duo had turned against them.

"Captain Yu!!"

As expected, Hundred Blossom's normal players soon yelled out this encouraging shout that came from their hearts.

"Don't worry about me. Everyone spread out, pull some distance and use ranged attacks to cover the area with firepower!" Yu Feng's voice came out from within the Blossoms and Blood. It wasn't any sort of incredible plan, but it was like a light in the darkness for Team Hundred Blossoms. All the Team Hundred Blossoms players ran to obey.

However, this was nowhere near enough to break Blossoms and Blood, only to lower its effectiveness. Under the cover of Blossoms and Blood, the extremely experienced veterans, Zhang Jiale and Sun Zheping, could still easily move about in this sort of AoE firepower coverage.

The only one who was fighting the two head on was still Yu Feng's Berserker. Though Blooming Blossoms called for healing, they couldn't see Yu Feng's Berserker at all amongst the flashes of light from the Team Hundred Blossoms former playstyle. If they got any closer, they might accidentally step into the Blossoms and Blood. Two healers whose names immediately darkened and were automatically kicked from the team showed everyone the consequences of approaching without careful consideration.

The reason why Yu Feng had wanted everyone to not worry about him, scatter and keep their distance, was obviously because he didn't want them to get consumed by Blossoms and Blood and get killed.

"Captain Yu..." In that moment, all the Team Hundred Blossom players finally completely accepted their new core players. However, could Yu Feng alone break Blossoms and Blood?

Zhang Jiale and Yu Feng's Blossoms and Blood had been a coincidence. It was probably impossible for them to repeat it or continue it. The real Blossoms and Blood had been crafted through an entire season of trying to sync up from the extremely talented Zhang Jiale and Sun Zheping.

In the third season of the Alliance, Blossoms and Blood had been refined and had swept through the Alliance. All the powerhouses were shocked by this unseen playstyle and lost, disoriented.

It was that season that Blossoms and Blood reached their peak, and were also stopped at that peak.

Team Hundred Blossom, who had stormed their way to the finals, eventually fell to Team Excellent Era, who didn't allow them to stop the attainment of their yet unchallenged third consecutive championship.

Blossoms and Blood had been struck through by One Autumn Leaf's Evil Annihilation. God Ye Qiu, having made that mark in history, made a shocking move after gaining the championship and accepted an interview. Though it was only through QQ, he had managed to leave a sentence that would be remembered by all, "A few times is enough for a playstyle, so using it too much, doesn't that get tiring?"

However, even with this mocking sentence, Blossoms and Blood didn't become a joke because the only one who had the right to make light of it was God Ye Qiu. If others wanted to say the same, they needed to break Blossoms and Blood first.

No playstyle or tactic was unbreakable, but Blossoms and Blood was something invincible in the hearts of Hundred Blossom fans, yet now they were hoping that Yu Feng would be able to break Blossoms and Blood. This was because this title no longer belonged to Team Hundred Blossoms, but rather their enemies.

Blooming Blossoms was secretly sweating in nervousness for him.

This was a good chance for Yu Feng to take the lead and the club had been hoping that he would be able to truly take the Team Hundred Blossom's flag sooner than later, bringing Team Hundred Blossom's fans away from clinging to the memories of someone who was no longer a part their team.

And now, this chance was right in front of them, but it really was a little too difficult.

With Sun Zheping's injury forcing his retirement, Blossoms and Blood disappeared from the Alliance. In those two and a half seasons, the only one who had managed to break Blossoms and Blood alone was Ye Qiu in the third season.

Yu Feng was a very talented player, but had he reached the level Ye Qiu had back then?

There was probably no one who would believe that.

Speaking of, no matter if it was Zhang Jiale or Sun Zheping, they had both passed their peak. Sun Zheping had even retired for so long due to an injury, but now he was somehow back. It was debatable if it was actually him or not though. These two weren't at the same level they had once been. On the other hand, Yu Feng was at his peak condition to play, so maybe he could really break this Blossoms and Blood?

Blooming Blossoms was filled with hope. After all, using this to make an impression in the hearts of Hundred Blossom's players would be far better than using your own pain to do it\*. This sort of tactic wouldn't be able to truly vanquish the lingering emotions Hundred Blossom fans had for the past.

Thoughts flew through Blooming Blossoms' mind wildly, and he even considered if there was any way they could cheat to help Yu Feng. It was a shame that he couldn't think of any. This sort of pro-level face off wasn't something that normal players could get involved in. Watching the party window, Blooming Blossoms noticed the health of Yu Feng's Berserker dropping lower and lower, and he became more and more anxious. Then, he suddenly realized that because of the flashing light and shadows, they couldn't see Yu Feng's struggle at all. In the end, it was probably just be a corpse, tossed out. With that, Yu Feng's efforts would be no different from that of someone who died as soon as they stepped in. How much acceptance this suffering could gain could be argued.

A chance! A chance!

Chance?

This thought didn't exist in Yu Feng's mind.

Stepping out like a hero was all a thing of the moment.

He had heard Sun Zheping and Zhang Jiale's conversation; did he want to end things like this? Yu Feng couldn't accept that; he was even furious about it. Since he was now part of Hundred Blossoms, he understood better than anyone what Zhang Jiale meant to this group of fans. So when Zhang Jiale raised his gun at the Team Hundred Blossoms players, he had charged out to stop it. Not only was this for Zhang Jiale, but also because he didn't want the players of Hundred Blossoms to be hurt in such a way.

Yet it was Another Summer of Sleep who had popped up.

He wanted to truly, cruelly, use this method to bid farewell to the Team Hundred Blossoms fans.

Yu Feng couldn't accept that at all.

He stepped out to fight, not thinking of the consequences. He just wanted to do everything he could. He just wanted to battle...

They were hard to deal with, as expected...

Team Hundred Blossoms had wanted to recreate Blossoms and Blood through having Yu Feng join. Yu Feng, of course, had researched this playstyle extensively as well, watching recording after recording of the old Blossom Duo's matches. So, he was more certain than anyone, that this Berserker in front of him was truly the old First Berserker, Sun Zheping.

And when he was really up against Blossoms and Blood, he found that this playstyle was truly hard to deal with.

I don't think I can do it...

Watching his health fall to the bottom, Yu Feng took a deep breath. His protection of Hundred Blossoms would have to come to an end here. Let him burn this last slither of health as brightly as possible!

Yu Feng didn't spare a thought for anything else, directly activating Bloodthirst. This was a powerful status skill that Berserkers gained at level 75. After their status was in Bloodthirst, Berserkers could use their own health to increase their strength.

Yu Feng's Berserker didn't have much health left, so Bloodthirst's effects were limited. However, what was more important was the fight until the end attitude that this decision represented. When his health only had one point left, he struck his final blow and burned the rest of his life.

A crimson flash of energy from his blade streaked out from the Blossoms and Blood, and yet that was when Blossoms and Blood was brought to an abrupt halt by this single slash.

Dazzling Spring's attacks stopped and the flashes of light and shadows dispersed. Everyone saw that Dazzling Spring was lying there, somehow knocked down by Yu Feng's Berserker.

Chapter 952: A Confusing Chaotic Situation

"He broke through?" Blooming Blossom was ecstatic, but after checking the health on Yu Feng's Berserker, for a second, his smile wouldn't come out. Fortunately, the players from Blossom Valley reacted quickly. In an instant, the healers worked together and healed Yu Feng's Berserker back to full health.

However, Yu Feng's Berserker just stood there staring into space. It was as if he didn't know that he had been rescued and thought he had died.

Yu Feng really did think he had died. The outcome had astonished him. He should have been able to dodge that attack. This guy.....

"You've become soft-hearted..." Yu Feng heard Another Summer of Sleep say.

These words weren't directed at him.

"Haha." Dazzling Spring laughed, but didn't say anything.

Another Summer of Sleep turned to look at Yu Feng.

"Little one, Blossoms and Blood looks as if it's birthed from the Spitfire's Hundred Blossom Style, but in reality, the Berserker is the one in control of this playstyle's rhythm. If you want to see Blossoms and Blood reborn again, you'd better work hard!" Sun Zheping said.

Not waiting for Yu Feng to regain his composure, everyone in Happy entered the battle in an orderly fashion under Ye Xiu's instructions. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim led the charge. His Myriad Manifestations Umbrella shook. It transformed into its spear form and shot forward. Zhang Jiale and Sun Zheping saw it from the corner of their eyes.

"What are you doing?" Zhang Jiale shouted.

"You good-for-nothing. Cheating us to give the stage to you. What a waste of time. Give us control of the battle now!" Ye Xiu said and moved his spear. Zhang Jiale thought he was about to be attacked, so he had Dazzling Spring roll off to the side. However, Lord Grim was just faking it. He also moved to the side. From behind him, a handful of sand came flying out. Steamed Bun Invasion had also joined the fray.

Zhang Jiale dodged quite quickly, but Yu Feng's Berserker was still just standing there staring blankly. The handful of sand hit him directly. Yu Feng's screen went black. He had become Blind. However, that had woken him up in an instant. He couldn't see and he didn't know what was happening, but he could still hear the sounds from the game.

"You want to break our Blossoms and Blood again?" Yu Feng heard Zhang Jiale shout.

"Haha, your information is too outdated. Old Sun, stand aside. It'd be embarrassing if I accidentally hit you." Ye Xiu replied.

Zhang Jiale was startled. He turned around and saw Another Summer of Sleep moving aside. It didn't seem like he was planning on fighting alongside him. At this moment, Zhang Jiale finally noticed the guild tag above Another Summer of Sleep's head: Heavenly Justice.

Zhang Jiale instantly realized something.

Soon afterwards, Windward Formation summoned a Chaotic Rain. One Inch Ash drew an Ice Boundary. Concealed Light's summons lined up and attacked. Dawn Rifle and Chasing Haze shot Stingers into the sky. The artillery shell exploded in the air and a dense forest of thorns rained down.

Zhang Jiale didn't say anything more. Dazzling Spring nimbly maneuvered through these attacks. It was tragedy for Yu Feng's Berserker though. While he was out of it, sand had hit him, inducing a Blind. No matter how experienced he was, there was no way he could suddenly defend against an attack from four sides without being able to see anything. However, ever since Yu Feng's Berserker produced a Blossoms and Blood, he had already been recognized by Blossom Valley as their core God. The players from Blossoms Valley failed to remember that they were here to hunt the boss. Everyone rushed forward desperately to rescue their God. If they could do so, they would be delighted if they could also give Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Spring a blow in the passing.

It wasn't hard to imagine how difficult the situation was for Zhang Jiale. The players from Blossom Valley were easier to deal with, but the group from Happy being led by Ye Xiu was very painful.

He dodged left and right, but he couldn't avoid so many attacks. Dazzling Spring's health continued to fall. In this chaotic battle, Zhang Jiale's spirit wavered. He couldn't react in time for the next wave of attacks. Suddenly, a figure came in from the slide, rescuing his Dazzling Spring.

Zhang Jiale turned around absentmindedly and clearly saw who it was.

It was Lin Jingyan's Brawler.

Zhang Jiale's spirit shook.

Correct. This was his teammate. A partner who he could rely on. The past was the past!

Zhang Jiale looked around. Sun Zheping's Another Summer of Sleep was on the other side of the battlefield swinging his greatsword.

Zhang Jiale returned to that summer many years ago. It had been a chaotic battle too. In the end, they were the only two remaining. That youth carried his greatsword on his shoulders and charged into the fray in a Berserk state. Zhang Jiale no longer had the will to keep fighting and thought he was definitely dead, when he heard that person say: "Hey, you're pretty good. Do you want to be my partner?"

The two joined Team Hundred Blossoms together that year, forming the Dual Blossoms. They studied the tendencies of their opponents and created an unheard of playstyle together. Blossoms and Blood shocked the entire Glory scene the following year....

And today, in the same kind of chaotic battle, the two were on different sides. The blood shadows from his greatsword were as wild as before. The Hundred Blossoms Style was as dazzling as ever. However, Blossoms and Blood would never appear again.

Goodbye!

Just like how he raised his gun towards Guild Blossom Valley, Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Sprint lifted up his right hand and shot accurately at Another Summer of Sleep.

Blood splattered from the bullet hole in Another Summer of Sleep. He roared and slashed in this direction using Wild Blood Strike. The player in front of him was sent flying away. Zhang Jiale seemed to see a smile on Another Summer of Sleep's expressionless face. Another Summer of Sleep lifted his greatsword onto his shoulders and then turned around carefreely.

"Leave!" Finally, after saying goodbye, Zhang Jiale regained his composure and quickly realized that participating in this chaotic battle was meaningless. Everyone was here to snatch the boss. Where's the boss? With Herb Garden! Why were these people even fighting? He immediately told Lin Jingyan to leave.

The two wanted to run, but Happy refused to comply and did not let the two off.

"Have you gone senile from old age? Why aren't you letting us go?" Zhang Jiale angrily rebuked.

"It's more like your eyes have gone blurry from old age. Are you the only ones we're not letting go?" Ye Xiu retorted.

Zhang Jiale focused and saw that they weren't the only ones being trapped by Happy. As soon as a pro player on the battlefield passed by, it didn't matter if he didn't provoke them, Happy would take the initiative to attack them.

"How low!" Zhang Jiale exclaimed.

Lin Jingyan was perplexed: "Why do you think he's acting so lowly?"

Happy's crude and rough training method wasn't within the scope of the imagination of these pro players.

"We can't let them keep doing this!" Zhang Jiale said.

"But I feel like taking the initiative to attack is exactly what they want!" Lin Jingyan said.

"Could he be threatening from the east and striking from the west!" Zhang Jiale reflected on it from a tactical perspective.

"Luring a tiger from its home in the mountains?" Lin Jingyan added.

The two turned to look at Herb Garden. Happy and the guild alliance had surrounded them.

"Sure enough!" The two slapped their thighs. Happy's training method was to restrict these pro players, stopping them from attacking the boss.

The two were incomparably experienced Gods. They saw through Ye Xiu's scheme and obviously wouldn't let him go through with it. They had to escape by any means possible and rush over to aid in the boss battle.

The pro players weren't cooperating, making it difficult for everyone in Happy. Happy encircled, chased, blocked, and intercepted. In any case, they got to fight with these Gods, so it could be considered as accumulating high-level combat experience!

The two from Team Tyranny were nipped at the heels fiercely. Team Hundred Blossom's Yu Feng had been dragged into the fray. There was also Team Blue Rain's Huang Shaotian. He had never tried escaping from the very beginning. And ever since Lu Hanwen's Blade Master was killed, he kept on spouting out word bubbles filled with declarations of revenge.

Sun Xiang, who had entered the battle on his own accord, had finally been urged back by Xiao Shiqin.

In the end, Excellent Era wasn't able to be dragged in. Those who had been watching for awhile, like Guild Samsara and Guild Misty Castle had an easier time making a move after clearly seeing what the situation was. The pro players from those two teams circled around Happy as if they were stinking piles of dung towards Herb Garden.

The pressure on Herb Garden multiplied. With so many guilds and so many pro players, even with a God watching over them, it was still extremely difficult to hold their advantage. However, if Wang Jiexi wasn't able to predict such an outcome, then his two championship titles and narrowly recreating Excellent Era's reign over the scene would be unjustified.

When the guilds and pro players surrounded them, Herb Garden created a path. This path wasn't a welcoming path, but an exit path. Wang Jiexi's Witch zoomed through the sky on his broom and moved bizarrely through the crowd. Behind him was the boss, Shadow Commander Shaan.

When the guilds saw this, they wanted to cry. It was clear that Shaan's number one target was Wang Jiexi's Witch. Usually, this target should be the first to be killed, making it easy to transfer the aggro to someone else. However, the target was the Alliance's mysterious Magician! How many could catch up to him?

Team Misty Rain's newly joined beautiful sisters were new-born calves who didn't fear tigers. The two Sharpshooters rushed forward to block him. However, Wang Jiexi's Witch made a few right angle turns and several feints, confusing these two sisters. By the time they recovered, Shadow Commander Shaan reached them and slashed at both of them.

How could a level 75 wild boss's attack power be a joke? It looked like a plain and simple slash, but it nearly killed the two of them instantly. The two couldn't help but feel fear. When they went to intercept Wang Jiexi again, they needed to be more careful and shoot from afar, but Wang Jiexi's was moving around in the crowd. In the end, their bullets only injured the normal players of other guilds.

The pro players on the battlefield sympathized with these beautiful sisters.

In the end, rookies were still green. They were being led around by the nose by Wang Jiexi.

Chapter 953: Knowing When to Stop

If Wang Jiexi was just simply rampaging about on his own, no one would bother him and risk drawing his attention. However, the problem was that he held the aggro of the boss. From the perspective of boss stealing, Wang Jiexi was a core problem that everyone had no choice but to face. Before dealing with him, they couldn't take the boss. Otherwise, they would just be helping Herb Garden kill it.



Wang Jiexi wasn't a target normal players could even dream of dealing with though. Even pro players, the ones just starting out, like the Misty Rain sisters, would only end up in an awkward situation if they tried. However, apart from these two, the pro players had popped up today were all big names in Glory, perfectly capable of causing Wang Jiexi a lot of trouble. The problem was, these pro players didn't have the time to do so, because they were struggling with their own troubles.

Team Happy!

Ye Xiu and his group's goals were simple and direct. They didn't care about the wild boss at all, so they didn't bother spending any effort on Wang Jiexi, who was flying all over the map. On the other hand, the other pro players were perfect targets for them. As they fought furiously with the pro players they had already engaged, they ran about harassing new targets as well.

The pro players were extremely vexed, but didn't want to waste time on Happy either, so they all began to take an avoidance approach towards Happy. As for Ye Xiu's group? They really didn't like the avoidance approach the pro players were taking. We came to get battle experience, so if you keeping dodging about and running away, then we can't use this to our advantage!

They couldn't provoke most of the pro players to fight them, and the ones that they were entangled with, they couldn't finish off. The pro players weren't fighting on their own either. No matter if it was Yu Feng or Huang Shaotian or Zhang Jiale and Lin Jingyan, they all had guilds supporting them. None of them would sit by and watch their Gods get led around by the nose. A few people to provide ranged support or healing was already a great help.

However, Ye Xiu wasn't worried about this, because their goal really was too simple. Victory didn't matter. If these pro players were impossible to kill, then it would be great if they could fight them for three days and three nights!

The situation was chaotic, but it somehow managed to maintain this chaotic balance to the end.

Team Happy and the pro players they had managed to engage were locked in a stalemate. As for stealing the Boss, no one could really do anything to Wang Jiexi, so the guilds began to strike at Herb Garden's normal players, so Wang Jiexi began to lead the Boss rampaging through the guilds and destroying their attack formations.

Was Shadow Tactician Shaan even a boss anymore?

No one thought it seemed like one anymore. It was evidently Wang Jiexi's summons, following Wang Jiexi's Witch, attacking and causing chaos among the guild players wherever it went.

The normal players had learned something new today, that the Magician was so incisive, even when stealing bosses. Seeing that their pro players didn't seem to be able to do much, they also began to lose hope.

Shadow Tactician Shaan's health was rapidly falling as he barged through the crowd. In addition to Herb Garden's relentless attacks, the damage it took from the crossfire was probably upwards of ten percent of its health.

It was until Shaan's health fell to ten percent and entered the enraged state that the situation began to unstabilize. In an enraged state, Shaan would summon Shadow Soldiers. Many masked assassins in black cloaks appeared together, killing anyone they came across.

Normal players wouldn't be able to win against these assassins one on one. Pro players had the ability to, but they didn't know if they should! What would they gain from killing these Shadow Assassins? Nothing. They would only be helping Herb Garden!

The situation had already come to this and they had no way of dealing with Wang Jiexi, so the guilds finally began to give up. After giving the order, Samsara, Misty Castle, Excellent Dynasty, and the other guilds had already recalled their troops. However, many people came over to watch Happy fight the other gods out of curiosity.

Seeing everyone clearing the field, Zhang Jiale and the others knew that the conclusion was set. They seethed at Ye Xiu in their hearts! If it wasn't for Ye Xiu causing trouble, then Wang Jiexi definitely wouldn't have had such an easy time, what with all them gods here.

"What the hell were you thinking, fucking around like this? Now look, have you managed to get the boss?" Zhang Jiale said with contempt, believing that Ye Xiu had completely miscalculated.

"Heheh," Ye Xiu laughed.

"What the hell are you laughing about!" Zhang Jiale was enraged, and Dazzling Spring directed his fire at Lord Grim.

Lord Grim hurriedly dodged. Speaking of, Ye Xiu was a little disappointed. He had hoped that Tang Rou, Steamed Bun, and the others could get the chance to gain some experience by fighting pro players, but these pro players just seemed to love coming at Lord Grim. To be honest, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was more like a bystander in this battle, mostly taking command. The few times he went up to fight, it was only when he was forced to.

"Let's crush this guy together!!!" People n units away could even still see the speech bubbles coming from Huang Shaotian's Blade Master. Sun Xiang, who was about to leave with his guild, immediately raised his spear, eager to come over, when he saw this.

"We probably shouldn't waste any more time here, yeah?" Xiao Shqin's Mechanic quickly came over to talk him down.

Ye Xiu looked around then and saw that the boss fight was over and the guild members were shuffling over to watch them. If they continued to fight, Blue Brook, Tyrannical Ambition, and Blossom Valley's players could participate wholeheartedly. Like that, if Ye Xiu and co continued to fight without the help of a guild, they wouldn't be able to do much training before being annihilated. If they called their guild over to fight, that would just become a massive guild war. Not only was such a thing probably not helpful to Happy's training, but their guild would also take heavy casualties. Continuing this was meaningless.

"Ahem, what are we still fighting for, now that the boss is gone?" Seeing that there wasn't any use in continuing, Ye Xiu immediately expressed his opinion.

This meaningless fighting wasn't something that any rational guild leader would want, so they all came to try and talk down their Gods.

With the Gods complying, the other normal players were easy enough to persuade. The battle over on Happy's side petered out just like that. Everyone looked towards the boss fight then, seeing that Herb Garden, with Wang Jiexi present, were easily taking down the boss, now that the other guilds weren't making things hard. It didn't take much before Shadow Tactician Shaan was finally announced by the system.

"Okay okay, let's all leave," Ye Xiu called to his people.

"Are we not fighting anymore?" Tang Rou seemed disappointed for it to end. For the current her, there was no fun to the in game arena anymore, because it was far too easy. If it wasn't for the fact that she had seen that there was more to the world of Glory, she would've probably completely lost interest already.

"Yes, let's end things here for today! Everyone is probably exhausted, right?" Ye Xiu asked.

In this chaotic free-for-all, they had been no clear goal. All they did was fight, fight until they ended up rather befuddled. Hearing Ye Xiu's words, everyone came back to the present and only then did they realize that this battle really had been exhausting!

They had been tense, unable to relax, a continuous stream of high-intensity mechanics. This was true exhaustion. Even Tang Rou, who had been unsatisfied just now, found that she really was burnt out after being reminded by Ye Xiu.

This was also one of the reasons Ye Xiu had called for them to stop.

The Glory Pro League had a match every week. This wasn't just to lengthen the match season. Though in Esports, it seemed like you only needed to sit there and there was little movement involved, it still took a lot out of you. Especially for certain areas, like your hands, which had to complete an immense amount of actions. Losing feeling in them when walking out from the match wasn't uncommon. Many players even had lasting symptoms. For example, Sun Zheping's injury wasn't really some sort of accident. His battlestyle had taken a toll on his hands, and his injury was the result of the accumulation of overwork.

The better your skill in Glory, the larger the toll on the player, but the pro teams took careful consideration of this. Through the use of science, they obtained ways of practice while caring for their hands and the career lifespans of pros were constantly on the rise.

For Happy, they had limited resources. Sometimes, everyone had to keep playing under exhaustion and stress. If they didn't know when to stop when fighting these high intensity battles with pro players, it wouldn't be a good thing for Happy's players. Happy's current situation was like those teams from the beginning of the Alliance. They didn't have good foundations, so everything they gained had to be earned themselves, so the pro players had to expend a lot of effort.

It was because of this, as well, that the players from the beginnings of the Alliance found it hard to endure until this day. After Ye Xiu's retirement, Han Wenqing had become the very last of the first generation of Glory pro players that was still fighting matches. Compared to Sun Zheping, who had a

similar playstyle, but debuted in the second season and retired from injury in the fifth, you couldn't deny that natural talent did exist.

Compared to the first generation, the Golden Generation was much more fortunate. When they joined, the Alliance had already seen great improvements and the majority of clubs' structures were very wholesome already. Under these great competitive conditions, the career lifespans of these players were far better than the first generation. By this season, the Golden Generation had been in the Alliance for a full five seasons. Compared to the first generation who had all gradually been forced to retire and part ways within five seasons, the Golden Generation were all still in peak competitive condition. Their experience, mechanical skill, and awareness, all of it was still at its peak, making their current state optimal for their performances.

Although, when you thought about it, another reason for the first generation's rapid retirement was because a lot of players were like Wei Chen; they weren't young even before they had entered the Alliance. In two or three years, their performance would naturally drop. After this, the Alliance began to develop further and the debuting ages of the players would only get lower and lower.

For example, Lu Hanwen, the 14 year old All-Star, could keep his title for at least ten years, if no accidents happened. This was enough for the veterans that could only stay in the league for two or three years to cry a face full of tears.

Considering all of this, Team Happy, whose goal was the Pro League, couldn't be too careless either.

"Everyone should do some hand exercises before going to bed," Ye Xiu ordered the others, who were all logging off and preparing to rest.

#### Chapter 954: An Explosive Increase in Mistakes

As the name implies, hand exercises were exercises to stretch and relax the hands and wrists. For pro esports players, the hands were their most important physical assets. Happy had limited conditions. They could only do some general exercises. The powerful clubs had their own medical team that would design more focused hand exercises depending on the habits of each pro player; the effects were much better.

Apart from needing to protect their hands, their mental health had to be maintained as well. If their hands were fine, but they felt exhausted, that wouldn't be good either. Taking care of their mental health was more complicated. Food, a healthy lifestyle, a proper biological clock, and so on all affected their mental health.

Team Happy's various practice routines were mainly to help Tang Rou, Steamed Bun, Luo Ji, and An Wenyi's skill level, but in pro teams, apart from helping their players improve, another important part was regulating the conditions of their players.

Every person had their ups and downs. Through these scientific regulating, they had these ups and downs conform to the pace of the competitive format. Every team hoped to have their players be at their peak condition every Saturday night. As a result, how to design practice routines was actually a very deep school of knowledge. There were Glory specialists, who constantly researched this area.

As for Team Happy, as they gradually moved towards the standards, these areas naturally had to be looked into. Unfortunately, Ye Xiu didn't understand the scientific basis for these practice routines, so he could only rely on his own experience to design practice routines for each person.

As for the training currently being carried out at Happy, in a pro team, that sort of training would only be directed towards practicing for their matches. A more comprehensive training would usually wouldn't consist of practicing for the match every day because that type of training consumed too much energy. Practice was for improving, not to squeeze their players dry.

Today's practice made everyone feel exhausted. The next day, Ye Xiu didn't organize everyone to hunt pro players in the game. Instead, he arranged for a more relaxing practice routine for recovery.

In the blink of an eye, another day passed. That marked the end of the week. A new week started and the bosses refreshed. After everyone in Happy went through a day of recovery, they were once again ready and waiting. Waiting in the game was too much of a waste of time. With the advantages of a guild, they could simply go on once they received the news.

As for the big clubs, when the new week started, the pro players rubbed their fists and wiped their palms in anticipation. However, the teams clearly weren't willing to have their pro players waste their energy here. They had set up a rotation system. Each team had pro players come, but it wouldn't be the same few every day. Everyone would rotate each day. When match day approached, most would beat the gong and have their troops retreat to focus on the upcoming match.

Happy had grasped the timing of these big clubs and took advantage of it. For example, there definitely wouldn't be any pro players in the early morning. They needed to keep a good sleep schedule to maintain their condition! As a result, Happy followed the pro team's schedules and also kept a good sleep schedule. At day time, they waited for news from their guild. As soon as news came up, they would immediately set out. Their target wasn't the boss, but the pro players. They weren't picky with their food. It didn't matter if the pro player was a God or a main roster player or a substitute player, if he or she was a pro player, then he or she would be attacked.

As a result, because Happy wasn't focused on killing the boss and instead focused on causing trouble, the various teams viewed them as thorn in their side. It had to be known that going wild boss hunting wasn't a fun get-together. It was a competition. Even though other pro players would fight each other, from an overall perspective, the boss was the objective. If fighting wouldn't help them get the boss, then they wouldn't fight. However, Happy wasn't proper. As soon as those guys saw a pro player, they would fight. It didn't matter if it was related to the boss or not. One time, they found a character, who was suspected to be a pro player, inside the city and they also mercilessly killed him.....

Because of Happy causing trouble, quite a few guilds failed to take down bosses that should have been theirs, and quite a few pro players ended up snatching a bellyful of anger when they tried snatching the bosses.....

Two months passed in the blink of an eye. The Glory Alliance completed four matches this month. At the end of the month, they began summarizing this month's matches like usual, including the number of seats filled in the stadium, their TV ratings, the numbers for their online streams, as well as several other general statistics. The Glory Alliance wasn't just the tournament organizer. The Glory Alliance was also the manager that needed to keep track of the profits from running the league. From one perspective,

the Alliance could be seen as a company. The Alliance's chairman was this company's chief executive officer....

When the February briefing came out, many of the numbers were startling. The most noticeable was that in February's matches, the number of mistakes made by players shot up in a straight line. In comparison to January's matches, it was an explosive increase.

The distribution of these mistakes was outrageous. From the numbers, the top ten teams contributed to seventy percent of this explosive increase of mistakes.

What happened to these teams?

The staff members of the Alliance analyzed one step further and discovered that the following distribution of mistakes was quite even. Each team and each player had contributed. When they compared this data to the other data throughout the Alliance's history, the staff members would realize that this February was a new record. Numerous teams and numerous players had broken the record for the highest number of mistakes this February.

In fact, many jokes and discussions had come up because of the number of mistakes in the matches this month. It was only until they summarized everything did they realize how unprecedented it was.

What did mistakes mean?

It meant that their condition of the players wasn't at its peak.

A poor performance led to a lackluster match. A lackluster match would not be looked at well by spectators. If the spectators didn't like it, it meant a loss in revenue. It was a very scary thing for the Alliance. What had happened for all these teams to collectively be in a slump? These were all the powerhouses in the Alliance too. In fact, it was the bottom ten teams whose increase in mistakes made appeared rather modest. Their strong suit in making mistakes actually lost to these powerhouses.

The Alliance didn't dare be negligent. After organizing the data for February's matches, they immediately convened to analyze and discuss this issue.

The Alliance had many talented people, and there was no lack of retired pro players, who held a position in the Alliance. This February, what exactly happened to these teams and players? These specialists quickly found the answer.

The new update made it so that teams needed new materials to upgrade their Silver equipment. Starting from January, the teams gradually began having their pro players go into the game and help. After the Spring Festival, this phenomenon reached its peak. There were even players, who didn't have much of a goal this season, that went to the game on match day.

"I have some information here." A staff member in the meeting handed a piece of paper with information to everyone, "This paper shows the monthly summaries of the league after each Glory update. Everyone, take a look at the green numbers and compare it to the red average. You can clearly see that the league is affected by each update. The most direct observation is the increase in mistakes made. There are many reasons: change in equipment, different skills, and splitting their attention to obtain materials in the game..."

"Haven't we already discussed this reality long ago?" The Alliance chairman Feng Xianjun skimmed over the information and then placed it back onto the table, "But this time, the number of mistakes has increased explosively. It clearly doesn't conform with our past data. That's the reason why we urgently convened this meeting. From the information we have, even though the Level 75 update had taken several years to complete, it wasn't an overhaul of the game engine. Everything was developed according to the original rules, so from conventional reasoning, the effects of this update should conform to our past data. No, it should even be said that as Glory grows, the ability for teams to adapt should be even better. The effects this time should actually be less than before. That's what the data should tell us. But this time, the number of mistakes actually increased explosively. There must be another reason."

"How about... we have an informal discussion with these teams and these pro players..... The numbers are so clear. I think they must have the whole story." Someone suggested.

"Let's do that then....." The chairman Feng Xianjun approved of this idea.

Soon afterwards, the Alliance sent people to visit these teams to inquire about this matter and understand the whole story. They soon got the information they wanted. They didn't need to summarize anything. The story that every team talked about was astonishingly all the same.

Ye Qiu. Team Happy.

These two key terms made the chairman Feng Xianjun speechless for a long time.

"This punk..." Seeing this name, Feng Xianjun could feel a headache coming.

As Glory's most glorious pro player, Ye Xiu's status didn't need to be discussed. However, despite his outstanding achievements and his countless fans, the Alliance didn't like him very much.

The Alliance's former chairman, Jin Chengyi, had once sighed ruefully. Ye Qiu's existence had slowed the growth of the Glory Alliance by at least two years.

Many people would interpret these words as Ye Qiu's reign over the championship title, making the matches less suspenseful during the early years of the Alliance. But those who knew the inside matters would know that chairman Jin Chengyi was talking about Ye Qiu not cooperating with publicity.

As the founder of Excellent Era's great dynasty and the undisputable number one player in Glory at the time, Ye Qiu should have absolutely been that era's representative. Unfortunately, this number one player refused to participate in any activities. The Alliance could not borrow his popularity to promote themselves. In the end, all of the players that had been propped up by them were defeated by him. This put the Alliance in a difficult spot. Countless Glory fans even suspected that there were some dark secrets going on. Was there some sort of unwritten rule? If not, why would they not be supporting Ye Qiu?

Even after Ye Qiu made an announcement to make things clear, the players were more than happy to use their imagination. Their guesses made the Alliance feel dejected and depressed.

Unable to ride on the east wind, Ye Qiu, the Alliance's publicity team had to do twice the amount of work for half the results. This was why Jin Chengyi sighed ruefully, saying that Ye Qiu's existence had slowed the Alliance's growth by two years.

## Chapter 955: Let's Talk

Compared to his predecessor, Feng Xianjun's luck was quite good. When he started managing the Alliance, Ye Qiu's era had ended, and the Golden Generation had emerged. The competitive scene prospered with the explosive advent of new talents.

However, even though his luck was good, Feng Xianjun had his worries due to his luck.

It was because there were too many talents. No player like Ye Qiu, who had the ability to dominate the scene and become the Alliance's representative, had appeared since then. It truly made Feng Xianjun feel distressed.

In terms of achievements, after Ye Qiu, there were a total of three teams that had become champions: Tyranny, Tiny Herb, Blue Rain.....

Team Tyranny's ace player and Ye Qiu's rival, Han Wenqing, finally toppled Team Excellent Era's reign of three consecutive championship titles. Feng Xianjun had taken up his position as the Alliance's chairman that year. As soon as he took office, he wanted to raise Han Wenqing up as the number one player in Glory. However, no matter how they tried marketing it, Han Wenqing's aggressive appearance made it seem like they were promoting a crime film.....

Games were viewed as terrible things in many people's eyes. Having someone who looked like he was a violent criminal as their representative would not be different from having their Alliance beat down. In the end, Feng Xianjun had to hastily put a stop to this plan.

After Team Tyranny, Team Tiny Herb won the championships. Their ace player Wang Jiexi was a player with the title Magician. Unfortunately, Wang Jiexi had a clear flaw in his appearance. He had one big eye and one small eye. In front of the camera, he would often look very terrifying. Wang Jiexi's appearance wasn't easy to work with. After Ye Qiu, Wang Jiexi's two championship titles was more than enough. He could be considered as the leading figure during that period of time. In the end, the Alliance didn't directly shirk away from Wang Jiexi like they did with Han Wenqing. However, they didn't display too much enthusiasm for him.

In between Team Tiny Herb's two championship victories, Team Blue Rain won one championship. The two leading players were from the famous Golden Generation. Their appearances and personalities were easy to work with too. Unfortunately, Feng Xianjun personally detested Huang Shaotian. In the eyes of older people, his chatty personality was very frivolous behavior. Feng Xianjun didn't want the Alliance's representative to be this type of person.

In the blink of an eye, four seasons passed since Feng Xianjun took office. Without any suitable targets, he could only spread the net wider. As a result, the campaign to build a star became very successful. Numerous All Stars deeply loved by countless fans emerged in the Alliance. This could be seen since the start of the All Star Weekend. However, even though the group of stars shined brightly, it was always missing the very brightest one up until Zhou Zekai came.



When this player rose and swept the skies, the Alliance's campaign to build a star reached its peak. He innately possessed many desirable characteristics. Later on, he perfectly piled on one glorious achievement after the other.

Team Samsara was the Alliance's nouveau riche. Before Zhou Zekai's addition, Team Samsara was part of the mid-tier and bottom-tier group that couldn't even make it to the playoffs.

But because of Zhou Zekai's addition, they were like a salted fish that moved once more. They transformed from a weak team to the current defending champions. Team Samsara's abrupt rise was unprecedented in the Alliance. Besides Samsara, the former champions Excellent Era, Tyranny, Tiny Herb, and Blue Rain had all been established names since the start of the Alliance. All of them possessed powerful guilds. It was the best proof of their solid foundation. As for Samsara, this weak team broke through the monopoly formed by these powerhouses. Everything had started with their new star, Zhou Zekai.

The current Samsara had joined the ranks of the powerhouses. Zhou Zekai became the undisputed number one player in Glory. The leading figure that Feng Xianjun had been waiting for had finally appeared.

In fact, starting from season seven, the Alliance's support for Zhou Zekai was already very obvious. However, Glory was still a competitive eSport. Without a championship cup, Zhou Zekai was still a bit lacking. Everything changed after season eight. From the public to the officials, Zhou Zekai was indisputably placed at the top. Numerous media outlets rallied for him, declaring that Zhou Zekai had pushed the Alliance to new heights.

From the Alliance's statistics, Feng Xianjun would not deny this point. After Team Samsara won the championships, the Alliance's overall revenue had increased explosively compared to the previous few seasons. The new season had numerous widely-discussed transfers, further pushing the season nine's viewership to an all-time high.

The Glory Alliance was moving towards an even more prosperous era. At this moment, a sudden increase in mistakes couldn't help but make Feng Xianjun worried. From the data, the epidemic of mistakes this month and its effects on the quality of the matches had yet to be extensively noticed by their players.

For one, very few players closely followed everything that went on in the Alliance. Secondly, players wouldn't pay much attention to this statistic. But even if the players didn't notice, how could those media outlets specifically looking for topics to write about ignore it? The media also did a monthly briefing on that month's circumstances. The abnormality in February wouldn't escape the media's attention. They would certainly be reporting it without restraint very soon. After the players became aware, the Alliance needed to provide an acceptable explanation. The truth found through asking the various teams wasn't a beautiful story. They couldn't just tell these players that the lackluster quality and increased number of mistakes in the matches this month were because the pro players were absorbed in the game, right?

That would be too comical!

What made it even worse for Feng Xianjun was that he had no way of stopping these teams from competing in the game because this ensured that the Alliance would continue to grow. The league that was established could not be separated from the game. This had always been one of the features of the league. When the league first started, it had been designed to be extremely close to the players and fans, making the Glory competitive scene stand out among the numerous other esports and prosper until today.

Esports was dependent on the game. Whether it was an online game or a standalone title, keeping such popularity for so long could be considered a miracle. This was a win-win for the Glory game and the Glory Alliance. Neither side had considered breaking up this format.

What made Fang Xianjun depressed was that if it was just the teams competing against each other in the game, it wouldn't result in this type of outcome. Their past data explained this point. This time, everything was because of Ye Qiu and his Team Happy. The feedback from the various teams seemed to prove this point.

Ye Qiu... did he have to find him and tell him to stop messing around?

Feng Xianjun thought about it, but shook his head. Let alone this request being too broad, the other side had no reason to listen. Even if the request was reasonable and fair, was Ye Qiu the type of person who would just listen to orders? If not, the former chairman Jin Chengyi wouldn't have sighed, saying that Ye Qiu's existence had slowed the Alliance's growth by two years.

In the end, the most reasonable decision that could be made by Feng Xianjun was to advise the teams and to communicate with them. He could not directly prohibit them. After thinking about it, he might as well convene a private conference for the appropriate people in the Alliance's top ten teams.

Convening a conference for every team was very normal. Because of February's abnormality, the various teams also had their own thoughts, so they quietly responded to this time's conference and ran over to the Alliance headquarters to drink tea together.

Feng Xianjun hadn't called for anyone in particular, so the various teams just arranged for their usual participants: the Club manager and the team captain.

Ten teams. Twenty people. At the big roundtable in the Alliance headquarters meeting room #1, everyone was familiar with each other. Sure enough, this conference didn't seem too official. There weren't even seating arrangements. The various teams came, greeted one another, and then picked a seat to sit down on. When it was about time to start, chairman Feng Xianjun also came to the meeting.

The room was silent. Everyone knew what they were here to talk about because in front of everyone was a newspaper: the 2/28 Friday edition of the Esports Home. In eye-catching font, the headlines had put the total number of mistakes made in the Alliance's February matches. Below, there were comparisons to past numbers, letting the readers know just how shocking the the total number of mistakes were.

"Ahem...." Feng Xianjun seemed to accidentally but also intentionally put his hands on the newspaper on the table. He cleared his throat before starting to speak.

"This situation isn't too good..." Feng Xianjun got right to the point\*.

"Now that it's been reported, the effects cannot be avoided, so I hope that everyone can hurry and go back to their regular routine." Feng Xianjun said.

The managers and team captains forced a smile. How could they have not thought about it? But if there was fish, how could the bear not want some? They had to fight for materials in the game, but they also didn't want the conditions of their players to be affected. How could they not want the best of both worlds? But what could they do?

"Honestly... if it wasn't for Ye Qiu making trouble, it wouldn't turn out like this." The team captains would also need to fight for bosses. They had been on the front lines, so they had the most authority to make any statements. The captain of the tenth place team, Team Thunderclap's Liu Hao, decisively brought out the topic of Ye Qiu.

The former vice-captain of Excellent Era, Liu Hao, had been transferred to Team Thunderclap this summer. Along with his teammate He Ming, they became the bargaining chip for Excellent Era's purchase of Xiao Shiqin. At Team Thunderclap, Liu Hao was chosen as the general among the dwarfs, and became appointed as the team captain. But how could the current Team Thunderclap be anything in Liu Hao's eyes? From the very start, Liu Hao had always been seeking for a better path. But even if he thought of a better path, he first needed to perform well. As the team captain this season, he had actually performed spectacularly, bringing Team Thunderclap to tenth place. They even had hopes of making it into the playoffs.

Liu Hao would obviously cherish this type of achievement. As a result, he put more and more effort and even fought for wild bosses for Team Thunderclap, naturally in order to strengthen his team. Any pro player would spare no effort if they had the chance to enter playoffs.

Unfortunately, their guild's strength wasn't that strong. Along with Ye Qiu making trouble, they were doing so poorly at snatching bosses that it made Liu Hao feel ashamed. Liu Hao would obviously do his utmost to push the blame onto Ye Qiu. His resentment towards Ye Qiu was unrelated with him being in Excellent Era or not.

Chapter 956: Discussing the Details

Liu Hao decisively pointed out Ye Qiu. The other team captains didn't have much of a reaction. They sipped on their tea, peeled their tangerines, or peeled their bananas.....

Ye Qiu was the main culprit. Liu Hao wasn't wrong. It was just supposed to be fighting some bosses. How could that be any burden for pro players? Competing against one another? That didn't need to be as intense as competing in a match. However, Ye Qiu's existence changed everything. Happy went all out fighting these pro players. Even worse, they never stopped. What's more, both sides were supported by their guild, so even if they wanted to die, it wouldn't be easy. It was easy to imagine how exhausting such non-stop intensive fighting was. Then, they had to play in a high-level match, which didn't allow for even the slightest bit of negligence. How could they not keep making mistakes?

Everyone understood this reasoning. However, none of the team captains uttered a word, mainly because they didn't want to increase Ye Qiu's might. They were also thinking of ways to deal with Happy causing trouble!

Only Liu Hao directly said it because of his personal grudge towards Ye Qiu.

Feng Xianjun saw everyone's reaction and knew what was going on. Today's meeting was mainly towards these team captains. As for the managers, playing in matches and snatching bosses weren't their responsibilities. What they said about the players' conditions and what not didn't count.

"Haha, Ye Qiu... no one is a stranger to this name!" Feng Xianjun said.

"Since everyone's so familiar with him, I'll put it bluntly. I understand everyone's feelings towards Ye Qiu."

"Wenqing, you and Ye Qiu have been rivals for many years. He's already retired. You still won't let it go?" Feng Xianjun smiled in Han Wenqing's direction.

"Jiexi, you almost built a new dynasty like Ye Qiu. Are you perhaps a bit unwilling to accept that your legacy cannot compare to Ye Qiu's?" Feng Xianjun looked towards Tiny Herb's Wang Jiexi.

"Wenzhou, Li Xuan, Yunxiu. You three are from the Golden Generation. How could you guys claim the world belongs to the young under Ye Qiu's oppression? Haha, you guys aren't too happy with him either, no?" Feng Xianjun looked towards these three team captains.

"As for you others, perhaps you've been oppressed by Ye Qiu too? Or perhaps when you come out with your proud accomplishments, someone always splashes a bucket of cold water on you and compares your accomplishments to Ye Qiu's, so you're also not accepting of him either."

"I know all that!" Feng Xianjun smiled.

These team captains were smarter than a majority of normal players. When they first heard Feng Xianjun call out their names, they were startled, but when he finished speaking, they suddenly didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Feng Xianjun was implying that when they came across Ye Qiu, they were unable to put down their past grievances and refused to let Ye Qiu go. But it was in fact the opposite! Everyone was focused on snatching bosses, but it was Ye Qiu and his team that refused to stop bothering them!

Chairman, you've reversed the main relationship. We're the ones on the defensive!

The team captains looked at one another. Liu Hao once again rushed out excitedly: "Why don't we ally together? If we see Ye Qiu, we first get rid of them before doing anything else?"

Feng Xianjun heard his suggestion and was truly angry! F\*ck, didn't I just say all of that to advise you guys not to split your attention when you see Ye Qiu? Good, good. You even want everyone to split their attention together and make trouble for me, is that it?

Feng Xianjun glared at Liu Hao, but Liu Hao was so excited that he didn't notice. He was even looking at everyone expectantly.

Seeing how the team captains appeared to be in deep thought, Feng Xianjun was truly afraid that they would ally together to go hunt Ye Qiu down. If that happened, was there still going to be a league? We might as well just organize the players to go to the game and watch you guys chase him down.

"Ahem!" Feng Xianjun cleared his throat and got everyone's attention: "What I have to say is very simple. We're under special circumstances right now. Everyone needs to put some effort into the game. We all understand that. It's one of the selling points and features of the Glory Alliance. However, everyone needs to focus when they're in the game! Don't let your personal feelings interfere with proper business. It wouldn't be good if it affected your matches in the league! This time of year is when everyone needs to perform at their best."

Feng Xianjun's final words weren't wrong. This season, all of the teams appeared very ambitious, allowing such an exciting season to form. If the teams wanted good placings, the matches would naturally be more fun to watch, and the Alliance's growth would be more powerful too. This was why Feng Xianjun was worried of a minor problem growing out of control.

"The problem is that this isn't the current situation..." This time, the team captains didn't stay silent. The first to speak was Team Blue Rain's Yu Wenzhou.

"Chairman, we all understand what you're saying. We aren't that unprofessional." Wang Jiexi said.

"Right now, it's Ye Qiu who's taking the initiative to make trouble for us." Han Wenqing said.

"As a result, we aren't able to concentrate on the bosses. We have to split our attention to face them." Team Hundred Blossom's Yu Feng said. It was easy to see that he had been deeply affected by it.

"Everyone would thank the heavens if he didn't give us trouble. Who wants to provoke him!" Team Misty's Chu Yunxiu said.

"Last time, our team's Li Xun hadn't even left the city yet and he was killed by Ye Qiu's group." Team Void's Li Xuan said unhappily. He did prove a rumor though: Happy had killed a character, who was suspected to be a pro player. It turns out that it really was a pro player.

"It doesn't seem like he's here to snatch bosses. It seems like he's deliberately looking for trouble." Team Wind Howl's Tang Hao said.

"He's specifically targeting pro players." Team 301's Yang Cong said.

"Yeah..." Team Samsara's Zhou Zekai.

"Let's ally together and get rid of him!" Liu Hao immediately suggested, but this time, he saw the chairman glare at him. Liu Hao thought he had been seen through by the chairman. He instantly shrunk back and didn't dare let out a peep.

"What is this Ye Qiu doing!" Feng Xianjun seemed to be talking to himself, but everyone still heard him.

"Bothering us and diverting our attention is convenient for his group....." Wang Jiexi replied. Everyone nodded their heads, looking at it from a tactical perspective for snatching bosses. It had been a month, and the teams still hadn't figured out that Ye Xiu was actually bringing his team to get experience from them! After all, from a tactical perspective for snatching bosses, Happy's behavior was very logical, so no one was imaginative enough to think about it from another perspective. They all thought Ye Xiu's actions were appropriate! It was just that his appropriate actions were harming them.

His Happy was still playing leisurely in the Challenger League. They had plenty of energy and time. On the other hand, the other pro teams still needed to maintain their peak conditions to face their

upcoming matches! But every week, they needed to waste so much of their energy on snatching bosses. How could the quality of the matches not go down?

The one comfort was that it was everyone who fell, not just one team. As a result, even though the quality of the matches this month decreased, it didn't really affect the placings in the Alliance. The pro players only cared about their placings. They didn't care too much about the Alliance's growth or whatever, so even though they were all grumbling about Ye Qiu, in reality, they weren't nearly as worried as Feng Xianjun. It was everyone playing poorly, so who cares!

"Ban his account!"

"The Alliance doesn't have that sort of authority, does it?"

"Remove their qualifications for the Challenger League! That way they can't fight back!"

"Yeah yeah, that's good. Remove them!"

As a matter of fact, the team captains were even in the mood to joke around! It truly made Feng Xianjun burn with anxiety. The Alliance obviously had the power to remove their qualifications for the Challenger League, but they couldn't just randomly abuse it. They had to follow the rules, no? They didn't have a proper reason to remove Happy's qualifications! How could the team captains not understand that? As a result, they were just messing around. Those guys sounded all depressed, but in reality, no one was taking it seriously.

"Honestly, I feel like Liu Hao's suggestion could be one solution." Yu Wenzhou suddenly said.

Feng Xianjun was startled. Why are you also making trouble for me? Most players wouldn't consider things from a manager's perspective, but Feng Xianjun didn't think Yu Wenzhou was that type of player. In his eyes, Yu Wenzhou was a talent that could join the Alliance's management level after retiring as a pro player. Why did he make this kind of suggestion?

At this moment, Yu Wenzhou continued: "Everyone knows how many people are in Ye Qiu's team, right?"

"10." Wang Jiexi said.

"You count that one?" Han Wenqing said.

"Are you talking about Chasing Haze?" Wang Jiexi said. Everyone was clearly someone who fully understood the matter. They even knew the names of everyone in Team Happy.

"Chasing Haze is weak, but if you draw the line with her, then there are a few other ordinary ones among them." Wang Jiexi said.

"Little Cold Hands?"

"Concealed Light?"

The captains of the Alliance's top teams could already name everyone in Team Happy. These were just the rather weak ones in Team Happy, yet they were still very familiar with them.

"It doesn't matter if they're strong or weak. In any case, my suggestion is that the next time we hunt for bosses, everyone be on the lookout for them. We'll take the initiative to send out a few players to form a team and specifically contest against them. They want to fight with us, so we might as well fight with them. If we have people specifically to deal with them, then we won't need to worry about wasting too much of our energy. The others can then focus on the boss. The faster we finish, the earlier we can leave. What do you think everyone.?"

Yu Wenzhou said to everyone, but his eyes were still focused on Feng Xianjun. Feng Xianjun let out a sigh of relief. He nodded his head with a smile. This Yu Wenzhou truly was a talent. This method was one move, two gains! With each one having a specific goal, they wouldn't be splitting their attention. It was an excellent idea.

"Yes, I think Yu Wenzhou's solution is good." Feng Xianjun approved and immediately supported it. He didn't wait for everyone's response and first declared his position.

If the chairman approved, then everyone had to give him face! What's more, Yu Wenzhou's solution was truly a good one. Soon afterwards, everyone discussed the details. Liu Hao was the most fervent and he actively came up with many plans.

"You punk, are you planning on destroying Happy? Who would have thought that even after leaving Excellent Era, you still care about them so much." Li Xuan suddenly said.

"Ah... what are you talking about!" Liu Hao panicked slightly. He really want to destroy Happy, but he definitely had no intentions of helping Excellent Era. It would be wonderful if Excellent Era could be destroyed too. He still needed to hide his personal feelings though: "Do you guys really think that this team can threaten Excellent Era?"

"Haha, who can say?" All of the team captains smiled.

## Chapter 957: League Influence

It was a good thing that the conference had started feeling like a tea party because the atmosphere became more and more relaxed. Chairman Feng Xianjun became more at ease and couldn't help but give a bit of encouragement to every team. Of course, he didn't care whether the team was the current first place Tyranny or the tenth place Thunderclap. As the chairman of the Glory Professional Alliance, he had to treat everyone equally. If he showed even a little bit of favoritism, it would be hard to avoid being trapped by people making a fuss.

Soon afterwards, the managers and captains of various clubs all thought about what had happened. This meeting had been resolved with just a few words from Yu Wenzhou, succinctly offering a resolution. Everyone had been called in from distant areas, when in fact just communicating over QQ for a bit could have led to this idea. It seemed that the chairman had indeed been very nervous.

Only, the big club teams hadn't thought of the fact that the explosion of mistakes in February had been reported on by the media. But despite the discontent from the pro players, the number of players in the Glory Heavenly Domain was actually rapidly increasing. Why? Just going online to the Heavenly Domain and taking a look would give the answer. In the global chat, everyone was asking where the boss fights

were. Everyone wanted to witness pro players battling at a close distance, especially the popular Gods, whose whereabouts were directly asked for by players.

For a short while, this kind of enthusiasm from the players covered up quite a bit of the discontent caused by the poor competition quality. But the Alliance didn't dare neglect what was happening! Feng Xianjun was even worried that the large clubs, seeing this reaction from the players, would take the situation even less seriously. He personally called each of them on the phone, repeatedly warning them to be careful and protect the current state of affairs.

How to cope with the players enthusiasm, each club sent specialists to deal with the enthusiasm of the players. At the same time, Yu Wenzhou's proposal was also decisively put into practice.

Thus, the new week began. For every level 75 wild boss that spawned, all the teams once again used their power to gather players together. When Ye Xiu began to search the guilds for pro players, he was astonished to discover that a group of troops had directly appeared in front of Team Happy.

This group of players had mixed names and tags, coming from nine different guilds. At this very moment, however, they resolutely stood together.

Before Ye Xiu could figure out what was going on and react, these nine players actually took the initiative to begin fighting.

Exchanging blows, Happy was caught by surprise and put in a bad position. But after they reacted, Ye Xiu was wild with joy.

These pros were really too reliable! Knowing that we were looking for them to train, they now specifically dispatched people to form a group specifically to PK. This was simply too considerate in every way!

After coming to an understanding, all of Happy's members felt very moved, to the point that they were reluctant to fight back against these nine.

However, these nine weren't polite at all in their attacks, looking like they wanted to quickly send Team Happy back to the city. But although these two teams appeared to be fighting against each other alone, in reality, they were both backed up by guild troops. With that much healing, even if they wanted to die, it would really be quite difficult for them to do so.

As a result the two sides could only exchange blows to kill time until the boss was killed. In this way, the conclusion was unexpectedly joyous for everyone. Every pro team finally thought that Happy had stopped being a nuisance. Happy, on the other hand, would no longer have to use every means possible to get close to and harass those pro players, who were using every means possible to avoid them. Now, everyone lined up in an orderly manner in front of them, volunteering to fight.

"This is good news!" Ye Xiu was happy to the point where he couldn't keep quiet. The professional teams continued to do this time after time, fighting Happy again and again and hunting bosses one after another. This saved them quite a bit of energy. On Happy's side, Ye Xiu and the rest could also focus on fighting pro players hand to hand, not having to randomly run around like in the past. The effectiveness of their training naturally increased as well.



Previously, Happy had trained every other day. But seeing this happy occasion, they couldn't bring themselves to give it up. They would just need to train a bit harder! Even pro players couldn't have this kind of training method. Their competition training would at best involve dividing the team into two groups to fight 5v5, practicing with a few fixed strategies. With the same few opponents every time, they wouldn't be able to break away from their familiarity with their teammates. But now because the teams in the Alliance rotated the players that they sent to fight wild boss, the players Team Happy faced also rotated every day. In this way, it was as if the pro players were coming out one by one to specially train with them.

This was a unique way of refining their skills and accumulating experience! They also an opportunity to better understand future opponents! Even in the Pro Alliance, if the two teams didn't face one another in the playoffs, they would at most fight on stage twice. This kind of firsthand fighting experience wasn't as common as most people thought.

Happy could finally face pro players in combat without any distractions. Pro players could finally stop trying to do two things at once. Both sides were content with the present arrangement. This went on for many days. Happy appeared as if they couldn't break through the pro players' formation, but they continued to persevere in their attempts. All the clubs felt conflicted, hoping that Happy would finally retreat, but they also afraid that after retreating Ye Qiu would also think up some new evil idea. After weighing the pros and cons, they decided that just continuing the status quo might be for the better.

In a flash, March had passed.

This month the Alliance didn't dare look up the numbers only after the end-of-month competitions. They closely followed the whole trail of statistics throughout the month.

There was still a higher-than-average number of mistakes, but it wasn't anything like the weird explosion that had happened in February. Rather, it returned to a consistent level. level Feng Xianjun finally let go of his worries. He couldn't stop himself from calling up each of the teams to give more encouragement and praise, while calling for the other teams to watch and learn.

The other teams appeared to not be affected too much, but their strength was weak to begin with. They already made more mistakes on average than the other teams. They were not that competitive in these boss fights either, so it wasn't easy to be affected by this. There was an even more important reason though. This time within these other teams, Heavenly Justice, Conquering Clouds, Parade, and Radiant, were in an alliance with Happy. Ye Xiu's group had decided to make increasing their skill level a priority, but it wasn't like they could attack their allies, right? That would obviously break up the alliance between these guilds. This was a safeguard for materials when fighting for a boss, so they wouldn't break it up for now.

As a result, these teams weren't affected in the slightest, ensuring that the data for the "other teams" became worse . And in the process of fighting for wild boss, these pro players could also continue fighting together. This allowed them to make repeated gains during the boss fights. And in splitting the materials dropped, none of them really took issue with the current method, because as far as they were concerned, Happy's valiant fighting off to the side stalled a lot of the pro players. This was one of the crucial factors in their success. This was also a merit that the players of small teams possessed. Being the

disadvantaged group within pro players, they didn't possess any arrogance or self-importance. Thus, they could easily see the value contributed by others.

Their frequent displays of strength only magnified Happy's "tactics". The large clubs remained unaware that they were being used as Happy's training partners. The Alliance management really wasn't easy to deal with. Pro players had to directly come out. From time to time, some temporary alliances would be formed. With this new generation's special background, these temporary alliances were not similar to the usual guild alliances, where the groups turned on one another at the earliest opportunity. After all, pro players all cared quite a bit about their public images. On the other hand, those who played dirty suffered. To the other pro players, these players stabbing them in the back was a certainty, so it was very difficult for these players wanted to make an alliance with others.

No matter what, another month of bustling activity passed.

This month, in-competition skill statistics weren't as strange anymore. However, the team placements after this month were turned upside down.

These changes mainly came from the bottom half of the rankings, with Heavenly Justice, Conquering Clouds, Parade, and Radiant in the lead.

In reality, these changes had been visible during February. It was just that the difference between strong and weak teams in the Alliance was also quite scary. The divide between the top half and the bottom half seemed like a wide ravine. Thus, although the accumulated points had changed during February, the placements remained relatively steady. Everyone simply treated this as a fluctuation, not taking it seriously. It was only in March, when these so-called fluctuations persisted, that everyone discovered that these four teams had improved by leaps and bounds. From their initial positions among the weak, they had drilled their way through the bottom tier teams, steadily climbing towards the top half.

March 30th came, and the fifth round of battles in March finished. Among the four teams, Radiant had actually climbed to tenth place, and Conquering Clouds had reached eleventh. The ninth place team, 301 Degrees, was only 3 points ahead of Radiant by 3 points, and 5 points ahead of Conquering Clouds. The original tenth place team, the unexpectedly well-performing Thunderclap, was now kicked to twelfth place, with Heavenly Swords and Parade hot on its heels. It looked as if the team's standings could continue to drop at any moment.

Based on performance data and points, the abrupt rise of these four teams was due to the fact that they had performed more steadily than other teams in this shaky environment. However, looking one step further, the reason was more obvious: in the online game, these teams were the ones in an alliance with Happy!

Happy was Happy, but Happy was also Ye Qiu.

Feng Xianjun was speechless. The teams that were in the Challenger League, by means of the competition in game, actually affected the state of the Alliance. If this continued to develop, these four teams might actually have a chance of making the playoffs!

Of course, this was something that Feng Xianjun couldn't easily say to the teams. Even if he secretly wanted the playoffs to include as many current All-Stars as possible, a competition is still a competition,

and first and foremost the competition had to be fair. This kind of thing, he could only hope in his heart. He couldn't just go and underhandedly influence the results!

"This Ye Qiu only creates trouble! I don't know what he's going to do to the Challenger League...."

Regarding the Challenger League, the Alliance Chairman usually cared little about it, only appearing to follow what was happening, but now, he had truly become interested.

#### Chapter 958: Proactive Preparation

Because the competition for materials affected a team's placing in the Alliance, it wouldn't be good for Feng Xianjun to push this matter further. He could only console himself by saying that it was a feature of the Glory Alliance. In any case, the main offender being Happy made Feng Xianjun filled with interest towards this year's Challenger League.

On the first of April, the teams participating in the Challenger League received official notifications from the Alliance. The teams would need to report in on the weekend of 4/19 and 4/20. The Challenger League's offline tournament would officially start on 4/21.

The teams were notified early to make it easier for players to plan out their schedules. After all, apart from pro teams, most players were either studying or working. The Challenger League offline tournament would last for at least a month. To clear out a schedule for such a long period of time required some work.

At Happy, Luo Ji and An Wenyi were two students. However, Ye Xiu had told them about it a long time ago, so the two had even more time to get ready. Did they request a leave of absence or were they just going to skip class? Ye Xiu didn't ask, but he preferred if they handled it appropriately. Skipping class was very worrying. It could greatly affect a player's condition.

In the beginning of April, the pro players were still busy on both ends. Ye Xiu's side had dwindled somewhat. Their two months of training consisted almost entirely of fighting with pro players every day. How much time they got to fight with these pro players depended on what bosses spawned that day. The pro players would be most active towards Level 75 wild bosses. Level 70 wild bosses were okay too, but pro players would almost never show up for bosses lower-leveled than Level 70. Apart from that, they often wouldn't show up for past midnight or on match days. As a result, Team Happy's sleep schedule started conforming to the sleep schedules for the pro teams.

During these two months, not only did their skill levels improve immensely, everyone was in a good mental state. Their equipment had also improved another step. The blueprint for the Level 70 upgrade of Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella had been ascertained. The team was only missing a solution for skill books. Their understanding of level 75 materials was still very poor, so Ye Xiu didn't have plans on getting his umbrella to level 75 for now. The current Happy didn't have the resources to do brute force it by trial and error. Whatever extra materials they had would better be used for other Silver equipment.

Right now, it seemed like Soft Mist would be the first besides Lord Grim and Windward Formation to get a Silver weapon. After all, Ye Xiu's experience towards Battle Mages was too deep. Let alone a Silver

weapon, Soft Mist would have an enormous advantage for how to develop her other pieces of Silver equipment because of Ye Xiu's knowledge base. As for the other classes, even though Ye Xiu was proficient with them, his experience with those classes couldn't compare to his former main class that he had played as for so many years.

Silver spear: Dancing Fire Flowing Flame.

Although it hadn't been created yet, the blueprint had been completely drawn out. Luo Ji had performed some calculations and confirmed that there were no mistakes. It just hadn't been created yet because they lacked a few materials. The uncommon material requirements from the normal servers were the most difficult for Happy. They truly didn't have the energy to spare to split their attention and participate in the boss competitions in the normal servers. Even though they had trained their guilds in the normal servers to a certain extent, they still couldn't improve so quickly in such a short amount of time.

Ye Xiu was prepared to trade for these materials because despite these being wild boss materials, the club guilds enjoyed a monopoly on these materials in the normal servers. Those game studios were out of stock. In the end, Ye Xiu could only look for his good friends Conquering Clouds, Radiant, and Parade. These three guilds might be relatively small, but it wasn't like they were extremely poor. Seeing how their relationship with each other was good, the three guild leaders expressed that they could help out and ask if a trade could be made.

The value of uncommon materials wasn't ordinary. A single guild leader didn't have the authority to make a trade on their own. They needed to talk to several departments in their club.

Ye Xiu wasn't in a big hurry. He still had many things to do. Their recent training routine continued, but it was dying down. Everyone was saving energy for the upcoming offline tournament. Before it began, they needed to finish as much as possible in terms of their equipment. Dancing Fire Flowing Flame was only one part of their work so far. Ye Xiu's knowledge wasn't limited to just one weapon.

During these two months, while organizing their materials, Ye Xiu and Wei Chen thought up of numerous ideas for Silver equipment. Then, they gave these ideas to Luo Ji to check. If their blueprint had been confirmed and there were enough materials, they could immediately create one. If it wasn't for them already creating quite a few pieces of Silver equipment, they wouldn't be stuck on creating Dancing Fire Flowing Flame. Most of the 2 million RMB worth of materials from Samsara's trade were mainly from the normal server because Ye Xiu had been clear that his future activities would mainly be in the Heavenly Domain. He wouldn't be able to manage their materials problem in the normal server, so he had planned ahead 1 .

They used bits and pieces of those 2 million RMB worth of materials, so their set of materials gradually became incomplete. The number of missing materials for their Silver equipment increased as time went on. But before Dancing Fire Flowing Flame, they had already created 19 pieces of Silver equipment. All of them had reached Level 70. Along with the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella and Death's Hand, if they hadn't gotten anything from when Team Everlasting disbanded, they would have one more piece of Silver equipment than Team Heavenly Swords.

At Happy, Ye Xiu and Wei Chen came with their own Silver equipment, the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella and Death's Hand.

When Team Everlasting disbanded, they had purchased three pieces of Warlock Silver equipment.

After a period of time, they had created 19 of their own pieces of Silver equipment, bringing their total Silver equipment count to 24.

Among these, Wei Chen's Windward Formation stood out the most. He had his own Silver weapon, and the three pieces of Silver equipment purchased from Team Everlasting had been for his Warlock. Later on, he and Ye Xiu researched Silver equipment, and just like how Ye Xiu was most familiar with Battle Mages, Wei Chen was obviously the most familiar with Warlocks. Of those 19 Silver equipment, 4 of those were for Warlocks. Windward Formation currently had 8 Silver equipment on him, far surpassing the average of 5.23 Silver equipment on a character in the Alliance. He was almost at the level of the God characters. Team Blue Rain's number one Warlock, Swoksaar, only had 10 Silver equipment. It was only 2 more than Windward Formation. But then again, Windward Formation's Silver equipment were only at Level 70... he couldn't compare to Swoksaar in that area.

Besides these 4 Warlock equipment, there were also 5 Battle Mage equipment among these 19 Silver equipment. These two classes took up half of the total Silver equipment. There were 3 Brawler equipment, 2 Cleric equipment, 2 Ghostblade equipment, 2 Summoner equipment, and 1 Ninja equipment.

Ninja equipment was for Mo Fan's Deception, which made Chen Guo a bit worried. Mo Fan also followed along when they practiced, but because both sides had the support of their guilds, there were very few deaths in battle, so his scrap picking talent couldn't be fully displayed. His combat experience had improved significantly from fighting pro players though. However, Mo Fan was still as emotionless as ever. Chen Guo could never feel reassured about him. She always felt like one day, Mo Fan would suddenly leave without saying a word. At best, it would be in front of everyone.....

Chen Guo was worried that giving Mo Fan Ninja equipment would result in a loss. Ye Xiu was quite imposing though. He didn't hesitate to hand over the Silver equipment that he made to Mo Fan. Mo Fan was even more imposing. He took it without even saying thanks and directly put it on.

Chen Guo couldn't say anything about her displeasure. She really wanted to grasp Mo Fan by the neck to make him understand, but with Mo Fan's personality, Chen Guo wondered that even if she did it, she still wouldn't get a response.

After these 19 pieces of Silver equipment, it was either they didn't any ideas on how to create any more Silver equipment, or they didn't have enough materials like with Dancing Fire Flowing Flame. It would be best if those materials could be traded for as fast as possible. As for coming up with ideas for other Silver equipment, Ye Xiu and Wei Chen no longer spent all their energy on it. After all, the offline tournament was approaching. The two also needed to rest and adjust their mental state. Moreover, compared to Tang Rou, Steamed Bun, and the others, the two were "old". Keeping up their energy wasn't as easy.

Under Ye Xiu's experienced control, the day before the offline tournament, Team Happy slowed down their pace. If it was said that Happy had learned like crazy over the past year, then it was finally time for exam day. Before that, they needed to properly digest the accumulated nutrients obtained during this period of time in order to completely display their full potential.

4/5. On the first Saturday of April, a guest came to visit Happy early in the morning.

Su Mucheng. Everytime Chen Guo met with her, the two would chat about random things forever, but today, when Chen Guo saw her, they only did some small talk before quickly changing into the appropriate attire.

Chen Guo knew why Su Mucheng had come today. It was the Tomb Sweeping Day\*\*. Su Mucheng, Ye Xiu, and her would all be going to the same place.

When the three went out the door, they called a taxi and headed over to Nanshan Public Cemetery. Along the way there, the three chatted casually. The mood was neither heavy nor light.

"I'll go find you guys later."

Just like last year, Chen Guo's destination was slightly closer, so she left the group for now and first went to visit her father.

"See you." Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng called out and then headed over towards Su Muqiu.

"Dad, I'm here." Chen Guo placed fresh flowers in front of the grave, while cleaning up the surroundings. Chen Guo didn't only come once a year on the Qingming Festival. She would often come ordinarily. She just didn't tell anyone, that's all. However, Chen Guo was more formal on the Qingming Festival. She would be more traditional and explain how her year went to her father.

"It's been a busy year! Who would have ever imagined that our team would actually be formed. I didn't see wrong. Even though that guy gives me mixed feelings, he's truly very reliable! I honestly feel like I haven't helped him at all, but even so, we were still able to form a team. Right now, we're participating in Glory's Challenger League. If we win, then we'll officially become a pro team! Happy! It won't just be the Internet cafe. It'll be a professional club!"

"But no one is too optimistic about us because there's a Team Excellent Era in this year's Challenger League. Team Excellent Era! Did you know? They're our next door neighbors. I used to love that team. Not anymore though, of course. Because now they're our opponents and because they're not nice. Then again, if they were nice, I would never be able to have this type of opportunity and I would never have experienced everything I did this year. I've been very happy, and my life has been filled with things to do. In the last third of the month, we'll be playing in an offline tournament. We have to win! Don't you think so?"

Chen Guo said with a smile.

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\*\*TLN: Sorry, another long TLN. I wish there was a better way to post long notes and images :(

The Qingming Festival is also known as Tomb-Sweeping Day. It's a day where people visit the graves and pray to their ancestors. They sweep the tombs of their ancestors and give offerings such as flowers, food, joss paper.

There are other traditions often celebrated on this day too such as going for a walk, planting trees, flying kites, and a bunch of other things. They engage in physical activities so that they don't harm their bodies

after the Cold Food Festival, where you're not supposed to eat cooked food three days before the Qingming Festival.

The origin story comes from the Cold Food Festival. The story or at least the prince is pretty stupid in my opinion, but here it is:

"During the Spring and Autumn period, Prince Chong'er of the state of Jin endured many hardships while he was exiled from his home state because of the Li Ji Unrest. While heading towards the Beidi, only 15 men accompanied him, one being his friend and subject Jie Zitui (介子推; or Jie Zhitui 介之推). Jie Zitui was the only one who followed the prince through his 19 years of hardships, seeing his final ascension to the throne as Duke Wen of Jin.

Once, when Chong'er and Jie Zitui passed through the State of Wey, all their provisions were stolen. In order to help the prince who was tormented by hunger, Jie Zitui cut off the flesh from his thigh and offered it to the prince for sustenance.

Later, when Chong'er became Duke Wen of Jin, he ordered a search for Jie Zitui who had gone into hiding in the remote mountains with his mother. Jie Zhitui had no political ambitions and felt ashamed to work with his hypocritical fellows, hence refused invitation of the Duke. Duke Wen ordered the mountains to be burned down in order to force Jie out of hiding. However, the fire ended up killing Jie and his mother.

Filled with remorse, Duke Wen ordered that each year during these three days the setting of fire is forbidden – all food was to be consumed cold. Therefore, the Festival is thus named.[4]

Thus, there exist a Chinese Proverb that goes "While one can burn off an entire mountain, others are refrained even to light up to eat their rice" - depicting what transpired in the burning of the mountain and the subsequent annual banning of using fire on that day to commemorate." -Wiki

Chapter 959: Everything Ready

Chen Guo finished talking to her father. Just when she was about to say goodbye and leave, she saw Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng returning. They were standing along the side of the path, waiting for her.

"Ah..... that was fast." Chen Guo was surprised.

Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng chuckled, but didn't say anything. Chen Guo checked the time and was even more surprised: "It's already been so long!" After looking at the time, she realized that it wasn't that Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng had been fast, but her being too slow.

"Sure enough, it's been an eventful year..." Chen Guo turned her head to look at her father's gravestone and mumbled happily to herself.

The three immediately headed back and chatted with each other along the way. They were still talking shop the entire time, but when they got to the offline matches, Chen Guo felt a bit awkward because Su Mucheng would be their opponent in these offline matches. It was hard for her to accept. However, seeing how Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng were chatting without caution, Chen Guo was very curious how Su Mucheng really felt about the situation. Chen Guo didn't think that Su Mucheng favored Excellent Era

even 1%, but if that was the case, how could she be allowed to stand on stage? Chen Guo could already feel how twisted her feelings would be when the time came just thinking about it. In the end, she never asked before the two sides parted.

Once the Qingming Festival passed, there were only two weeks left.

Their request to trade materials with those three guilds was finally approved. In addition, the good relationship between Happy and their guilds had spread to their clubs as well. When Happy took the initiative to request a trade, the three guilds didn't take the opportunity to raise the price and happily reached an agreement on the trade for materials.

Ye Xiu used some of their Heavenly Domain materials to trade for some urgently needed normal server materials. The Silver weapon, Dancing Fire Flowing Flame, was immediately crafted. The process went smoothly, and it was successful on the first try. Happy now had three Level 70 weapons along with the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella and Death's Hand.

Dancing Fire Flowing Flame.

Weight: 3.3 kg

Durability: 33

Attack Speed: 4

Physical Attack: 920

Magic Attack: 635

Strength +57

Attack Speed +1

Physical Critical Strike Chance +12%

Fire Attribute Damage Increase +11%

Fire Chaser Level +3

When attacking, there was a 5% chance to inflict a Burn.

Compared to the current Orange weapon held by Soft Mist, Falling Moon Piercing Cloud, Dancing Fire Flowing Flame had slightly higher attack and also had increased Strength by 2 points. Apart from that, it was lighter by 0.2 kg and had 1 higher Attack Speed. Weight and Durability were directly linked, but in a normal match, 30 Durability was more than enough. 33 Durability and 35 Durability didn't make any difference. However, a lighter weight weapon was a small advantage. A lighter weapon meant that the character's overall weight would be lower, resulting in a slight increase in speed, even if it was a minute 0.2 kg difference. But 1 point of Attack Speed was not a minute difference.

A +12% increase in Physical Critical Strike Chance was the same story. Falling Moon Piercing Cloud had a light attribute, while Dancing Fire Flowing Flame was neutral, but because it increased fire attribute damage by 11%, if it were a fire attribute weapon, it would be a powerful buff, but as of now, the effectiveness of a fire attribute damage increase was rather worthless. The only skills with attributes



that a Battle Mage had were Chasers. There was only one type of Chaser with a fire attribute too, so this seemingly powerful stat wasn't too useful.

Self-made equipment should have this kind of flimsy support stat, but Ye Xiu still crafted it like this, naturally with a plan in mind. The current Dancing Fire Flowing Flame couldn't get a fire attribute, but with Ye Xiu's understanding of Level 75 materials so far, he was certain that when it was upgraded to Level 75, it would gain a fire attribute. Thus, this fire attribute damage increase of 11% was like a salted fish flipping its body. It would be an extremely formidable stat bonus.

It also increased Fire Chaser's level by 3. It was a stat that increased a skill's level. With this type of stat, even if a skill was maxed out on the skill tree, it could still gain these levels. A Fire Chaser could be leveled to 9. With Dancing Fire Flowing Flame, the max level would be 12. Skill points didn't need to be used for those three levels either.

An extra level in Fire Chaser not only increased its base damage, but it also increased the strength buff received from landing the chaser, so it directly improved the Battle Mage's overall damage output. A three level increase was very very good.

Finally, it had a 5% chance of producing a Burn. Ye Xiu had created this stat, so he obviously knew what it did. He had considered Tang Rou's playstyle and habits when choosing this bonus effect. When making the choice, Tang Rou herself offered some ideas before confirming this Burn effect.

With Dancing Fire Flowing Flame, along with 5 other Silver equipment, Soft Mist now had a total of 6 Silver equipment. However, One Autumn Leaf was considered Glory's number one character. Admittedly, some of it had to do with Excellent Era's three consecutive championship victories, but it couldn't be refuted that their victories were closely related to One Autumn Leaf's superior fighting strength during that time. One Autumn Leaf claimed that title back then and after many years, it still remained unshaken, so it was naturally considered the number one character. Soft Mist currently had 6 Silver equipment. She had surpassed the average Silver equipment per character in the Alliance, but she was still far from reaching One Autumn Leaf's level. One Autumn Leaf had a total of 12 Silver equipment, just one away from a complete set.

This was had been when Ye Xiu was still around. He didn't know what One Autumn Leaf was like now. After all, every player was different. When Ye Xiu was there, One Autumn Leaf was still missing a Badge. It wasn't that Excellent Era couldn't craft a Silver Badge. It was just that Ye Xiu felt like his current Orange Badge was more suitable. Right now, One Autumn Leaf's player was now Sun Xiang. Perhaps because Sun Xiang had different habits, that Orange Badge had been replaced by a Silver one.

As for whether One Autumn Leaf had any Level 75 pieces of Silver equipment, Ye Xiu didn't know. Even if it did, it wouldn't be a lot because when the new update came out, Ye Xiu would specifically target Excellent Era during the wild boss activities. It was taking drastic measures for a desperate situation. The goal was to stop Excellent Era from upgrading their equipment as much as possible during this period of time. This way, Happy could rely on Level 75 Orange equipment to pull their disparity in equipment closer.

From the looks of it, Ye Xiu's strategy was very successful. To Excellent Era, this move was similar to cutting off their food supply. The cleverest housewife cannot cook without rice. No matter how great Excellent Era's R&D team was, without materials, there was nothing they could do. Of course, if

Excellent Era threw their money to purchase materials, Ye Xiu had no way of stopping that. Even though Level 75 materials were extremely important to teams, the Alliance was becoming more and more business-like. Too many owners sought after money. If they saw a heartbeat-raising price, selling their materials wasn't impossible for them. Short term benefits easily enticed them. If Excellent Era truly chose this path, they would bleed quite a bit, but it would definitely solve their materials drought.

The last two weeks before the offline matches passed by in a flash. These final two weeks were everyone's last opportunities to strengthen themselves, and during these two weeks, Happy did not create any new equipment.

New equipment would lead to a change in a character's stats. For a high-level competition, this type of change required some time to get used to. Although the Challenger League could not compare to the Pro League, those who could reach the offline matches could not be underestimated. Moreover, the final boss would be a formidable team like Excellent Era. That detail alone was more than enough for them to not be careless.

On April 19, Happy boarded a plane to City B, where the Alliance Headquarters was located. In the offline matches, all participating teams would gather together in one place. Food, drink, and living quarters were all complimentary via the Alliance. The accommodations were quite nice.

As for the stadium... The Alliance had only just begun utilizing projections. The Challenger League clearly didn't have this kind of luxurious arrangement. Everything was in accordance to the previous season. However, rumors said that this year's group stage would be using the new tournament format. If it all went well, it might even be used in the playoffs.

Everyone in Happy arrived at City B. Lou Guanning had sent people over to pick them up. It was Saturday today though, and Team Heavenly Swords had a match, so Lou Guanning didn't personally come. Instead, Sun Zheping came. The former number one Berserker, as agreed upon, would be helping Team Happy face the Challenge League. These days, even though Sun Zheping was still at Team Heavenly Swords, his Another Summer of Sleep was frequently together with everyone in Happy in the game. They would be playing together in a tournament, so the players needed some time to get used to each other. Sun Zheping had even gone along with Happy to attack pro players, but because of his injury, he couldn't participate in too many of this type of highly intense practice.

He was an experienced pro player though. Even with the limited amounts of practice, he easily integrated himself into the team.

The Alliance set up check-in places throughout the hotel lobby. When Happy came, they saw many people there. There were 20 teams participating in the offline matches. If each team followed the standard guidelines, there would be at least 200 people. However, most of these teams were player teams. They had reached this step, so they had strength, but they couldn't be compared to a pro team. Nearly half the teams only had six players, the minimum requirement.

As for Happy, along with Sun Zheping, they had 11 players. This was about standard for a pro team. When they arrived and went to a check-in location, the other players felt like they were very professional.

"You guys are?" An Alliance staff member went over to welcome them. Before Ye Xiu and the others could reply, someone forced his way through and shouted: "Sis Chen, Sis Chen, you're here!!"

Everyone in Happy turned their heads and saw that it was Esports Home's City H reporter, Chang Xian.

The offline matches had finally come. This young reporter seemed very excited because once the offline matches started, the Esports Home would give a page specifically about the Challenger League. Usually, the offline matches took place in City H. There were quite a lot of Esports Home reporters there, so just two or so reporters was oftentimes enough.

But this season's Challenger League had Team Excellent Era and Team Happy, both teams with many stories. As a result, City H required the reporters from City H to follow these teams. Challenger League teams also having team reporters? Esports Home hesitated when thinking about this treatment, but they also knew that the City H reporters this season were quite lonely. Moreover, Cao Guangcheng was Excellent Era's team reporter, so it was approved in the end.

Chapter 960: Special Treatment

Chang Xian had come specifically for Team Happy, but Cao Guangcheng wasn't the same. As a well-known reporter in the esports circle, he wouldn't have bothered to come to such an insignificant event if it wasn't for Team Excellent Era's presence. So while he might have come along this time, he only came for Team Excellent Era and was completely uninterested in the other teams.

There was quite a bit to talk about in regards to Happy. Cao Guangcheng was willing to admit that. Yet even then, so what? No matter how hot of a topic they were, being in the Challenger League meant that they still wouldn't garner much attention. More importantly, the topic of Happy had no future, since they were eventually going to be eliminated anyways.

Cao Guangcheng was more than happy for Chang Xian to not compete with him for Excellent Era, so he encouraged the other to work on his reports on Happy. From Cao Guangcheng's perspective, his bitter days this year would finally come to an end as the Challenger League did. With their current lineup, Excellent Era would definitely be able to compete for the championship after they returned to the pro league.

Speaking of which, Su Mucheng would definitely leave the team after the end of this season. Then, they would be one All Star short. But after returning to the Pro League, Cao Guangcheng was certain that Excellent Era would invest more into washing off the blemish of being in the Challenger League for a year. With the two Gods Sun Xiang and Xiao Shiqin overseeing things, Excellent Era already had incredible competitive ability. If they managed to bring in another God, the new season's Excellent Era would be even more spectacular, creating even more news and he, as Excellent Era's team reporter, would reach new heights.

Thinking of this, the awkwardness he had to experience this year suddenly seemed not as terrible. Watching the boisterous round of welcomes as Chang Xian approached Happy, Cao Guangcheng gave a sardonic grin. To him, it seemed like a last celebration before leaving for the execution grounds. He didn't bother joining in.

Cao Guangcheng left after completing the registration for reporters at the reception and obtaining his reporter's pass. He didn't linger because he knew Excellent Era wouldn't come here.

For the arrangements of the Challenger League, all the teams would be treated the same, even Excellent Era. However, since Excellent Era was an old powerhouse, it was awkward enough for them that they were even in the Challenger League in the first place; there was no way they would want to stay with these grassroots teams to mingle. So they refused the Alliance's arrangements, preferring to pay out of their own pockets and find another place to stay. As for Cao Guangcheng, he was a reporter so the Alliance wouldn't have made arrangements for him anyways. He had to take care of his own food and board. He felt like he was a cut above all of these others, so he didn't bother lingering to mingle either, booking a room in the hotel Excellent Era had also chosen.

As he left the hotel arranged by the Alliance, Cao Guangcheng saw two H City reporters who had been assigned to the Challenger League standing in front of the main entrance, looking around with eager anticipation. Cao Guangcheng knew what they were waiting for, laughing internally. However, as he passed by, he was still recognized by his two colleagues, who hurried over to stop him.

"Hey, Reporter Cao, when did you get here?" The two approached hastily upon seeing Cao Guangcheng. Cao Guangcheng might not have published any good pieces, but he hadn't fallen to the point where even these two could look down on him. Anyone who was sent to report on the Challenger League wouldn't be any important person in Esports Home.

"Haha, I just got here," Cao Guangcheng greeted the two with a smile.

"We don't really have anything to do right now, so how about we interview you, since you're a big shot reporter." One of the two reporters suggested jokingly.

"How could you have nothing to do? Aren't there many teams that have already gotten here?" Cao Guangcheng pointed towards the registration area inside.

"These teams?" The two turned to look, their disdain evident. They obviously didn't think these grassroots teams were worthy of their attention.

"What's there to ask these teams? Hey, lemme ask you, when is Team Excellent Era coming, huh?" One of the two asked.

Cao Guangcheng smiled. How could he not know what these two were trying to do? These two had the same idea as he did. To be blunt, they wanted to take this chance to grab the high-quality resource that was Excellent Era. After all, what everyone paid attention to wasn't the news from the Challenger League, but the future of Excellent Era.

This was a great source and Cao Guangcheng was in no way willing to hand it off to someone else. After having to hold it in for a year, he wouldn't give anyone else even half a chance.

"Excellent Era? I'm not sure either! I looked around for them, but didn't see them. They probably didn't come yet. Ok, I have to go because I have something to do. I'll catch you later, bye!" Cao Guangcheng waved and bid farewell. Yet these two reporters had their eyes set on Cao Guangcheng's luggage.

For convenience, reporters like them would usually just live in the hotels the Alliance arranged for the teams, but Cao Guangcheng seemed to be leaving for a different place to stay if his luggage had anything to say.

The observation abilities of reporters were rather good. The two exchanged a glance and, seeing Cao Guangcheng hail down a taxi, hurried after him and hailed their own taxi to follow.

Inside the hotel, the registration continued neatly. Happy's members finished their registration and subsequently obtained the key to their assigned rooms. Chang Xian followed and even offered to carry the ladies' bags.

"Hey, Little Chang is pretty strong huh? Here, try mine." Seeing this, Steamed Bun gave his luggage to Chang Xian as well.

"Ah?" Chang Xian had already taken Tang Rou and Chen Guo's bags. Their journey this time was to another city and it was for a month. Their luggage was far more terrifying than a guy's. Chang Xian had taken both of their bags, already reaching his limits. Now with Steamed Bun shoving another bag at him, he immediately turned to stone.

The group went upstairs as they laughed and joked amongst themselves. The rooms were all standard two beds. Happy had eleven members, so they were arranged more or less the same way as they were back home.

Ye Xiu and Wei Chen had a room, Chen Guo and Tang Rou had a room, Steamed Bun and Luo Ji, Qiao Yifan and An Wenyi. Sun Zheping had only just joined, and ended up rooming with Wu Chen. The only one to experience the pleasure of having a room to themselves was, naturally, Mo Fan who didn't interact with anyone else.

Being a hotel arranged by the Alliance, it wouldn't be far from the stadium, and in addition, it had another important feature: training grounds.

It was unimaginable to not have training for a high pro competition. So the Alliance would always arrange for training grounds for the Challenger League teams. After settling in, Happy found the staff manning the registration and asked about the training grounds. As expected, there were immediately people there to show them the way.

The training grounds the Alliance had arranged for them lifted Ye Xiu and co's spirits. This environment was too familiar; it was the hotel's Internet cafe!

The reason for the Alliance choosing a hotel with average commodities was clear now. They had probably chosen the hotel for the fact that it came with an Internet cafe...

The hotel Internet cafe had since become closed to the public and became the Challenger League's exclusive training grounds. The interior had been arranged as well so that each team had their own area, separated by temporary partitions. By the time Happy got there, there were already teams working inside. The Alliance wouldn't bother with if they were using these computers to train or to do something else. During the Challenger League, they were free to use the area they were assigned as they pleased.

Team Happy's eleven members were a massive group relative to the other teams in the Challenger League and was assigned the innermost corner of the Internet cafe. As an experienced Internet cafe

owner, Chen Guo gave the environment and equipment of the Internet cafe high praise. After they took a small tour and familiarize themselves with the place a little, Happy's members weren't impatient to start using the equipment like some of the other teams. Having travelled quite a ways over, it was important for them to rest. After their small tour, Happy's members returned to their rooms to rest.

At the same time, Team Excellent Era had checked into their own hotel upon arriving, but they still had to register. The Alliance couldn't arrange for a registration spot in their hotel just for them, so after settling in, they still had to go to the hotel arranged by the Alliance.

Yet as Excellent Era made their way into the lobby, three people immediately stepped forth to meet them.

Reporters... Excellent Era's members immediately knew this, seeing the manner of the three. As a powerhouse team, Excellent Era had no need to pander to the media outlets. Usually, reporters would be falling over themselves to interview them; there was no need for them to pay reporters to come, unless they needed the media to express a certain voice to the public, of course. Though the season had lost them their face, they had never lost their status as a powerhouse. However, thinking of all the ruckus in the past when they entered the playoffs, three reporters seemed very bare! Among the three reporters, Cao Guangcheng was a familiar face. They had been in contact before coming and if it wasn't for how there was some business they couldn't manage to adjust around, Cao Guangcheng would have definitely departed on the same flight as Excellent Era. He was the team reporter, after all, so he would usually stick close like that.

As for the other two? Excellent Era's gaze fell to them. The two ignored the fire that seemed to spit from Cao Guangcheng's eyes and came up to introduce themselves.

They were also from Esports Home? Excellent Era was stunned. However, as the club manager, Cui Li had a lot of experience dealing with reporters outside of the player interviews.. He was pretty clear on the going ons about the media. Seeing Cao Guangcheng's pissed off expression, he immediately realized what was happening. They were fighting amongst themselves!

This sort of thing would be something that would make Cao Guangcheng depressed, but not Excellent Era; they wouldn't neglect any side.

Cao Guangcheng was seething! He had never thought these two shameless colleagues of his would follow him. These two had gotten off their taxi right after he had gotten off his. When they came to greet him with faces of triumph, he felt like he had the will to eat them.

And now, they had engaged Excellent Era like this right under his nose.

During Excellent Era's peak years, they might even be disdainful of talking with unfamiliar reporters, but hadn't Excellent Era fallen? They had to play nice with the media, so they wouldn't give the two the cold shoulder. Cao Guangcheng understood this all too clearly.

The two chattered on one after the other, engaged in a enthusiastic conversation with Excellent Era and making Cao Guangcheng like a little sidekick. This made his rage flare up further. However, Cao Guangcheng hadn't followed Excellent Era for so long for nothing. Seeing the two clinging to Cui Li and chattering, he decided to switch targets to one of the players. Yet as he turned his gaze, he managed to get a glimpse of Excellent Era's owner who was standing behind the team, Tao Xuan.

Cao Guangcheng was delighted. The owner of a club wasn't a person one could easily get a chance to interview! He was about to approach and engage the other when he suddenly heard the two others suddenly ask Cui Li, "There's always been the rumor that Team Happy was a team created by Ye Qiu, but just now, we obtained the finalized name list of registered players, and Team Happy didn't have the name Ye Qiu in it. This..."

"What did you say?" The other hadn't even finished speaking when Tao Xuan heard, and immediately began to rush forward.