

Chapter 2181 – God’s Domain’s Influence

Contrary to ordinary players’ beliefs, the auctions for Stone Forest City’s private houses had begun with a bang. The prices rapidly climbed as participants placed bids like they were fighting over cabbages. They shouted their bids with bloodshot eyes and fierce expressions as if they would take a bite out of anyone who outbid them.

The tension in Dark Night City’s Candlelight Trading Firm was electric.

“Are you kidding me? This is just for one month of rent, yet someone’s bidding 50,000 Credits? Are these people insane?” the Level 56 female Cleric sitting beside Tian Tong exclaimed, astonished.

The original price, 30,000 Credits, was already quite high, in her opinion. Stone Forest City’s private houses were valuable, but they only made it easier for players to reach the Bottomless Abyss and allowed them to recover Stamina and Concentration slightly faster than normal. At most, players with a private house would only get to spend a little more time grinding in the Regional Dungeon than those without. Zero Wing should thank its stars that players were even willing to rent the houses for 30,000 Credits, especially since not many players could afford the price, to begin with.

Yet, hundreds of players were placing one bid after another. Some players didn’t get the chance to finish placing their bid before someone else’s voice rose above theirs. In the blink of an eye, the first private house’s price had risen to 50,000 Credits, and that was just for a one-month lease...

“No. They just recognize the value of Stone Forest City’s private houses,” Tian Tong said as she shook her head. “In reality, being able to level up faster is a secondary benefit to them. I heard that the Mana in the city is even denser than in the Divine Colosseum. Even after a short stay, players’ minds sharpen, and their reaction speed increases. Being able to teleport back to their private houses from within the Bottomless Abyss will also allow players to spend more time training in the city. If players spend a fair amount of time training there, they might be able to improve their combat standards far faster than training elsewhere.”

Improving one's combat standards was the foundation for growing stronger in God's Domain. Levels and equipment were only temporary measures.

To a true expert, nothing was more important than improving their combat standards. This was also why Tian Tong wanted to rent her own private house in the city.

While Tian Tong had explained the reason behind these players' passionate abandon to her companion, the bidding for the first private house had risen to 65,000 Credits, which made the ordinary participants sigh with disappointment.

Seventy thousand!" Tian Tong shouted.

"Eighty thousand!" a Level 68 Ranger almost immediately outbid Tian Tong.

"Two hundred thousand! This first house is mine!" a Level 69 Berserker boldly declared.

An uproar shook the venue as soon as the participants heard this Berserker's bid.

Two hundred thousand? That's enough to rent a mansion in a city!"

The Dark Night Empire's 26th ranked Berserker is here?"

“No. I’ve heard that Fei Yu has defeated two of the Blood Jade Family’s peak experts. He’s now ranked 23rd. Even superpowers have been trying to recruit him.”

“It seems Fei Yu will claim Stone Forest City’s first private house.”

The players present, especially the ordinary players, could not help but silently marvel at Fei Yu’s imposing figure. They couldn’t understand why an expert like him would be willing to spend 200,000 Credits for a month-long claim to a private house in Stone Forest City. The man was simply insane.

However, before the auctioneer could slam her gavel once, another voice rose through the clamor.

“Four hundred thousand Credits! The Blue Sky adventurer team wants this house. I hope that you all can step aside out of respect!” a Level 70 Shield Warrior abruptly shouted.

As one, the crowd turned toward this Level 70 Guardian Knight, their mouths hanging open in shock.

“What?! Empty Miracle is here, too?!”

Blue Sky was the fifth-ranked adventurer team in the Dark Night Empire, and Empty Miracle, the team’s commander, was one of the empire’s top-ten Guardian Knights. It was rumored that his strength could even rival that of superpowers’ peak experts. The man was a large part of the reason that Blue Sky had earned its current position. One of Starlink’s Elders had even tried to recruit Empty Miracle due to his impressive prowess and extraordinary achievements. He was undoubtedly a powerhouse in the Dark Night Empire.

“This is an auction, Empty Miracle! Speak with your money!” A robust, Level 70 Assassin suddenly stood from his seat. “Our Windwolf adventurer team has no time for your nonsense. Five hundred thousand!”

“Five hundred and fifty thousand!”

“Six hundred thousand!”

“Six hundred and fifty thousand!”

Blue Sky and Windwolf fought, outbidding one another for a time. The watching crowd fell silent as they watched.

“Do they really need to go this far? Isn’t it just a private house?”

“That’s right! And this is only the first one. Aren’t there still plenty available?” “Can’t these two adventurer teams let others have a chance as well?”

No one understood why two of the Dark Night Empire’s top adventurer teams were so desperate to rent one of Stone Forest City’s private houses that they’d continue to outbid each other. The auction had just begun, and Candlelight had promised to present multiple private houses. If the two adventurer teams were willing to set aside their differences, they could rent a private house for a much lower price.

“How can this be happening?” Tian Tong’s expression darkened as she watched the scene play out.

She had sold one of her valuable treasures to increase her chances of winning a bid. Before she had arrived at the venue, she had collected 300,000 Credits. She hadn’t thought that she’d have any

problems winning a private house with so much money on hand. She had even hoped to rent a private house until she reached Level 100 with these funds, but now, she didn't even qualify to participate in the auction...

In the end, Blue Sky's Empty Miracle had won the first private house for 860,000 Credits, shocking every player in the venue.

However, just as everyone believed that the astronomical price was only a result of Blue Sky and Windwolf butting heads and that the auction would continue at a far more reasonable pace...

"Five hundred thousand!"

"Five hundred and fifty thousand!"

The moment the second private house's auction began, someone placed a bid for 500,000 Credits. The second private house eventually sold for a total of 930,000 Credits...

The third and fourth private houses sold for 880,000 and 890,000 Credits, respectively. Moreover, every winner was an adventurer team's commander. None of the ordinary participants had even had a chance.

When the auctioneer announced the 11th private house, the various Guild upper echelons in their VIP rooms made their move.

"One million!"

“One million, two hundred thousand!”

Once the various Guilds stepped in, the lowest closing price skyrocketed to 1,500,000 Credits.

“This is insane! These people must be paid actors!” Tian Tong’s Cleric companion exclaimed. They have to be!” Tian Tong couldn’t bring herself to agree with her friend, and neither could the other expert players in the venue.

All of the auction’s victors were respectable individuals in the Dark Night Empire. Regardless of Zero Wing’s reputation, it couldn’t afford to hire so many VIPs to fight over these private houses so desperately.

As the Guild upper echelons continued to compete, many players realized why Blue Sky and Windwolf had fought so fiercely for the first private house. Obviously, the various Guilds had decided to concede the first ten private houses, which were more than enough for the empire’s top adventurer teams.

“So, independent players like us never had a chance of claiming Stone Forest City’s private houses.” Tian Tong couldn’t help her bitter smile as she watched the empire’s Guilds rent one private house after another.

A similar scene played out in other kingdoms and empires’ Candlelight Trading Firms. For a time, a commotion erupted across God’s Domain.

Chapter 2182 – Frightening Wealth

When news of the auction for Stone Forest City's private houses had spread, God's Domain's ordinary players began to wonder if the various Guilds had lost their minds. Multiple Guilds had willingly spent more than 1,000,000 Credits to rent a private house for a single month.

With that kind of money, they could stay in a 7-star hotel for a month and still have plenty to spare.

Yet, these Guilds had spent so much to rent an ordinary private house.

"Crap! Those private houses are only convenient for travel. Do they really have to go this far?"

"The day I own such a city in God's Domain will be the day I become a wealthy tycoon."

"An act! This has to be an act!"

For a time, everyone in God's Domain talked about the matter. Many players had even pushed back their grinding schedules to watch the auctions.

When the game's other powers, those that weren't participating in the auctions, found out about the situation, they realized how frightening God's Domain truly was. With the right opportunity, one could earn a truly terrifying amount of money through this game.

Before this, most high-value transactions were conducted with Coins. Although God's Domain was quite realistic, and players could trade Coins for Credits, most people stuck with the idea that this was only a game.

However, these players realized their mistake as Stone Forest City's private houses sold for Credits. God's Domain was more like another country in the real world than a game.

As the private houses sold, one after another, an uproar shook Zero Wing to its core.

"Guild Leader, we have already rented out 1,667 units. The lowest closing price is 600,000 Credits, while the highest is 1,740,000 Credits! We've officially earned more than 2 billion Credits!!" Melancholic Smile energetically reported.

She had assumed that they'd be lucky to earn enough to offer Candlelight's Lifestyle players a stable monthly salary, but they hadn't even sold one-third of the houses they'd constructed, and they'd already earned far more than they had expected.

They could even afford to replace the Lifestyle players they had lost, not to mention retain the trading firm's current Lifestyle players.

Moreover, Stone Forest City's income restored the confidence their players had in Zero Wing and the Candlelight Trading Firm. In fact, Advanced Lifestyle players from other large Guilds had begun to approach Candlelight, interested in joining the firm.

Although Candlelight had been considered a sacred place for Lifestyle players, Star-Moon Kingdom's various large Guilds had offered competitive wages to retain their players. This was the only reason that the kingdom's Advanced Lifestyle players hadn't flooded Candlelight.

However, now that Candlelight offered Advanced Lifestyle players a monthly salary in Credits, these players couldn't afford to ignore the trading firm. Ordinary people couldn't even dream of earning 20,000 Credits per month.

As long as an Advanced Lifestyle player joined the Candlelight Trading Firm, they wouldn't have to toil in a job they hated in the real world. Furthermore, they could earn 100,000 Credits each month if they became a Master Lifestyle player.

During the few hours the auction was happening, Candlelight had received applications from over 600 Advanced Lifestyle players and 5 Master Lifestyle players. With so many capable crafters, Candlelight wouldn't have to worry about its development stagnating.

"It seems I've underestimated these Guilds and adventurer teams' desperation," Shi Feng said. Even he was a little surprised to hear Melancholic Smile's report.

He had expected the private houses to rake in more than the 50,000-Credit record of his previous life. He had, after all, established Stone Forest City in the Bottomless Abyss far sooner than any town had done so in the past. Stone Forest City didn't have any competition, either, so demand for its private houses would be far greater than normal. Still, he hadn't expected the demand to be this intensive.

However, after giving the matter some more thought, Shi Feng found the situation reasonable.

Training, leveling, and treasure—the Bottomless Abyss ranked at the top in all three aspects. It was only natural that expert players would go mad over the Regional Dungeon, especially peak experts from the various large Guilds.

These experts wouldn't even mind parting with 2,000,000 Credits for such an opportunity, much less a mere 1,000,000. If they got lucky and encountered a few fortuitous opportunities, they'd gain a massive advantage over their competition. They could even earn back far more income through such opportunities.

“At this rate, Guild Leader, it won’t take long to rent out all of the 3,000 private houses we’ve prepared for today. With the money we’ve earned, Starlink doesn’t have a snowball’s chance in hell of poaching our members,” Melancholic Smile confidently declared.

Starlink might be able to offer a higher salary to lure away Candlelight’s members, but Candlelight could simply recruit more talented players with their current rates. The trading firm would have no issues maintaining its operations. They might even be able to expand.

“No! I don’t want to rent all 3,000 units today. Let’s stop after 2,000 units. Then, we can rent out another 1,000 units each day,” Shi Feng decided, shaking his head.

Demand would only increase if they maintained a limited supply. Since he had such a rare opportunity before him, he had to take full advantage of it. By this time next month, he’d have a very difficult time fetching such high prices for Stone Forest City’s private houses. Moreover, players hadn’t discovered all of the benefits these private houses had to offer. Once they did, prices would rise even higher.

Two billion Credits were enough to settle the crisis Candlelight and Zero Wing faced, so he didn’t mind waiting a few more days before renting off the rest of the houses. He also wanted to set up his own training center in Fenglin City, which would cost a huge sum of Credits.

Initially, Shi Feng had planned to build even more private houses and Shops in Stone Forest City to earn the necessary funding for his training center, but looking at it now, the first batch should be more than enough.

“We’re only renting out 2,000 units today? I’ll inform our auctioneers right away!” It didn’t take long for Melancholic Smile to recognize what Shi Feng was trying to do. She immediately contacted her staff members in Candlelight’s many Shops.

Shortly after Melancholic Smile relayed the command, the remaining private houses had been rented.

“Everyone, we’ve rented out all of the private houses we had prepared for today. Please, visit us tomorrow,” the excited auctioneers announced to their audiences’ disappointment.

The announcement caused a ruckus throughout the various auction venues.

“What’s going on? Why aren’t there more available?”

“Crap! You guys barely gave us anything! How could you run out so quickly?!”

“I was just about to make my move!”

The various Guild representatives expressed their frustration about the auctions’ sudden conclusion. Many of the representatives that had held back regretted their decisions. Originally, they had planned to wait out their competition before making a move. That way, they could win a private house for much cheaper, but it seemed that their plans had backfired.

“Tian Tong, everyone has gone insane today. Let’s wait a few days before we return. The various powers’ experts should’ve sated their appetite by then. You shouldn’t have any issues winning a bid,” the Level 56 Cleric beside Tian Tong advised.

“I agree.” Tian Tong nodded.

The auctions' first few days would be particularly lively, but once the various powers had their fill, prices would fall.

The various representatives then returned to their respective cities. Some of the visiting powers had left behind players to keep an eye on the trading firm and report back if anything new surfaced regarding the private houses.

Naturally, the players that had won a private house promptly made their way to Stone Forest City to prepare for their conquest in the Bottomless Abyss. Now, every second counted.

Chapter 2183 – Private House's Hidden Effect

Bottomless Abyss, Stone Forest City:

As the auctions ended, the players that had won their bids made their way to their new properties. However, these experts were stunned after teleporting to their private houses.

“How is this possible?!”

Everyone was astonished to find a new buff icon in their status window.

High Mana State!

While this buff was in effect, players would receive another buff that increased their maximum Stamina and Concentration by 20% for 12 hours after resting for 8 hours in their private houses. If players rested for 12 hours, the buffs duration would increase to 18 hours.

These experts were ecstatic over the new discovery.

In the Bottomless Abyss, Stamina and Concentration consumption rates were a player's biggest weakness. They could only grind in the God Mode Regional Dungeon if they found a way to maintain these stats. Now, they discovered that they could have 20% more Stamina and Concentration by simply resting for some time in their private houses. This would greatly extend their activity time and boost their leveling speed.

The visiting expert players wasted no time in reporting this to their respective superiors.

"What's going on? Players can only accumulate the Double EXP buff in Stone Forest City's hotels, but they can gain more Stamina and Concentration by relaxing in a private house?"

"Doesn't that mean players with private houses will level 20% faster than players who don't have one?"

"If that's the case, we have to get more private houses tomorrow!"

For a time, the various powers received notifications regarding the private houses' hidden effect, re-evaluating their previous opinions.

The various powers had only viewed Stone Forest City's private houses as a convenient travel tool, but now that they had learned that these houses could increase players' Stamina and Concentration, they

had taken on a whole new meaning. If they could secure 20 private houses and send an entire team to take advantage of this buff, the team's leveling speed would be far faster than a mere 20% boost allowed.

The combat power an individual could exhibit was on a different level than fighting with a team. Moreover, players would drastically reduce their Stamina and Concentration consumption rates by fighting alongside teammates.

If an entire team had a 20% maximum Stamina and Concentration buff, they'd be able to last in the Bottomless Abyss for more than 30% longer than teams without the buff. With so much more time, the team could explore more of the Dungeon, reducing the number of competitors it would face.

Much of the Bottomless Abyss's first floor was home to Dark Demonkin, as well.

These Dark Demonkin looked similar to humans, but unlike humans, magic circuits covered these Demonkin's entire bodies. They also bore a third eye on their foreheads, and they had an affinity for Mana that rivaled the Elves.

Factoring in the Bottomless Abyss's environment, a random Level 65, Chieftain ranked Dark Demonkin could effortlessly defeat ordinary expert players. If an expert party encountered a Lord ranked Dark Demonkin, the party would lose half of its members before it killed the monster if it didn't react appropriately.

To make matters worse, Dark Demonkin were very difficult to sense unless players spotted them. They were skilled with ambush tactics and hid their auras with magic. When exploring the Bottomless Abyss, players had to remain on high-alert, which substantially increased their Stamina and Concentration consumption rates. Unfortunately, players had no other choice as even Refinement Realm experts would die if they weren't careful.

This situation instilled a deep fear for the various powers' teams, making them hesitant to venture too far into the first floor. They constantly worried that they wouldn't have enough Stamina and Concentration for the return trip, and if that happened, they'd likely die and lose several days of effort. Thus, the various powers' expert teams had remained in the first-floor's outer region so far.

However, if an entire team had the buff Stone Forest City's private houses provided, they could easily venture farther into the first floor.

God's Domain's powers immediately began to collect their funds. They also sent more people to the Candlelight Trading Firm's Shops, those that would participate in the auction, to increase their chances of winning more bids.

For a time, Candlelight's Shops were packed with players. The Shops in Stone Forest City, Zero Wing City, White River City, and Dark Night City, in particular, held massive crowds. The crowds were so large that players were nearly forced to wait outside. Passing players, who had hoped to visit the Shops, were stupefied.

"What's going on? Why have so many Guilds gathered here?"

"That's right! There weren't this many people during the last auction for Stone Forest City's private houses!"

Peeking in from the doorways, players spotted representatives from more than 100 Guilds in Candlelight's Shops. Although most were from small Guilds, there were quite a few players from first- and second-rate Guilds.

While everyone wondered why so many powers had flooded the Candlelight Trading Firms, the firm began the second auction for Stone Forest City's private houses.

Due to the increased number of participants, Candlelight had employed entry restrictions. Now, players had to hold more than 500,000 Credits to participate. This change elicited curses from the various independent players. Some even criticized Zero Wing for being full of itself, claiming that the Guild would never sell so many houses for such high prices.

However, when the auction began and news spread, everyone was forced into silence.

Unexpectedly, every bid on the second day opened at 2,000,000 Credits, and all of the participating Guilds fought to outbid each other. Most of the adventurer teams taking part hadn't even gotten a chance to call out a bid before they had been disqualified from the auction. Only top adventurer teams barely held on.

By the time players had claimed the second day's 1,000 units, the income from a single private house had hit a new record at 2,360,000 Credits, far more than the 500,000 Credits on the previous day. For a time, every player in God's Domain was shaken.

"Insane! These Guilds have gone insane!"

The independent players that had hoped to compete stared at the price incredulously. Did they really need to spend so much on a private house?

However, the record broke once again on the third day, with the highest bid closing at 2,570,000 Credits. Seeing this, Tian Tong began to despair.

On the fourth day, the highest closing bid reached 2,710,000 Credits, and on the fifth, it hit 2,820,000 Credits. By this point, the various adventurer teams were little more than decoration in the auction venues. Only the various Guilds could afford to compete.

Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow were astonished. They had never dreamed that Stone Forest City's private houses would be so lucrative.

By the time the sixth day's auction had ended, and players had claimed all 7,000 private houses, Zero Wing had accumulated 13.7 billion Credits. To hold that kind of money, a first-rate Guild would need investments from multiple financial groups and corporations.

However, Shi Feng knew that he would only earn this much money once. As players reached higher levels and gained better equipment, they wouldn't need to depend on private houses nearly as much as they did now. Moreover, now that the various powers had seen how much potential wealth there was to gain, they would do everything in their power to establish Guild Towns in the Bottomless Abyss. Once they did, these private houses would only go for between 30,000 and 50,000 Credits. This was Shi Feng's only chance to make such a fortune.

Meanwhile, Zero Wing had rapidly developed during the past six days. Almost all of the Guild's expert players had reached Level 70, and it now had 43 Refinement Realm experts in its midst. Since Shi Feng had sent Fire Dance to train in Unyielding Soul's system, which didn't limit her options, she had broken through to the Flowing Water Realm.

Because Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow had been bogged down with the Guild's affairs, they hadn't been able to devote themselves to their training fully. Hence, they were shy of reaching the Flowing Water Realm, but it was only a matter of time before they crossed the threshold as well.

Unfortunately, Zero Wing's recent development had brought a lot of issues to the surface.

Due to the sudden loss of so many internal members, the Guild wasn't able to raid as many Dungeons or complete as many field operations as before. As a result, the gap between the Guild's upper and lower hierarchies grew. If this persisted, Zero Wing's development would start to stagnate.

It's about time that I set up that training center. Inspecting the Guild's current funds, Shi Feng decided that he couldn't set the matter aside any longer.

God's Domain's various large Guilds in the past had either had access to their own training centers or partnered with already established centers. Not only had this provided fresh blood, but it had also earned these Guilds a stable income. Only the Guilds with strong support from training centers or dojos had had a chance of becoming overlords in the game. Without that support, stronger competitors had stifled their development.

Chapter 2184 – Opening a Training Center

The sun shone brilliantly that morning, and a cool breeze brushed by.

As soon as Shi Feng left his virtual gaming cabin, he contacted Liang Jing and took her with him to the center of Fenglin City to purchase a training center.

Due to the current trends, professional fighters were far more famous than actors or singers, so tons of people aspired to become one. Naturally, plenty of people wanted to capitalize on that aspiration and open their own training centers and dojos.

However, this was also why the competition between training centers and dojos in big cities was so intense, even cruel.

Aside from the costs of upgrading training and medical facilities, training centers and dojos had to pay significant fees to research and produce nutritious meals. Only then would their members be able to train efficiently. Individuals would see twice the results with half the training as long as they maintained proper nutrition.

Overall, running a training center or dojo was a very expensive business. If one failed to manage their business properly or lacked sufficient capital, they might not even last a few years, especially in a first-tier city like Fenglin City. Plenty of training centers or dojos from smaller cities tried to establish themselves in Fenglin City every year, but most never succeeded.

Aside from forging Crystal Light Sets and Advanced Mana Armor Kits in God's Domain, Shi Feng had a team grind Bosses on the Bottomless Abyss's first-floor over the past few days. During the day, he spent most of his time surveying potential buildings for his training center.

After several days of searching, he finally decided to buy the Century Training Center, which was only a short distance away from the city's fighting arena.

Although the Century Training Center's facilities were somewhat outdated, it had an excellent location. Most importantly, it was large enough for Shi Feng's purposes. The training center occupied a 51-story skyscraper. It had only been open for a little over a year, so the building was still quite new. Although it wasn't quite as large as Zero Wing's main headquarters, it shouldn't have any issues accommodating nearly 10,000 people, more than enough for Zero Wing's current internal members.

Moreover, the Century Training Center's previous owners were selling the building for relatively cheap, only 8.9 billion Credits. Shi Feng wouldn't need to redesign the building's interior, either. He only needed to purchase the latest training and medical equipment, and the training center would be ready for business.

Shi Feng spent nearly half a day signing the necessary documents. Once he completed the purchase, he called Xiao Yu.

“Chairman Xiao, I’ve settled the matter regarding the training center. Would you like to come see it??” Shi Feng asked, smiling.

“It’s done already?” Xiao Yu was stunned.

In Xiao Yu’s opinion, Shi Feng should’ve needed two or three months to secure a training center. Gathering the necessary funding would be a major problem, and Shi Feng’s hope of purchasing a skyscraper in the heart of Fenglin City was a fool’s dream. Moreover, in his opinion, the fact that Shi Feng was trying to buy a skyscraper in the heart of Fenglin City was a fool’s dream, to begin with.

Not even the White Clan Group would be able to afford such a massive expenditure unless it sold some of its assets, and the Big Dipper Group’s investment wouldn’t change anything for Zero Wing.

Yet, only a few days since their last meeting, Shi Feng called to say he had bought a skyscraper.

“That’s right. Now, I just need to purchase equipment and upgrade its facilities,” Shi Feng said, nodding.

“Alright! I’m on my way!” Xiao Yu said. Shi Feng’s earnest expression did nothing to quell the old man’s skepticism, so he had to verify the information himself.

A few hours later, Xiao Yu arrived at the address Shi Feng had given him. He was dazed when he saw the skyscraper.

The Century Training Center? How can this be? Xiao Yu stared up at the towering building in utter shock.

As the Big Dipper Group's chairman and someone who dreamed of opening a training center in a first-tier city, Xiao Yu knew a little about Fenglin City's training centers and dojos. He recognized the Century Training Center the moment he arrived. Since it had failed to produce any skilled fighters in the national fighting competition, it had lost business. Because of that, the Century Training Center had been trying to sell its branch in Fenglin City to recoup some of its losses and fortify its position in second-tier cities.

One would need nearly 10 billion Credits to purchase Fenglin City's Century Training Center.

Ten billion!

Not even the Big Dipper Group could afford one-third of this building.

"Chairman Xiao, will a training center of this size be sufficient?" Shi Feng asked politely.

"Sufficient? Of course, it's sufficient! As long as we promote the training center and upgrade its facilities, we'll have no issues recruiting new members!" Xiao Yu exclaimed, already considering multiple plans for the future.

"Wonderful. Then, I'll have to trouble Chairman Xiao to see to the remaining issues. I'll transfer funds to you in a moment for purchasing equipment and advertising," Shi Feng said. When he saw the confident light in Xiao Yu's eyes, he knew the matter was as good as dealt with. Now, he'd just need to wait for the training center to recruit and supply skilled fighters for Zero Wing.

As long as the training center supplied enough internal members, Starlink would find it far more difficult to hinder Zero Wing's development. The Guild simply had too many advantages.

"Once I receive the funds, I'll contact my suppliers. I believe they can transfer everything we'll need in one or two days," Xiao Yu said, nodding. Noticing that Shi Feng didn't waver when he spoke of spending so much money, the young man became even more of a mystery to him.

Xiao Yu was very familiar with Shi Feng's background. The young man and his niece had been classmates, so he had looked into him.

Even though Shi Feng was a combat genius, Xiao Yu had considered him a fledgling in high society. Since Shi Feng was from a family without a background, he should've needed a decade or so to accomplish anything impressive.

Yet, the more time the old man spent with Shi Feng, the more he became unfathomable he became.

First, Shi Feng had snagged Fenglin City's White Clan Group as a partner. Then, he had purchased Century Training Center's old building. Xiao Yu could also tell that Shi Feng was responsible for these decisions.

"Everything should arrive in two days? If that's the case, we should host our grand opening in three days. I'll also have to trouble you with hiring instructors and management staff," Shi Feng replied after giving the matter some thought. Time waited for no one. He needed to recruit more internal members for the Guild as soon as possible.

"That won't be a problem, but what do you plan to name the training center?" Xiao Yu asked. "We can't promote it without a name."

“Let’s call it Heaven’s Rumble Training Center,” Shi Feng decided.

Originally, Shi Feng had planned to give the training center Zero Wing’s name as well, but it was too well-known right now. Naming it after the Guild would only bring the various major powers down on their heads. It was best that he gave it an ordinary name.

“Alright, then. I’ll see to the necessary arrangements,” Xiao Yu said, nodding.

Xiao Yu left, immediately turning his focus to Heaven’s Rumble Training Center’s management. Of course, the news that the Zero Wing Workshop was preparing to open a training center in Fenglin City quickly spread.

Chapter 2185 – Experts Gather

Fenglin City, Redstone Restaurant:

A thin, middle-aged man respectfully entered one of the restaurant’s top-floor VIP rooms. Once inside, he approached an indifferent youth who currently meditated.

Although the young man sat there quietly, he felt like the room’s overlord. Any enemy of his would become everyone’s enemy in the room.

“Why are you in such a hurry, old Zhuo?” Han Yifeng asked as he opened his eyes, glancing up at the middle-aged man.

“I’ve just received news that Zero Wing is opening a training center in Fenglin City. Moreover, it purchased one of the city’s well-known training centers to do so, the butler, Zhuo Lingqiu, reported.

“Interesting. It seems Zero Wing is quite capable, after all. I had thought that the organization would run to me for help once it faced a financial crisis. I hadn’t expected it to earn a fortune through leasing Stone Forest City’s private houses. And now, it’s even opening its own training center,” Han Yifeng calmly mused.

“Young master, although Zero Wing can afford to open a training center, how can setting one up in Fenglin City be so easy?” Zhuo Lingqiu commented disdainfully. “According to our information, Lu Xingluo has prepared for this and hired a particularly skilled expert. By the sounds of it, he wants his expert to cause a ruckus in the training center, preventing it from taking root in the city.”

It was true that one needed enough capital to open a training center, but money wasn’t enough to keep one alive. One also needed sufficient strength to defend it, especially in a city as competitive as Fenglin.

“In that case, I want you to visit Zero Wing’s new training center. At the end of the day, we can still use the organization to slow Starlink down,” Han Yifeng said as he sent a glance at Zhuo Lingqiu.

“Understood.” With a bow, Zhuo Lingqiu turned and left the room.

Meanwhile, news of Heaven’s Rumble Training Center’s grand opening shook Fenglin City’s fighting industry. With the Starline Corporation’s Lu Xingluo targeting Zero Wing, no one dared to ally with the organization for fear of attracting the corporation’s ire. Now that Zero Wing had opened its own training center, even a fool knew that Lu Xingluo would make his move. At least it would be interesting to watch.

Moreover, the various training centers and dojos throughout the city viewed the fact that this company, which focused its business within virtual reality games, was trying to make a name for itself in Fenglin City's fighting industry as both foolish and a blatant insult. Even on the off chance that Lu Xingluo left Zero Wing's training center alone, they wouldn't let the organization get away with this transgression. Otherwise, they'd become laughingstocks in the industry.

While the various training centers and dojos discussed Zero Wing's new facility, Xiao Yu had been methodically planning the Heaven's Rumble Training Center's grand opening.

Three days passed in the blink of an eye.

Not only had Xiao Yu purchased the latest training and medical equipment available over the last three days, but he had also invited many of Fenglin City's VIPs to attend the grand opening. Fortunately, he had far more connections than a young man like Shi Feng.

On the day in question, luxury cars stopped by the building's entrance in droves, and many passersby grew interested in visiting the training center as a result.

However, most of the people that visited Heaven's Rumble Training Center that day were young, passionate fighters. They had all seen the advertisements boasting Heaven's Rumble's state-of-the-art facilities, and they were curious to inspect the training center themselves.

The world's technology constantly improved, and with the help of proper data analysis, one could build the best training routine possible, improving far faster than training under a famous instructor.

The instant these combat enthusiasts entered Heaven's Rumble Training Center, they were flabbergasted.

People wearing the uniforms of Fenglin City's various training centers and dojos filled the main hall. Some of them were even well-known experts in the city, and a few of the upper echelons from the city's training centers and dojos had even made an appearance.

"Crap! What's going on? Why are so many of Fenglin City's experts here?"

"Isn't that Luo Qianxing, who won third place in Fenglin City's annual fighting competition last year?"

"Quick, look! It's Master Yang from the Extreme Light Dojo! I've heard rumors that he's stopped participating in public events to prepare for the international fighting competition".

"Am I seeing things? Isn't that Chen Tianhe, the Martial Heart Dojo's master? I thought he already retired from the public scene. Why is he here?"

"What kind of power does this training center have behind it?"

With so many of Fenglin City's experts gathered, the young men and women who visited the training center out of curiosity grew excited. They even wondered if they had stumbled upon Fenglin City's annual fighting competition, rather than a new training center's grand opening. Why else would so many well-known experts be here?

While the young fighting enthusiasts were shocked over finding so many of the city's VIPs in one place, a group consisting of two young women and a young man entered the hall, immediately attracting everyone's attention.

The reaction was mostly due to the two young women. One wore an elegant, white dress, which highlighted her long, flowing hair and exquisite appearance. She had the body of a goddess, and many of the women in the crowd became self-conscious.

A second exceptional beauty in a bright, red dress stood next to her. When the two women entered the hall, they instantly became the center of attention.

Even the young man that accompanied these women was exceptionally handsome, and many of the ladies in the hall swooned.

The handsome young man was the previous year's champion of Fenglin City's annual fighting competition, known for possessing a talent that only emerged once a decade in the city. He had also qualified to participate in the international fighting competition, and his status as the heir to the Zhang Clan Group, one of the city's top-five financial groups, was just icing on the cake.

"Qingxue, most of these experts don't seem to be here with honest intentions. I'm afraid that this friend of yours will have a very difficult time maintaining a training center in Fenglin City," Zhang Wuya told Bai Qingxue[1] as he glanced over the crowd. "If your friend can't handle the pressure, I'm willing to step up for him. I suspect that most of these training centers and dojos will take a step back out of respect."

"Shi Feng is an internal force expert as well, Big Brother Zhang. Shouldn't he be able to handle the situation?" Zhao Yueru asked.

"An internal force expert might be impressive in second- and third-tier cities, but this is Fenglin City. Every well-known training center and dojo in the city has its own internal force expert. Moreover, they are experienced veterans. Their accomplishments with internal force are far more impressive than a youngster who has just mastered the techniques," Zhang Wuya explained.

Bai Qingxue and Zhao Yueru's expressions darkened slightly after listening to their companion. They had never thought that opening a training center would be so difficult.

While Bai Qingxue's group chatted amongst themselves, another commotion rattled the crowd in the main hall.

An imposing, bear of a man entered the room. Two knife scars decorated his face, and his arrival shocked many of the training centers and dojo's upper echelons. The instant this man appeared, many of the training center and dojo upper echelons present could not help but reveal shocked expressions.

"Why is he here?" When Zhang Wuya saw the new arrival, fear flashed in his eyes.

"Is he someone powerful?" Zhao Yueru asked when she noticed Zhang Wuya's trepidation.

"Powerful?" Zhang Wuya shook his head. "That word is no longer sufficient. He's practically a devil. He has earned the nickname 'T-Rex' for how heavy-handed he is in combat. No fewer than twenty internal force experts have suffered defeat at his hands. Some of them are still lying in their hospital beds. He was banned from the fighting world for that very reason. Most of that happened more than a decade ago, but according to recent rumors, it seems he has defeated another internal force expert overseas. I don't even think I can stop him if he tries to make a move."

While everyone made a fuss, Wang 'T-Rex' Zhongquan stepped into the center of the hall.

"I've heard that Heaven's Rumble has set up shop here! Who's in charge? I, Wang Zhongquan, want to spar! I want to see whether or not Heaven's Rumble qualifies to do business in Fenglin City!" Wang Zhongquan shouted, his voice echoing throughout the hall. Most people immediately took a step back.

“Heaven’s Rumble is doomed. I doubt anyone in Fenglin city can save it now that this demon has shown up.”

“The Starline Corporation is certainly powerful. It’s even hired this monster to cause trouble.”

“Zero Wing should’ve just stayed in its virtual reality game instead of meddling in the fighting industry.”

As the various training centers and dojo’s experts watched Wang Zhongquan, they knew that Heaven’s Rumble Training Center would soon go out of business. It would also be the first training center to close on the same day it opened.

Suddenly, however, a crisp voice rang out over the crowd’s muttering.

“I don’t know who you are, but I’m afraid that you don’t qualify to challenge our Hall Master!”

Instinctively, the crowd turned toward the voice’s origin. The speaker was a graceful, mesmerizing woman, and none other than Fire Dance’s player.



The various training centers and dojos' experts were stunned when they saw Fire Dance.

"Who's this little lady?"

"Is she tired of living?"

Although none of them recognized Fire Dance, her identity didn't matter, even if she was an heiress to a large corporation or a member of a powerful family.

Wang Zongquan was still a merciless person.

Ordinary people, at most, knew this man had recently defeated Demon Wolf, an apex internal force expert overseas.

However, these experts knew that Wang Zongquan had been banished from the fighting industry in the past and had resorted to mercenary work. He was a cold-blooded monster that had secretly ended many experts' lives with his own hands. It was rumored that he was even responsible for the deaths of a few great families' upper echelons. If Wang Zongquan wanted to, he could even slay a large family's heirs, regardless of how many bodyguards protected them.

As far as the crowd was concerned, Fire Dance was suicidal to provoke Wang Zongquan so blatantly.

Unexpectedly, however, the bear-like man didn't seem angry. He watched her for a moment before grinning, then asked, "If that's the case, little lady, how do I earn this qualification you speak of?"

His goal was simple; he wanted to ensure that Heaven's Rumble Training Center's reputation hit rock-bottom.

His biggest concern was that Heaven's Rumble would refuse to fight him. He had earned quite a reputation, after all. No one would look down on the training center if it declined his challenge.

Hence, when this ignorant girl had stepped up to provoke him, he inwardly celebrated. Now, Heaven's Rumble would have no choice but to accept his challenge, and he could take his time toying with the training center and humiliating its management. Heaven's Rumble would never gain a foothold in Fenglin City.

"Our youth are so impatient. After hearing a few insulting words, she leaped into his trap. Her comment has ensured that Heaven's Rumble will have to face Wang Zongquan," Chen Tianhe, the Martial Heart Dojo's master and an old man in his 50s, said, shaking his head. He then turned to Xiao Yu, and said, "Old Xiao, I'm afraid that disaster will befall the young man you mentioned."

"Won't Wang Zongquan back out if you make an appearance, Master Tianhe?" Xiao Yu anxiously asked.

He was exasperated over Fire Dance's impatience. He knew she was an expert that had proven herself against one of the White Tiger Dojo's intermediate disciples, but Wang Zongquan was an expert among experts. When she had stepped forward, she had only caused more trouble for Heaven's Rumble Training Center.

Now, Chen Tianhe was their only hope.

Chen Tianhe had risen to fame for his martial art mastery many years ago. Even the White Tiger Dojo's Jiang Tianyuan had to show a little respect before this old man. Chen Tianhe was unquestionably powerful; he had ranked among the top 32 in the international fighting competition during his peak.

Ranking among the top 32 fighters might not seem impressive, but they were talking about the largest fighting competition in the world. One had to be an expert among experts just to qualify for the competition, and hundreds of martial artists participated.

Wang Zongquan had only ranked among the top 64 fighters during his peak.

“If I were 15 years younger, I might be able to contend with him, but now...,” Chen Tianhe said, shaking his head.

Youthful vigor was gold in martial arts. This saying rang true both in the past and the present.

Wang Zongquan was only 38 this year, and with today’s technology, he was still in his prime. Proving the point, the bear-like man had defeated Demon Wolf, who wasn’t any weaker than Chen Tianhe during his peak.

“Is it really over, just like this?” Xian Yu felt as if his soul were leaving his body.

He had gone to great lengths to employ Chen Tianhe’s help to ensure that Heaven’s Rumble Training Center would have a home in Fenglin City. He had even called in the favor the old man had owed him for so many years. But now...

“That youngster, Shi Feng, is really pitiful. He grasped internal force at such a tender age, yet he will have to face Wang Zongquan,” Chen Tianhe lamented, sighing as he stared at the monstrous, scarred man.

Shi Feng had definitely earned the title 'genius' for grasping internal force, despite being in his early 20s. He had a bright future ahead of him. Controlling internal force not only helped one improve their physical control, but it also enhanced comprehension. Moreover, Shi Feng hadn't yet reached his prime. He had plenty of room for growth. With the help of today's technology, he could gain substantial strength.

With another five or six years, Shi Feng could fight Wang Zongquan to a standstill.

Meanwhile, a thin, middle-aged man watched the exchange between Fire Dance and Wang Zongquan from a corner of the room, frowning. This man was none other than Zhuo Linqiu.

It seems Lu Xingluo can't be underestimated. To think he would actually employ Wang Zongquan. The situation will be harder to handle now. Zhuo Linqiu felt on-edge as he watched the newcomer.

He had thought that Lu Xingluo would, at most, hire an advanced internal force expert. He hadn't expected the apex internal force expert, Wang Zongquan, to show up. Experts of his caliber were extremely rare, even on a national scale.

They were also particularly difficult to employ.

These experts had no interest in money; they simply didn't need any. Hence, tempting them into action was a challenge.

Although Zhuo Linqiu was also an apex internal force expert, he was likely no match for Wang Zongquan due to his age. If it came down to a fight, Zhuo Linqiu felt that he only had a 40% chance of winning.

While everyone whispered to each other, Fire Dance approached the large man in the center of the hall. She calmly declared, "If you want to spar with our Hall Master, you'll have to get through me."

A series of gasps and silence answered the young woman's declaration.

"Has she gone insane?"

"Doesn't Heaven's Rumble have any capable fighters. Do they really need to send this young woman to her death?"

Astonished, the crowd stared at Fire Dance, who maintained her composure even after her bold statement. They wouldn't have been worried for her if she had challenged any other internal force expert, but she had just asked Wang Zongquan to spar. He wasn't kind; he was ruthless.

Almost every opponent the scarred man had defeated had spent at least six months in a hospital bed, and that was when medical experts had been nearby during the fight.

Without the money to afford the best medical services, they would've spent the rest of their lives in a hospital!

"What is she trying to do?" Bai Qingxue began to worry as she watched her comrade.

She knew that Fire Dance had trained bitterly in God's Domain, and she was quite powerful. However, this was reality, not the virtual world. Even if she frequently trained in the real world, she'd be lucky to survive against ordinary martial arts experts. Trying to fight an expert of Wang Zongquan's caliber was suicidal.

“Is she a friend, Qingxue?” Zhang Tianya asked, to which Bai Qingxue nodded.

“Don’t worry, then. Although I’m not his match, I can stop that monster for a moment if necessary,” Zhang Tianya comforted his escort.

He had pursued Bai Qingxue for a long time now, although he wanted more than her perfect body and pretty face. He was far more interested in the White Clan Group that stood behind her. Only a woman of her standards was fit to stand beside him.

However, he rarely encountered an opportunity to show off his strength to her. Hence, he was quite pleased with the situation. He wasn’t a match for an apex internal force expert like Wang Zongquan, but he’d have no issues stopping one of the man’s attacks.

Is your training center out of fighters, little lady? If you wish to spar with me, you should know that I never show mercy to my opponents. You can’t blame me for the outcome.” Wang Zongquan’s expression darkened, and a flash of killing intent lit his eyes.

He could’ve brushed off her interruption as youthful ignorance, but a public challenge was an entirely different matter.

He was an internal force expert—a master martial artist. It was humiliating to have some random nobody challenge him. If he did not teach this girl a proper lesson, he’d become a laughingstock.

“The state of Heaven’s Rumble is none of your concern! You can talk after you defeat me!”

Fire Dance stepped forward, and her fist shot straight toward Wang Zongquan.

Chapter 2188 – Do You Have an Opinion?

Everyone was stunned to see Wang Zongquan down on one knee.

Wang Zongquan's physique completely surpassed an ordinary person's. Even the professional fighters of Fenglin City would have an extremely difficult time inflicting any external damage on him, much less internal damage.

Yet, he actually sustained considerably severe internal injuries from Fire Dance's gentle palm strike. Based on his current complexion, he would most likely need half a month to recover from his injuries. This outcome was simply unbelievable.

The only explanation anyone could come up with for this situation was that Fire Dance had utilized internal force.

"She not only grasped internal force at such a young age but also managed to injure Wang Zongquan? Could she be the disciple of some ancient aristocratic family?" Chen Tianhe also could not help his astonishment as he looked at Fire Dance.

Even with the help of modern technology, internal force experts were still incredibly rare. One would already be considered very talented to grasp internal force by the age of 30. Every one of such experts would become celebrities in the fighting industry. Even a top-ranking dojo like the White Tiger Dojo would treat such an expert as an honored guest.

Nevertheless, Fire Dance had successfully grasped internal force at such a young age and even managed to heavily injure Wang Zongquan in one move. This was incredible.

The only possibility Chen Tianhe could think of to explain this situation was that Fire Dance was the disciple of an ancient aristocratic family since such disciples practically started training in their mothers' wombs. These disciples enjoyed the best resources, legacies, and teachers. As a result, they generally grasped internal force in their teens. By the time they entered their 20s, they were already strong enough to rank within the top 20 in international fighting competitions should they choose to participate.

However, ancient aristocratic families generally kept a low profile and never fought for fame. Hence, the general populace did not know about these ancient aristocratic families. All the same, the influence these ancient aristocratic families held in the world was not the slightest bit weaker than that of major corporations.

"She's an ancient aristocratic family's disciple?" Xiao Yu revealed an excited expression when he heard Chen Tianhe's words.

Xiao Yu had heard a little regarding ancient aristocratic families, so he had an idea just how frightening they were. They were not existences ordinary people like himself could come into contact with. Only well-established martial arts masters like Chen Tianhe had the opportunity to do so.

If Fire Dance really was an ancient aristocratic family's disciple, then the Heaven's Rumble Training Center would truly become powerful. Even the Starline Corporation would probably be helpless against it.

Meanwhile, at this moment, the upper echelons of the various training centers and dojos present in the hall had lost their complacent attitude altogether. Now, only shock and fear filled their minds.

If even Wang Zongquan was defeated, then who in Fenglin City could possibly be a match for Fire Dance?

Moreover, Fire Dance was still so young. She would definitely continue growing stronger. One could even describe her future as limitless. With such a talent present, who would dare provoke the Heaven's Rumble Training Center?

After a brief round of exclamations from the spectating crowd, Wang Zongquan managed to recover slightly and slowly stand back up. Now, his eyes held only fear when he gazed at Fire Dance.

"I never thought that I would actually lose to a little girl like you. May I know which aristocratic family's disciple you are?" Wang Zongquan asked politely, his previous arrogant attitude gone. Now, he was treating Fire Dance as his equal.

Wang Zongquan was far more knowledgeable than Chen Tianhe, so he knew just how powerful the disciples of aristocratic families were.

The moment Fire Dance sent him stumbling back, he concluded that she was a disciple of an ancient aristocratic family. After all, everyone from the younger generation capable of surpassing him was an expert famous throughout the country. They definitely wouldn't be an unknown existence like Fire Dance.

Fortunately, Fire Dance's strength and physical fitness were greatly inferior to his own. Had that previous strike been executed by an expert of equal standards, he definitely wouldn't have been able to stand back up.

Fire Dance's victory was due entirely to her calm mind and frightening reaction speed. Her grasp of distance was also frighteningly accurate.

Had he known that Fire Dance possessed such abilities early on, he definitely wouldn't have used such aggressive maneuvers. Instead, he would've opted for a more secure fighting style. Then, he wouldn't have been defeated so decisively.

However, Fire Dance was still very young. Her physical fitness could continue improving in the future. The same was true for her technical standards. Wang Zongquan did not feel ashamed of being defeated by such a prodigy.

"An aristocratic family's disciple?" The heartstrings of Zhang Tianya, who was standing a short distance away, quivered when he looked at Fire Dance.

Both Fire Dance's appearance and body were extraordinary. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that she was Zhao Yueru's equal. Moreover, Fire Dance's martial artist's temperament lent her an additional elegance that Zhao Yueru did not have. If it was indeed true that Fire Dance had the backing of an ancient aristocratic family, then she would definitely be of great help to him in the future—if he could obtain her.

"Aristocratic family's disciple?" Fire Dance, however, was confused by Wang Zongquan's words. She then explained, "I am not a disciple of some aristocratic family. I am only a member of the Heaven's Rumble Training Center."

As soon as Fire Dance was done speaking, the entire hall fell silent momentarily.

"Impossible! You grasped internal force at such a young age! You also have that frightening reaction speed and a talent for combat! How can you simply be a member of a small training center?!" Wang

Zongquan was enraged by Fire Dance's response. "If you don't want to tell me which aristocratic family you're from, just say so! Is there a need to humiliate me this way?!"

While he could accept being defeated by Fire Dance, as a martial arts master, he definitely would not accept being humiliated.

Moreover, what he was truly adept at was not fighting but assassination. Outside official settings, he would have plenty of means to kill Fire Dance without anybody tracing the deed back to him.

Everyone present also nodded in agreement with Wang Zongquan's words.

A member of a training center? What a joke.

Even the top-ranking training centers and dojos in the country did not have the ability to produce an expert like Fire Dance.

"I'm telling the truth. I am not a disciple of some aristocratic family. I am only a member that has been training under our hall master all this time. I can't do anything about it even if you don't believe me," Fire Dance said, shaking her head. She gave no further explanation after that.

"I heard that your hall master is just in his early 20s. If you insist on trying to raise your hall master's reputation, then I have nothing else to say. However, I will firmly engrave today's matter in my heart!" Wang Zongquan was now thoroughly enraged. However, with his defeat at Fire Dance's hands, he no longer had any qualifications to challenge Heaven's Rumble's Hall Master. Even so, he still had many ways to destroy both the Heaven's Rumble Training Center and Fire Dance.

“Was there a need for this little lady to humiliate him like so?” Chen Tianhe could already see that Wang Zongquan bore killing intent toward the Heaven’s Rumble Training Center and Fire Dance. The man definitely wouldn’t let this matter rest.

Even a fool wouldn’t believe that a youth in his early 20s could nurture Fire Dance, who was of roughly similar age, into her current state. Let alone Wang Zongquan, even Chen Tianhe would become very angry if he were in Wang Zongquan’s shoes.

However, just as Wang Zongquan was about to turn around and leave, a crisp voice echoed throughout the entire hall.

“I am her instructor. Do you have any opinions about it?”

Immediately, everyone automatically turned their heads toward the origin of the voice, and what they saw was a young man currently descending the staircase from the second floor. This young man in black was none other than Shi Feng, who had just completed his daily training.



Chapter 2189 – Shocking the Audience

Everyone present inside the hall gazed at Shi Feng in astonishment.

Wang Zongquan was no minor character. Although he had lost to Fire Dance, there was still no doubt that he was an apex internal force expert. Even the masters of top-ranking training centers and dojos had to treat him with respect.

Not to mention, Wang Zongquan had been working as a hitman for the past decade. Even if he couldn't openly cause problems for a training center or dojo, he was more than capable of doing so in secret.

"Is this guy tired of living? He actually dares to come out now? Does he really think Wang Zongquan won't dare to challenge him again?"

"What bold words! Does he actually believe he can produce an internal force expert?"

The many experts present looked at Shi Feng with disdain when he appeared in the hall. They all felt that Shi Feng was getting too full of himself. Fire Dance had just fought a dangerous battle in order to pull the Heaven's Rumble Training Center out of a crisis. All Shi Feng needed to do was lie low and wait for Wang Zongquan to leave. He simply had to be tired of living, to reveal himself now.

"Old Xiao, is this the young man you were talking about?" Chen Tianhe shook his head as he looked at Shi Feng. "He's far too immature and arrogant. Although he has the support of an aristocratic family's disciple, he still shouldn't have provoked Wang Zongquan like this."

Although Wang Zongquan could not afford to run afoul of ancient aristocratic families, he would have no problems killing the other members of the Heaven's Rumble Training Center. He could also make it so that the deed couldn't be traced back to him.

Even though Shi Feng had already grasped internal force, it wouldn't change his fate. After all, according to the rumors Chen Tianhe had heard, more than ten internal force experts had fallen at Wang Zongquan's hands, including apex internal force experts.

So, he is Shi Feng? Zhang Tianya could not help but reveal some envy as he eyed Shi Feng.

An aristocratic family's disciple!

The status of every one of these disciples was not the slightest bit inferior to that of an heir of a major corporation. They were existences that even someone like Wang Zongquan had to show respect to.

Yet, despite having ordinary looks and an average family background, Shi Feng actually managed to gain Fire Dance's favor and even her support. How could Zhang Tianya not envy him?

In fact, Zhang Tianya believed there was an 80% chance that Shi Feng's success in becoming an internal force expert was due to Fire Dance's help. After all, the legacies and resources that ancient aristocratic families possessed were far superior to those of top-ranking training centers and dojos. So long as one possessed even the slightest amount of talent, they would have no problem becoming an internal force expert.

If Zhang Tianya had obtained these resources, he would've most likely become an expert on Wang Zongquan's level by now.

Meanwhile, during the time the spectating crowd was quietly discussing Shi Feng, Shi Feng had arrived at the center of the hall. Fire Dance promptly took the initiative to stand behind him as if she really was just a member of the Heaven's Rumble Training Center.

This scene immediately provoked the envy of many of the spectating experts.

"Crap! What kind of luck does that kid possess to earn the favor of that goddess!?"

“What a lucky bastard! With an aristocratic family backing him, even Wang Zongquan can’t do anything against him on the surface.”

“That’s right! If we could sponge off such a goddess as well, even setting up a top-ranking training center wouldn’t be a problem!”

Many of the men present derided Shi Feng, and as if they were afraid Shi Feng could not hear them, their voices grew steadily louder as they spoke.

To most of the experts present, being able to grasp internal force was already a matter worth rejoicing. As for setting up their own training center in a first-tier city and developing it into a top-ranking training center, that was something that they didn’t even dream of.

However, if they had the help of an aristocratic family’s disciple, then such a feat would be a piece of cake.

Now that Shi Feng had Fire Dance’s support, his becoming one of Fenglin City’s powerhouses was almost guaranteed. Fenglin City’s fighting industry might even have to adhere to his wishes in the future. Other top-ranking training centers and dojos also wouldn’t dare to act against him rashly.

Meanwhile, seated in a corner of the hall was Zhuo Linqiu, who was quietly observing the event.

So, that’s the case. It’s no wonder Zero Wing is confident of establishing itself in Fenglin City, Zhuo Linqiu thought to himself as he observed Fire Dance, disregarding Shi Feng entirely. With this, Zero Wing indeed merits the young master’s attention.

As the butler of the Five States Corporation's heir and an apex internal force expert himself, Zhuo Linqiu knew a lot more regarding ancient aristocratic families than Chen Tianhe and Wang Zongquan did, so he understood just how valuable the support of an aristocratic family's disciple was.

During the time everyone was discussing Shi Feng, Wang Zongquan had also arrived before him, his gaze filled with disdain and anger as he glared at the young man.

"And here I thought you wouldn't have the courage to show yourself," Wang Zongquan sneered. "Since you're here, do you dare exchange a few moves with me? I want to see whether you truly are capable of instructing such an excellent member or not, Hall Master Shi."

Originally, Wang Zongquan thought that he would not have a chance to reclaim the reputation he had lost due to Fire Dance today. However, since Shi Feng had taken the initiative to appear before him, this was the perfect opportunity for him to do so and fulfill his agreement with Lu Xingluo to wreck the Heaven's Rumble Training Center's reputation, killing two birds with one stone. He naturally couldn't miss this opportunity.

That won't be a problem. Only, Master Wang, you were just injured. Do you need a few days to recover? It won't be too late to spar at that time," Shi Feng said.

"No need! It is only a minor injury! I wish to experience Hall Master Shi's brilliant moves now!" Wang Zongquan said. He launched an attack at Shi Feng without hesitation, not giving him any more time to speak.

In Wang Zongquan's opinion, Shi Feng was simply trying to find an excuse to buy time and eventually let the matter be forgotten. He naturally couldn't let Shi Feng have his way. Meanwhile, the best method to get Shi Feng to take action was to leave the man with no choice but to take action.

The spectating crowd shook their heads and sneered at Shi Feng.

“That guy is so dumb. Did he really think Wang Zongquan would let such a great opportunity slip by?”

“Hahaha! He’s going to make a fool of himself now!”

“He’s just a brat who has just learned internal force. Does he actually think an apex internal force expert like Wang Zongquan will be afraid of him because of a little injury?”

“How foolish! Does he believe he can run rampant just because he has the backing of an aristocratic family’s disciple?”

Everyone understood that Shi Feng was planning to get Wang Zongquan to give up on today’s match with the excuse that Wang Zongquan was injured. Unfortunately, how could someone of Wang Zongquan’s caliber not see through his ploy?

Moreover, the spectating experts could also see very clearly that, although Fire Dance had defeated Wang Zongquan, she should have grasped internal force only recently. Her physique was also far inferior to his. Although she had indeed managed to injure Wang Zongquan, he should still be able to exhibit 80% of his normal standard—which would be sufficient for him to beat up a basic internal force expert.

In the next moment, however, Wang Zongquan’s fast and powerful fist suddenly came to an abrupt halt before Shi Feng’s face, unable to move forward by even the slightest.

How is this possible?! Wang Zongquan stared at his wrist, which Shi Feng was gripping tightly, in extreme confusion.

Wang Zongquan had given his all in that punch. Despite his injury, his full-powered punch still wasn't something a basic internal force expert could block directly. In his opinion, Shi Feng should've chosen to dodge or deflect his attack. However, Shi Feng had actually used one of the most impossible-to-execute methods to stop his attack—grabbing his wrist.

Before Wang Zongquan could shake off Shi Feng's hold, Shi Feng suddenly tightened his grip and swung Wang Zongquan's arm as if he was swinging a sword. Immediately, Wang Zongquan felt himself getting yanked off his feet, then propelled through the air. For a moment, the surrounding crowd even felt a strong wind blowing past their faces.

Soon after, a loud boom entered everyone's ears as the floor beneath them shook slightly.

By the time everyone realized what was going on, Wang Zongquan was already lying unconscious on the floor some distance away from Shi Feng, the marble beneath him cracked.

Chapter 2190 – He Is a Grandmaster?

Upon seeing Wang Zongquan's body lying motionless on the cracked marble floor, the spectating crowd froze, and a deathly silence fell over the entire hall. A short moment later...

“How is this possible?!”

“This is a lie, right?! Wang Zongquan actually got defeated, just like that!?”

“Who is this Shi Feng!?”

The spectating experts simply couldn't believe their eyes as they gazed at the unconscious Wang Zongquan. This was an apex internal force expert they were talking about. Wang Zongquan stood at the apex of Fenglin City, yet, now, he was actually defeated effortlessly by an ordinary youngster who did not give off even the slightest hint of an aura.

The exchange between Shi Feng and Wang Zongquan had been so decisive that it couldn't even be considered a fight. It was practically a drubbing.

“So many of the experts here reacted with fear toward Wang Zongquan before, so shouldn't he be very strong? Why did he get defeated so easily?”

“Could Heaven's Rumble have paid Wang Zongquan to stage an act?”

“I'm guessing that's most likely the case. Wang Zongquan is an internal force expert. On the other hand, that Shi Feng is so young. Even if he is powerful, how powerful could he possibly be? Moreover, the fact that someone like Wang Zongquan even appeared here is very strange, to begin with. Heaven's Rumble must've hired Wang Zongquan to pretend to fight to raise its fame.”

Unlike the experts in the hall, the spectating fighting enthusiasts felt that Wang Zongquan had acted out a play when they saw him so easily defeated. After all, when Wang Zongquan was fighting Fire Dance earlier, they could more or less tell how powerful he was.

However, when Wang Zongquan fought Shi Feng, from start to end, they hadn't seen any hint of that power Wang Zongquan had displayed before. They felt that Wang Zongquan had deliberately coordinated his movements with Shi Feng, jumping into the air the moment Shi Feng grabbed his wrist and letting Shi Feng freely throw him. The fight could not be any faker.

At this moment, aside from the fighting enthusiasts, the training center and dojo members present also found this fight fake. The strength an internal force expert wielded far surpassed that of ordinary people. If Wang Zongquan had thrown his punch with his full strength, even an internal force expert couldn't have stopped his punch by grabbing his wrist.

A fake match? At this moment, even Xiao Yu was dumbfounded by this scene.

However, he instinctively refuted the possibility, as he had never heard about such plans from Shi Feng earlier. Moreover, the Starline Corporation had been keeping an eye on the Heaven's Rumble Training Center. Only an existence like the Starline Corporation could employ the services of someone like Wang Zongquan. Most importantly, why would an apex internal force expert agree to min his own reputation just to uplift the Heaven's Rumble Training Center's reputation?

As Xiao Yu was wondering why Wang Zongquan would put on a fake fight, Chen Tianhe, who stood beside Xiao Yu, suddenly revealed a look of horror.

"Neu...tralizing... He is...a neutralizing grandmaster!" Chen Tianhe muttered quietly as he stared at Shi Feng, his complexion paling as if he had just seen a ghost.

"Neutralizing...grandmaster?" Xiao Yu momentarily fell into a daze when he heard Chen Tianhe's words. Compelled to seek confirmation, he asked, "Master Chen, you're saying that Shi Feng is a neutralizing grandmaster?"

In the fighting industry, those capable of grasping internal force were considered absolute experts. Less than 0.1% of professional fighters would ever succeed in grasping internal force. For those that did, their understanding and usage of their body and strength would far surpass those of ordinary people. No matter where these experts went, they would have the qualifications to establish a training center or dojo and accept disciples—hence, internal force experts were labeled masters.

However, above internal force experts, there were still neutralizing experts. Ordinary people would already be fortunate to come across an internal force expert. As for neutralizing experts, most ordinary people would most likely never meet one. Every neutralizing expert was a titan in the fighting industry. They were people who could contest for first place in international fighting competitions. The fame and status they enjoyed were far superior to those of people like Chen Tianhe and Wang Zongquan.

If one were to draw a comparison between internal force experts and neutralizing experts, the former would be candlelight while the latter would be the blazing sun.

“It is possible,” Chen Tianhe said hesitantly. “Only, since when has there ever been such a young neutralizing grandmaster in this world? Even the ancient aristocratic families are incapable of producing a neutralizing grandmaster this young.”

Ordinary people most likely wouldn’t find anything special about Shi Feng’s grabbing and throwing motions; in fact, most of the professional fighters present wouldn’t. However, Chen Tianhe, who had already mastered internal force to the apex, could tell just how frightening Shi Feng’s usage of his body and strength was.

First, upon grabbing Wang Zongquan’s wrist, Shi Feng had immediately redirected and nullified the force in Wang Zongquan’s arm. Then, when Wang Zongquan put more strength into his arm to break free of Shi Feng’s hold, Shi Feng made use of Wang Zongquan’s strength and coupled it with his own to lift and throw Wang Zongquan to the ground.

Although this series of actions appeared very simple, executing it within a mere instant was exceedingly difficult. Only neutralizing grandmasters, who could push their muscles to the limit, could accomplish such a feat.

What made Chen Tianhe doubt his conclusion was that Shi Feng was simply too young!

Even now, Chen Tianhe was considered one of the top-ranking experts in the country. He had also been famous for a long time already. In his many years mingling in the fighting industry, he had come across plenty of internal force experts of varying standards and even neutralizing grandmasters. However, despite his extensive experience, he had never even heard of a neutralizing grandmaster who was in his 20s.

At this moment, aside from Chen Tianhe, Master Yang from the Extreme Light Dojo, Zhang Tianya, and the other internal force experts present were similarly gazing at Shi Feng in astonishment and horror.

“Impossible! How can he be a neutralizing grandmaster?!” Zhang Tianya blurted out in shock.

Ordinary people might have failed to discern the intricacies of Wang Zongquan’s fight with Shi Feng, but internal force experts like Zhang Tianya managed to roughly discern its crucial parts.

In most people’s eyes, Wang Zongquan’s fight did indeed look like an act. However, this was because Shi Feng’s usage of his strength was too ingenious. He was already at the stage of simplifying complex movements; hence, his fight with Wang Zongquan looked very fake.

“A neutralizing grandmaster?! Shi Feng is actually this powerful?!” Zhao Yueru could not help growing excited when she heard Zhang Tianya’s words.

Although she did not have a clear concept of what a neutralizing grandmaster was, she still understood how powerful grandmaster martial artists were. They were supreme existences within the country, experts that even the various top- ranking dojos and training centers feared greatly.

Meanwhile, when Gentle Snow saw the exchange between Shi Feng and Wang Zongquan, she felt an indescribable sense of shock and familiarity.

This was because she could tell that Shi Feng's usage of his strength and body very closely resembled the principles of the Refinement Realm and Truth Realm. It was as if he had just merged these two concepts and demonstrated them. Only, this should be a technique that existed only in God's Domain. Now, however, he had actually displayed it in the real world.

As for Zhuo Linqiu, who sat in a corner of the hall, he was gaping in shock at Shi Feng.

Zhuo Linqiu had never imagined that Shi Feng was such a powerful expert!

He was actually telling the truth!

Although an aristocratic family's disciple would indeed daunt an apex internal force expert like Zhuo Linqiu, this would not deter him from taking action against one. However, a neutralizing grandmaster was a different story. It was no exaggeration to describe a neutralizing grandmaster as superhuman. Compared to Shi Feng's identity as a neutralizing grandmaster, Fire Dance's identity as an aristocratic family's disciple was utterly insignificant.

Neutralizing grandmasters were existences that even major corporations had to show respect to, because these people held massive influence in the fighting industry. Moreover, there were times when major corporations also needed the help of these experts. After all, the various major corporations' upper echelons were frequent targets for assassination. Only with the protection of a neutralizing grandmaster would one be able to guarantee their safety.

At this moment, the various internal force experts present finally understood that Shi Feng had not been lying before. Fire Dance's achievement could very well have been thanks to Shi Feng's guidance. After all, it wasn't impossible for a neutralizing grandmaster to nurture an internal force expert. In fact, there were many precedents.

During the time everyone was quietly discussing this situation, Wang Zongquan had regained consciousness. However, when he came to, his mind was a huge blur, and his body ached all over. He could tell that he had several broken bones. He would need more than a month to recover fully from such injuries.

"Well? Master Wang, do you still wish to continue sparring?" Shi Feng asked as he watched Wang Zongquan struggle to his feet.