

Chapter 2201 – Flying Levels

System: You have killed a Naga for the first time. Activating the Thunder God's Trial. Kill 1,000 Nagas. Current kill count -1.

System: This trial is a reward quest for entering the Dungeon for the first time. You will automatically fail the quest if you die or leave the Dungeon. Quest rewards unknown. You will not suffer penalties for failing the quest.

A kill counter, displaying the number of slain Nagas, then appeared in the corner of everyone's system interface.

"Kill 1,000 Nagas? Isn't this a little too demanding?" Happy Art frowned as he read the system notification.

They had spent more than 20 minutes just to kill one Naga Guard, the weakest monster in this Dungeon. They would need an absurd amount of time to slay 1,000 Nagas.

Moreover, this was only a Dungeon Quest. They could complete multiple quests elsewhere with how much time it would take to complete the Dungeon Quest.

Yes, it will be time-consuming, but these Nagas provide a lot of EXP. Our leveling speed here will be at least 50% faster than grinding outside of the Dungeon," Burning Sea said in astonishment as he examined his experience bar.

Their leveling speed in the Thunder God's Secret Land was already impressive, but leveling in this Dungeon was 50% faster than grinding outside of it. This Dungeon was an amazing leveling spot.

Of course, a large part of the reason that they earned so much EXP was the fact that they were severely under-leveled, and their team only had 10 players. If a Level 90,100-man Team grinded in this Dungeon, their leveling speed would be subpar, at best.

"In any case, we're stuck here for the moment. Let's just grind and consider the quest an additional bonus," Samsara said.

"That's right. Our leveling speed in here is awesome. If the Flower of Seven Sins' members knew that we were having such a great time leveling up, they'd likely die with anger," Frozen Gem said, laughing. "They forced us into a corner, thinking that we'd cave in sooner or later, but we'll see who outlasts who!"

Frozen Gem could easily guess what was happening outside the Dungeon right now. Supreme Sky had likely stationed a large amount of his manpower to guard the Dungeon's entrance. Once their team left the Dungeon, the Flower's members would pounce and make them suffer.

Previously, she had been feeling anxious about their situation as they were not able to do anything inside the Dungeon while people in the outside world were continuously improving themselves. Now that they could level up far faster than players elsewhere, she didn't mind completing an unexpected quest while the Flower of Seven Sins wasted their time.

The Thunder God's Trial?

When Shi Feng saw the name of the quest, he seemed to recall such a quest from his past. However, no one had bothered to complete it back then.

The reason for this was very simple. In an era when every second mattered, no one wanted to waste so much time on a Dungeon Quest. Even a Level 90,100-man team would need five or six days of grinding to slay 1,000 Nagas, and rather than wasting that time, players could focus on leveling up and improving their equipment through other quests.

Moreover, the true treasure lay in the Thunder Temple's main temple. The side temple was only a transition for players who wanted to explore the main temple. Who would possibly be willing to waste so much time in the side temple?

However, since their team couldn't leave the Dungeon right now, completing the Dungeon Quest was better than doing nothing.

Unfortunately, most of the Naga Guard's loot consisted of low-value items. The Lord hadn't even dropped a Common Weapon or Equipment piece. The only items worth mentioning, aside from one Magic Crystal, were the Amethyst Coins, a currency unique to the Thunder God's Secret Land. With these Amethyst Coins, players could purchase some of the specialty products sold in the Thunder Temple. They could also trade these coins for Gold for a one-to-one ratio.

The underwhelming loot didn't surprise any of the team members. The Naga Guard was the weakest monster in the Dungeon, and although it was a powerful foe to them, that was simply due to their low levels and inferior equipment. Seeing a random mob in a Dungeon drop top-tier equipment would be strange.

Following which, the team continued to grind the hall's Nagas.

Although the method they used to slay these monsters was tedious, every time one fell, they watched their experience bars grow and rejoiced.

As they finished off their sixth Naga Guard, the Lord dropped a blood-red stone fragment that immediately attracted Shi Feng's attention.

A Thunderbolt Gemstone Fragment!

Although it was only a gemstone fragment, not a piece of top-tier equipment, it had been incredibly famous in God's Domain during Shi Feng's previous life.

One could synthesize 10 Thunderbolt Gemstone Fragments into a Thunderbolt Gemstone, an item the Thunder God had personally created to arm his soldiers.

On its own, the Thunderbolt Gemstone only increased players' Basic Attributes by 2% when equipped, and each player could equip a total of three Thunderbolt Gemstones. Most experts would sneer at such a minimal boost. Even with three Thunderbolt Gemstones, they'd only gain a 6% boost to their Basic Attributes, which certainly couldn't compare to the boosts other high-tiered gemstones offered.

However, when players equipped three Thunderbolt Gemstones, they triggered the hidden effect, Thunder God's Protection, which increased players' Basic Attributes by 9% and physique by 20%.

In other words, players could equip three Thunderbolt Gemstones and gain a 15% boost to their Basic Attributes and a 20% boost to their physique. The Thunderbolt Gemstones had even been useful after players had reached Tier 3.

Moreover, the Thunderbolt Gemstones provided an additional 10% boost to players Basic Attributes while inside the Thunder God's Secret Land. It was a perfect addition for those who wanted to explore the area.

A fragment dropped after only the sixth kill? The situation surprised Shi Feng a little. Could this be an additional reward for players entering the Dungeon for the first time?

As far as Shi Feng could remember, the Thunderbolt Gemstone Fragments had a less than 1% chance of dropping, but this fragment had dropped after slaying their sixth Naga Guard. The only explanation he could think of was that they had gotten extremely lucky, or the drop-rate had increased.

When Shi Feng and his team had slain their 17th Naga Guard, another Thunderbolt Gemstone Fragment had dropped.

Sure enough, it has to be a benefit of entering the Dungeon for the first time! Shi Feng's excitement grew when he saw the second fragment.

Initially, he had only planned to kill some monsters and grind levels in the Dungeon. He had only planned to look for a way out of the Flower of Seven Sins' trap after everyone had reached a high enough level. He hadn't actually considered raiding the Dungeon completely, but if they could collect enough Thunderbolt Gemstone Fragments, his plans would have to change.

Samsara and his teammates' Basic Attributes were still far from meeting the Dungeon's minimum requirements, but if they could all equip three Thunderbolt Gemstones, they could significantly shorten that gap. Considering their combat standards, raiding the Thunder Temple's side temple was entirely possible.

After all was said and done, the Thunder Temple's side temple was a Dungeon within an Ancient God's secret land. The potential loot's quality could easily surpass that of a super-large-scale Team Dungeon.

Shi Feng then informed the rest of the team about the Thunderbolt Gemstones, which instantly motivated them to grind more Naga Guards. Their goal in visiting the Thunder God's Secret Land was to improve themselves, and they had given up on that hope earlier. Now that another opportunity had presented itself, they couldn't miss this chance.

As everyone's fighting spirits lifted, they fervently hunted the Dungeon's Nagas. Once they recovered their Stamina, they bounced back to continue the grind. Moreover, as everyone's levels continued to increase, their grinding speed also increased.

These Nagas awarded a lot of EXP, and after grinding for almost nine days, each member of the team had risen to Level 80. Since their Epic Equipment had leveled with them, they had also received a major increase to their Basic Attributes, as well. As for Shi Feng, he had reached Level 84. Their leveling speed was astonishing.

After collecting 28 Thunderbolt Gemstone Fragments, only 11 away from their goal, the sharp sound of a system notification reached their ears once more.

System: Congratulations! You have killed 1,000 Nagas and completed the Thunder God's Trial.

Chapter 2202 – Rewards of the Thunder God's Trial

The team had only realized that they had completed the Thunder God's Trial after they received the notification.

They had been so focused on eliminating the Naga Guards and Guard Captains, excited by the prospect of collecting Thunderbolt Gemstone Fragments, that they had pushed the trial to the back of their minds. After all, the Thunderbolt Gemstones were wonderfully effective •

Now, aside from Samsara and Happy Art, the two MTs, each team member had three Thunderbolt Gemstones equipped, their Basic Attributes rising by a total of 25%. Moreover, they had regained the physique of a Tier 1 player. Since they had also reached Level 80, slaying these Naga Guards and Guard Captains had become much easier.

In fact, Samsara and Happy Art could now tank a Naga Guard Captain all on their own.

However, doing so placed a huge burden on the team's two healers, so they continued to use their earlier strategy to kite the Nagas. That way, the two healers didn't have to concentrate on casting Healing Spells and could launch their own attacks from time to time, increasing their grinding speed.

We're finally done. When Shi Feng saw the system notification, he could not help but feel that this quest had been a true challenge. If not for their special circumstances, they wouldn't have bothered to attempt it. It was just too time-consuming.

System: You have completed the Thunder God's Trial. Rewarding Thunder God's Pearl.

[Thunder God's Pearl] (Dark-Gold Rank)

This pearl contains the Thunder God's power. Can be used inside the Thunder God's Secret Land to activate the Thunderbolt Barrier. The more Thunder God's Pearls that are used to activate the Thunderbolt Barrier, the stronger the barrier will become. Up to a maximum of six Thunder God's Pearls can be used at the same time.

Duration: 20 minutes

Cooldown: 1 hour

The Thunderbolt Barrier? When Shi Feng saw the Thunder God's Pearl, an ecstatic expression lit up his face. He had never expected the Thunder God's Trial to provide the very key to conquering the Thunder God's Secret Land.

Players couldn't use powerful tools, such as magic arrays or Summoning Scrolls, in the Thunder God's Secret Land. On top of the fact that players' tiers were reduced to zero, exploring the secret land was a daunting task.

This was especially true when players faced the Bosses in the Thunder Temple's side temple.

Normally, when Tier 0 players couldn't rely on external items, they'd reach their limit when fighting Great Lord ranked monsters, but the weakest Boss in the side temple was a Grand Lord. Moreover, they were not ordinary Grand Lords.

All of the Grand Lord Bosses in the side temple possessed special Bloodlines, which made them far stronger than ordinary Grand Lords and a nightmare to raid.

The various superpowers had only truly started to raid the Thunder God's Secret Land after they had acquired Fragmented Legendary items during Shi Feng's previous life.

Had those superpowers had the Thunder God's Pearls, their teams would've been at least 50% more efficient in the raids. Fragmented Legendary items had still been extraordinarily rare at the time, and just obtaining one re^ massive investment of blood and sweat.

Following which, Shi Feng activated the Thunder God's Pearl and created a Thunderbolt Barrier that enveloped a 200- yard radius. Pitch-black lightning arced around the barrier's edges. The moment the barrier manifested, all Naga Guards and Guard Captains suffered a significant Basic Attribute reduction. The Naga Guards' Basic Attributes dropped by 30%, and the Naga Guard Captains lost 25% of their Attributes. In addition, the barrier reduced the Nagas' reaction speed by 20%.

Now, the team faced nearly half as much pressure when fighting the Naga patrol squads.

"Amazing! I can probably solo a Naga Guard now!" Burning Sea exclaimed as he watched the Guards' sluggish movements.

Experts like them preferred to deal with strong monsters, rather than fast monsters. Fast monsters had a higher chance of blocking their attacks, which would reduce their total DPS and prolong the fight. Depending o circumstances, winning the fight might even be impossible for the players.

Sure enough, this really is the key to conquering the Thunder God's Secret Land. Shi Feng's eyes glowed with excitement when he saw the weakened Nagas.

Moreover, this was only the effect of one Thunder God's Pearl. If he activated the Thunderbolt Barrier with six pearls, it would even suppress a Grand Lord ranked Boss.

Previously, he had only been 30% confident of his team slaying the Dungeon's first Boss, Naga General, Volenka. After all, their team didn't have enough players. Even if every member of the team commanded extraordinary combat standards and had three Thunderbolt Gemstones equipped, making up for the missing numbers would be very difficult.

However, now that they had the Thunder God's Pearl, he felt that they had at least a 50% chance of defeating the first Boss.

With the Thunder God's Pearl now in hand, the team slew Nagas far faster than before. After less than half a day of grinding, they had collected the remaining 11 fragments, and both Samsara and Happy Art could equip three Thunderbolt Gemstones.

"Amazing! With these Attributes and physique, I'll have no problems tanking a Grand Lord!" Samsara could not help his rueful sighs as he experienced the Thunderbolt Gemstones' effects. He felt as if he had activated a mini Berserk Skill.

It was no exaggeration to claim that these Thunderbolt Gemstones were his greatest harvest from the Thunder God's Secret Land thus far.

Three Thunderbolt Gemstones were easily worth more than one Epic item. Epic items might have a wide level range, but they still had a level limit. Take the Epic Weapons and Equipment he currently used, for example. He could use most of them until he reached Level 100, but the Thunderbolt Gemstones, on the other hand, would even be useful after that.

In fact, these gemstones might even be useful after he reached Tier 4.

Once Samsara and Happy Art had gained their sets of Thunderbolt Gemstones, the team grew restless and suggested that they challenge the side temple's first Boss.

Naturally, Shi Feng didn't object. He, too, had been waiting for this moment for a long time.

Although he had explored the Thunder God's Secret Land in the past, by the time he had first visited it, the various superpowers had raided the side temple several times. Furthermore, he had tagged along with other Guilds' experts, and the expedition had been led by first-rate Guilds' peak experts.

Naturally, the leading first-rate Guilds had claimed all the good loot. Experts from lesser Guilds, like himself, who had come across a few entry passes to the Thunder God's Secret Land, had only been able to claim the scraps the first-rate Guilds didn't want.

Even so, he had obtained more than enough treasure to celebrate.

An Ancient God's secret land was far higher-quality than other secret lands. Even after some other team had claimed the side temple's First Clear, and the quantity and quality of the drops had fallen, the Dungeon's loot had still been considered top-tier.

Now that he had an opportunity to join the first team of players to raid the Thunder Temple's side temple in this life, why wouldn't he be eager to get started?

Later, after Shi Feng and the team had rested for an hour or so, he led them straight toward the Guardian Hall, where the Naga General waited.

The team had long since annihilated the Nagas outside the Guardian Hall. Now, only the Naga General and two of its bodyguards remained within.

However, when the team entered the hall and saw the Boss they intended to raid, they couldn't help but gasp.

[Naga General, Volenka] (Bloodline Creature, Archaic Species, Grand Lord)

Level 89

HP 320,000,000/320,000,000

Chapter 2203 – Pioneer-rank Boss “An Archaic Species?”

Everyone’s confidence plummeted when they saw Volenka and the purple-blue trident it wielded.

Players’ tiers were reduced to zero while inside the Thunder God’s Secret Land, and Grand Lords were nearly invincible against Tier 0 beings. The only reason they even dared to challenge the Naga General, which they had assumed would only be a Grand Lord ranked Boss, was because they had the Thunderbolt Gemstones and Thunder God’s Pearl. Including their Epic Weapons and Equipment, they had thought that they had a high chance of defeating the side temple’s first Boss.

Now, however, they learned that the first Boss was a Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species.

Even outside of the Thunder God’s Secret Land, Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species were troublesome to deal with. Trying to raid one with the Thunder God’s Secret Land was simply a joke.

Could the pioneer Boss be different? Even Shi Feng frowned when he saw Volenka.

The current Naga General was not the same Boss he had encountered during his previous life. In the past, Volenka had only been an ordinary Grand Lord. Moreover, it had wielded a two-handed axe, not a trident.

Monsters' combat standards in God's Domain largely differed depending on what weapon they used. For example, monsters that used a two-handed axe would rely on simple combat methods and great destructive power. Every one of Volenka's attacks with a two-handed axe had been akin to AOE Spells. Even for MTs of the same level, receiving one of this monster's attacks head-on was suicidal.

Yet, in this life, Volenka held a trident. Unlike the clumsy but powerful two-handed axe, a trident was a type of spear. Not only did it have a much longer attack range than a two-handed axe, but it was more flexible in its attack patterns as well. With a trident, Volenka would not have to worry about numerous attacks at the same time.

Moreover, as an Archaic Species, Volenka's Basic Attributes was much higher than ordinary Grand Lords'. Hence, this Boss could likely command as much raw power with its trident as it had in Shi Feng's past.

This Volenka was both powerful and agile. This raid would definitely be twice as difficult as Shi Feng had expected.

More importantly, Bosses had a natural advantage. The normal Volenka, the one Shi Feng remembered, had only had 180,000,000 HP, but this Naga General had 320,000,000 HP. With its battle recovery, it could recover 3,200,000 HP every five seconds. If the team couldn't deal more than 640,000 DPS, raiding this Boss would be impossible.

"This Boss is too powerful. Even if it just stands there and lets us hit it, I doubt we could put a dent in its HP," Happy Art said as she watched Volenka with a bitter smile. "Even if our DPS can surpass his battle recovery, it can kill us several times over by the time we've whittled it down to zero."

Their team was already severely undermanned for this Dungeon. Slaying an ordinary Grand Lord would be an extreme challenge, and now that they discovered that their opponent was a Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species, they had no hope of success.

“Are you sure we can defeat this thing?” Endless Scars quietly asked Shi Feng.

Every member of the team was either a peak expert or an apex expert in God’s Domain. They had all slain many Bosses, and could easily gauge their team’s limits. In Endless Scars’ opinion, their team wasn’t capable of defeating Volenka.

She couldn’t figure out how they could raid this Boss.

Shi Feng’s prowess might be astonishing, but raiding a Dungeon Boss wasn’t a one-man job.

“I think we have roughly a 20% to 30% chance of defeating the Naga General depending on how effective six Thunder God’s Pearls are,” Shi Feng said after giving the matter some thought.

He hadn’t expected this Boss to be different from the one in the past, but their team had also collected crucial items needed to raid the Dungeon. Fortunately, the Naga General was the easiest of the side temple’s Bosses to raid since it had very simple Skills. Players just needed high enough Basic Attributes and the ability to dodge incoming attacks.

“Twenty to thirty percent?” Endless Scars gave the Swordsman an astonished look.

As far as she was concerned, a 5% chance of raiding this boss would be heaven-defying, yet Shi Feng was almost confident of a 30% chance of success. He had to be joking!

The rest of the team members stared at Shi Feng in shock as well.

“Let’s give it a try. Gem, stay close to the entrance. If the raid seems impossible, run. The Boss shouldn’t chase you beyond the hall,” Shi Feng said.

“Alright,” Frozen Gem nodded as she walked toward the hall’s entrance.

Even if Shi Feng and the others died, she would be able to resurrect them. The death penalty inside the Dungeon was quite light, and her Resurrection Spell could reduce it further.

Shi Feng then instructed Happy Art to tank the Boss while Samsara tanked the two Level 88 Great Lord ranked Naga Bodyguards. Meanwhile, Shi Feng would stay close to Happy Art.

Shi Feng’s arrangement confused his teammates. Samsara was clearly stronger than Happy Art, yet Shi Feng instructed him to manage the side mobs.

However, none of them objected to their team leader’s plan.

“Let’s get started!” Shi Feng commanded once everyone was in position.

Six team members immediately activated the Thunder God's Pearls they had received from completing the Thunder God's Trial. The six-pearl Thunderbolt Barrier covered a 400-yard radius, enveloping the entire hall.

Volenka and its bodyguards' Basic Attributes immediately plummeted. In the blink of an eye, the Naga General had lost 30% of its Basic Attributes while the two Naga Bodyguards had lost 45%.

"Amazing!" Shi Feng could not help but exclaim when he saw how effective the barrier was.

He had thought they'd be lucky if the barrier could reduce the Naga General's Basic Attributes by 20%, but Volenka had lost 10% more than that. This Thunderbolt Barrier could rival the strength of an Advanced Magic Array.

Shi Feng then had Frozen Gem rejoin the team's formation, and Happy Art and Samsara bolted forward to tank the Boss and its minions.

Volenka paid no heed as its two bodyguards were lured away. Rather, it raised its trident and thrust it at the female Shield Warrior. The trident could reach up to 25 yards away and contained enough power that space around it trembled.

In the blink of an eye, Volenka had sent four stabs at Happy Art.

Despite being a peak expert, Happy Art had a hard time dodging the four consecutive attacks. The fourth attack lightly grazed Happy Art's shield, and the resulting impact caused her to stumble a step back and lose more than 40,000 HP. Volenka's power with the trident was horrific.

Moreover, this was the result after the Boss had been suppressed by the Thunderbolt Barrier. If Volenka were at its peak, the consequences for daring to challenge it would've been dire.

Fortunately, Happy Art was no weakling. With the boost provided from the three Thunderbolt Gemstones, she had more than 170,000 HP at her maximum even after her tier had been reduced to zero. Losing 40,000 HP was just barely tolerable.

However, Volenka wasn't done as it thrust its tail into the ground to resurface behind the Shield Warrior. Although Happy Art had sensed the attack, she couldn't turn around in time to defend herself due to the prior impact.

Just before the tail slammed into Happy Art, Shi Feng grabbed her arm and dragged her out of harm's way. Wielding Killing Ray in his other hand, he sliced at the Naga General's tail, sending it smashing into the Boss with more speed than before.

-2,213,796!

An eye-catching amount of damage appeared above Volenka's head, stunning the team members. Thus far, these players had only dealt around -20,000 damage with each attack, so it was hard not to notice a damage of over -2,000,000.

"Even that is possible?" Burning Sea gaped in shock when he saw Shi Feng turn the Boss's attack against itself.

He had never thought that it was even possible for a Boss to damage itself. Boss monsters generally had above-average combat standards, and trying to force a Boss to damage itself was like getting a player to turn their own attacks against themselves. It should be utterly impossible.

Yet, Shi Feng had done just that...

Over two million damage? We should be able to defeat him within 20 minutes! When Shi Feng saw how much damage Volenka had dealt to itself and took into account the team's overall DPS, he breathed a sigh of relief.

Throughout the side temple, Volenka was the only Boss capable of harming itself. This was due to its Tail Puncture Skill.

This Skill had sent countless MTs to their graves in the past, but it had also given players a more efficient way to defeat the Naga General. Of course, players needed very high Strength and an almost-perfect grasp of timing to use this method. Their efforts would fail with the slightest mistake, and MTs couldn't dodge Volenka's Tail Puncture too early.

If they did, the Naga General would retract its tail.

This was why Shi Feng had assigned Happy Art to Volenka. Samsara would have no issues dodging Tail Puncture if he tanked the Boss, which would disrupt Shi Feng's timing.

Happy Art's combat standards were perfect for the job. She could defend herself against Volenka's frontal attacks but wouldn't be able to evade Tail Puncture.

After seeing what Shi Feng had done, the team's confidence rose substantially. Volenka would use Tail Puncture almost every two seconds, which meant they could cause over -2,000,000 damage every two seconds. It was certainly enough to overcome the Naga General's battle recovery.

Now that they had eliminated the greatest challenge in this raid, defeating this Boss would be much simpler.

Following which, Volenka's HP rapidly decreased. However, every time Volenka's HP fell by 20%, it would summon two new bodyguards. Fortunately, with the Thunderbolt Barrier's suppression and Samsara's combat standards, keeping a couple of Level 88 Great Lords busy was not a problem.

Eventually, when Volenka's HP fell to 20%, the Naga General went berserk, and its speed and Strength skyrocketed. Seeing this, Happy Art immediately activated Shield Wall, while Shi Feng activated Chilling Field, reserving one icicle to shove Happy Art out of harm's way when necessary. He also reserved two icicles for redirecting Volenka's tail. He used the remaining three to bombard the Naga General.

However, Volenka's attacks were simply too fast. Even though Happy Art did her best to defend herself, her tier wasn't high enough for this fight, and she couldn't keep up. In the end, Happy Art had died after enduring the berserk Naga General's attacks for around 40 seconds. At this point, Volenka still had 8% of its HP remaining.

When their Shield Warrior fell, Maple Locust and Burning Sea moved to the forefront and took her place.

However, they had both died after less than ten seconds. Heartless Sword then stepped in and activated his Lifesaving Skill to tank the Boss. Unfortunately, he had only lasted seven seconds, only withstanding two of the Naga General's attacks.

"Quick! Attack!"

The players' eyes were bloodshot as they watched Volenka's HP drop to 4%.

With their expendable members dead, Samsara activated his Lifesaving Skill and took over as the tank, but against both the Naga General and its two bodyguards, he didn't last more than six seconds.

Volenka had 1% of its HP remaining...

"Die!"

With no other melee players remaining, Shi Feng activated Instant Strike and appeared before the Boss.

Sword's Transmigration!

Although Instant Strike had also been reduced to Tier 0, the Skill still increased his Attack Speed by 300% and damage by 240% for three seconds. As he struck, damages of over -120,000 flashed above Volenka's head, one after another.

As a finishing touch, Shi Feng redirected Volenka's Tail Puncture and caused the Naga General to take over two million damage, obliterating the last of its HP.

Chapter 2204 – Naga General's Loot

As Valenka cried out in agony and collapsed to the ground, the Naga Bodyguards split up and scattered. A short moment later, only five players and a small pile of loot remained in the hall.

“We did it!”

Frozen Gem could not help but cheer. Even Endless Scars and Shi Feng breathed a sigh of relief.

The Naga General had been a little too powerful for them when it had gone berserk. Had the battle continued for another five seconds, they would’ve been annihilated.

Meanwhile, Valenka’s death granted the survivors an astronomical amount of EXP. Even Shi Feng, who had already reached Level 84, watched as his experience bar filled.

79%... 85%... 90%...

The Naga General’s death awarded them even more EXP than any of the Guard Captains they had slain earlier. After five seconds, a golden glow surrounded Shi Feng, and he rose to Level 85. Endless Scars and the others also rose from Level 80 to 81.

The frightening amount of EXP awarded stunned everyone for a moment.

After Level 80, players had to grind for four or five days elsewhere to reach the next level, but after killing one Naga General, they had gained enough EXP to do just that...

“This Boss gave us so much EXP. If we can kill a few more of these Bosses, we’ll be able to take those people from the Flower of Seven Sins by storm when we get out of here,” Formless Arrow excitedly stated.

Right now, they stood at the very peak of God's Domain with their levels. Although they had not left the side temple, they had received reports regarding the outside world. Even the highest-leveled expert among the various superpowers was only Level 79, and most peak experts were only Level 77. On the other hand, their team had reached Level 81. Everyone would be shocked when this came to light.

In God's Domain, players' levels were extremely important, after all, especially for peak experts. Once they reached a certain level, they could explore new maps and secure better items and benefits. Furthermore, they would have less competition when exploring these higher-level maps.

Moreover, level suppression had always been a factor in this game. Although level suppression wasn't incredibly effective, it would be significant with a gap of five or more levels.

"That's right. They've likely never expected us to level up so quickly," Frozen Gem said, smiling. "If we can survive in here for a while longer and increase the level gap to five, we'll have a chance of turning the tables. Furthermore, the various superpowers have begun to show up in the Thunder God's Secret Land."

Endless Scars also nodded in response to Formless Arrow and Flower Gem's sentiments.

Ordinary powers might have a difficult time entering the Thunder God's Secret Land right now, but the various superpowers had already discovered it. This was also why their team had been in such a hurry to enter the Thunder Temple. Now that so many days had passed since they had entered the Dungeon, the various superpowers had already sent in expedition teams.

Once the various superpowers entered the Thunder God's Secret Land, the Flowers of Seven Sins would find the place harder to hold within its iron fist. In turn, this would increase their team's chances of escaping.

“Alright, we need to resurrect everyone quickly. We’ll be in trouble if they resurrect automatically,” Shi Feng said, shaking his head.

Valenka was the easiest Boss in the Thunder Temple’s side temple, and the only one they had the strength to kill right now. Even with the six Thunder God’s Pearls, they’d need a 100-man team to raid the rest of the Dungeon’s Bosses.

“Oh!” Frozen Gem only remembered that she needed to resurrect her fallen comrades after Shi Feng’s statement. She then got to work.

Samsara and the others returned to life a moment later. They couldn’t help their elated grins when they saw Valenka’s corpse. They hadn’t actually expected the raid to succeed, and they couldn’t help but look upon Shi Feng with admiration.

They had just taken down a Level 90 Team Dungeon’s Boss!

Moreover, this was a Team Dungeon inside the Thunder God’s Secret Land. Normally, raiding such Bosses without a Level 90,100-man team should be impossible, but they had accomplished the feat with a team of Level 80 players. Shi Feng’s leadership and combat power were among the best they had ever seen.

After their moment of excitement, the team members turned their gazes to the loot beside Valenka’s corpse.

Although Valenka was only a Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species, it had dropped an astonishingly high number of items. There were easily more than 20 items in the pile, and every one radiated a dazzling glow. It was easy to tell that these were all top-tier items.

As the team watched, Shi Feng began to appraise the loot.

Valenka was the side temple's first Boss. Shi Feng had expected it to drop average loot at best, but he couldn't help but gasp as he appraised the items.

The Naga General had dropped a total of 23 items. There were 3 pieces of Dark-Gold Equipment that could be used from Level 80 to 100, a plate armor helmet, a pair of cloth bracers, and a leather belt.

All three pieces of equipment could definitely be considered top-tier at this stage of the game. Even Samsara, who had seen his fair share of top-tier equipment, audibly gulped.

Normally, equipment that dropped in Dungeons had a fixed level, but all three pieces of Dark-Gold Equipment Valenka had dropped could level with their users.

Valenka had also dropped 6 pieces of Level 80 to 90 Fine-Gold Equipment. Four of the 6 pieces were parts of the Thunderbolt Set, a set equipment players could only obtain from the Thunder God's Secret Land!

Although the Thunderbolt Set was only a four-piece, Fine-Gold Set Equipment, it had been incredibly famous among those who grinded in the Thunder God's Secret Land in the past. Once a player collected all four pieces, the set would provide Basic Attribute buffs that could rival Dark-Gold Equipment. The two-piece set effect also increased Spell effectiveness by 30%, while the four-piece set effect increased players' Basic Attributes by 10% and weakened the Thunder God's Secret Land's suppression. If players equipped the complete Thunderbolt Set, their tier would only fall to Tier 1.

The Thunderbolt Set's effects might be a joke in the outside world, but within the Thunder God's Secret Land, they worked wonders.

When players had first discovered the Thunderbolt Set in the past, it had instantly become a treasure that countless magical class players had sought.

And now, Valenka had dropped the entire set. It was a miracle!

When the rest of the team saw the Thunderbolt Set's effects, their eyes glowed.

They knew how bitter it felt being reduced to a Tier 0 player in the Thunder God's Secret Land, so they recognized how astounding it would be if they could fight as Tier 1 players in this secret land.

It was no exaggeration to claim that the Thunderbolt Set was even more valuable than an eight-piece Dark-Gold Set Equipment in the Thunder God's Secret Land.

While everyone cooed over the Thunderbolt Set, Shi Feng shared the next item's Attributes in the team chat. When the team saw this item, they all gasped, including Samsara and Endless Scars.

The Thunder Eagle's Summoning Flute!

Chapter 2205 – Flying Mount

The Thunder Eagle's Summoning Flute looked just like any ordinary flute, made of wood, with dark-purple runes carved into it.

"How is this possible?"

"Am I seeing things?"

"I thought Flying Mounts only dropped from Level 100-plus maps?"

When Burning Sea and the others saw the summoning flute, they audibly gulped; they couldn't believe their eyes.

As Domain Realm experts, they had seen countless top-tier treasures. Each of them even carried several Epic Weapons and Equipment pieces, but they couldn't help their surprise and excitement when they saw a flying mount.

Although almost all Level 50-plus players had their own Mounts by now, not a single player in God's Domain had their own Flying Mount. Nobody even knew where to find one.

Players, especially expert players, now knew the benefits of owning a Mount.

Due to players' limited Stamina, they could only afford to operate within a limited area. With how large God's Domain was, trying to explore the game's maps by relying on Stamina would be impossible. Naturally, Mounts allowed players to increase their range of activity.

Furthermore, after Level 50, not many maps had teleportation points, and players would find even fewer as they explored higher-level maps. As a result, players would have to explore and find these maps on their own power, which made Mounts even more important.

Countless experts currently contested over Mysterious-Iron Mounts, while Secret-Silver Mounts were easily as valuable as Epic items.

Even if experts of Burning Sea's caliber had multiple pieces of Epic Equipment on them, they typically only had Secret-Silver or Fine-Gold ranked Mounts. Even so, these Mounts were a large part of the reason that their leveling speed was so much faster than ordinary experts'.

However, a Flying Mount was in a different league than Land Mounts. A Flying Mount could ignore the terrain and travel to a destination in a straight line. A Flying Mount would be several times faster than Land Mounts!

God's Domain was a virtual reality game that fully immersed its players' consciousness into the game, unlike past virtual reality games, which only allowed partial immersion. Because of this, God's domain felt frighteningly real. In addition, it had NPCs with incredible intelligence, which players could befriend.

If not for the ever-present system interface and in-game aspects, such as levels and Basic Attributes, players would've likely treated God's Domain as a second real world.

And countless people dreamed of flying through the sky.

Based on the information they had collected thus far, Flying Mounts were intensely difficult to obtain in God's Domain. Unlike Land Mounts, players couldn't use their Coins to purchase Flying Mounts from NPCs.

Even Shi Feng was shocked to see the Thunder Eagle's Summoning Flute, not to mention Burning Sea and his companions.

He remembered the Thunder Eagle Flying Mount from his past and knew that it could drop in the Thunder God's Secret Land. However, he only recalled that the Thunder Eagle dropped in the secret land's deeper regions. To be precise, it should've only dropped within the Level 100 Dungeon, Thunder God's Mountain, and with an ab[^] rate, at that. Even after 10 years in God's Domain, less than ten players had owned one.

And yet, their team had obtained a Thunder Eagle after slaying the Naga General. It was unbelievable.

This was why he had gasped while appraising Volenka's loot. He had never expected the Dungeon's first Boss to drop such amazing items.

Even a Common Flying Mount was as valuable as three pieces of Level 100-plus Epic Equipment. Moreover, that had been the common exchange rate after Flying Mounts had become more common. When Flying Mounts had first appeared in the past, a Common Flying Mount could've easily gone for five pieces of Level 100-plus Epic Equipment.

However, the Thunder Eagle wasn't just a Common Flying Mount; it was an Extraordinary Flying Mount.

Flying Mounts didn't follow the same ranks as Land Mounts. They were split into Common, Extraordinary, and Legendary ranks. There had been rumors in Shi Feng's previous life of a Mythic ranked Flying Mount, as well, but no one had ever seen it.

Meanwhile, these ranks represented the Growth Potential of Flying Mounts.

Flying Mounts were similar to Guild Mounts in that players could continue to nurture their growth. It was even possible to nurture a Flying Mount into a Tier 6 God. However, nurturing Flying Mounts was far more difficult than nurturing a Guild Mount.

[Thunder Eagle's Summoning Flute]

Summon an Extraordinary ranked Thunder Eagle as a companion to fly and fight in the air. If the Thunder Eagle dies, it will need 15 natural days to resurrect. (The Thunder Eagle has been blessed by the Thunder God and as such, can be used inside the Thunder God's Secret Land.)

"According to our previous agreement, I have priority to choose one of the dropped items in this Dungeon. I choose the Thunder Eagle's Summoning Flute," Shi Feng declared.

The Naga General had dropped plenty of top-tier items, including Epic Equipment. However, these items were all worthless compared to an Extraordinary Flying Mount.

Although the Thunder Eagle was the second-lowest rank of the four, 90% of the Flying Mounts players had used in Shi Feng's previous life had been Common Rank.

Most Common Flying Mounts reached their limit after growing to Tier 3 Peak-rank and getting them that far would cost an astronomical amount of resources. They only had a 3% chance at breaking through to Tier 4. Extraordinary Flying Mounts, however, could easily reach Tier 3 Peak-rank and had a 30% chance of climbing to Tier 4.

In addition, the two ranks started at different tiers. Common Flying Mounts started as Tier 2, while Extraordinary Flying Mounts started as Tier 3.

Moreover, the Thunder Eagle wasn't your average Extraordinary Flying Mount. Aside from the four major ranks, Flying Mounts fell into three minor ranks: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced. However, one had to summon their Mount before they would learn which minor rank it belonged to. The Thunder Eagle, Shi Feng remembered, was an Intermediate Extraordinary Flying Mount.

Although Shi Feng had been the Guild Leader of a second-rate Guild, he had only gotten his hands on an Advanced Common Flying Mount. He had invested an astronomical amount of resources to nurture his Mount to Tier 3 Peak-rank, and it had just barely been able to contend with ordinary Tier 4 experts.

If he had acquired an Intermediate Extraordinary Flying Mount, even ordinary Tier 4 experts would've had to move out of his way.

None of Shi Feng's teammates expressed any arguments to Shi Feng's declaration. They merely looked on in envy. Even Endless Scars was a little reluctant to give up the Thunder Eagle, but they had given their word. Furthermore, they wouldn't have had a prayer of slaying Volenka without him.

After Shi Feng took the Thunder Eagle's Summoning Flute, Samsara and the others split the rest of the loot.

By the time the items had been distributed, Endless Scars had obtained the full Thunderbolt Set, while Samsara had claimed the Epic ranked belt. The rest of the team members had claimed the remaining

Dark-Gold and Fine-Gold Equipment. After they took a moment to replace their old items, everyone watched their Basic Attributes rise slightly.

The team continued to grind Naga Guards and Guard Captains for another two days, allowing Samsara and the others that had died during the Boss fight to rise to Level 81. Meanwhile, Samsara and Endless Scars had received news that multiple superpowers had shown up to the Thunder Temple. They had encountered the Flower of Seven Sins, and there seemed to be some friction.

“It’s about time we got out of here!” Shi Feng said, smiling when he heard the news.

Chapter 2206 – Commotion Outside the Temple

Hundreds of players had gathered before the Thunder Temple’s main entrance.

If ordinary players saw this gathering, they’d be alarmed. The lowest-level player here was Level 77 and could easily rank among the top three on any kingdom’s Ranking List and within the top 20 in an empire.

And yet, hundreds of such players had come to the same place, standing in multiple teams. One particular team of 100 players, however, prevented anyone from entering the Thunder Temple.

If God’s Domain’s expert players saw this, their jaws would drop.

Every one of these teams consisted of well-known experts from the various superpowers, and a significant number were peak experts. However, none of them could get past the team guarding the Thunder Temple’s main entrance.

“Diverging Phoenix! We have played along with your whims for long enough! You and your people have hogged the main temple to yourselves! Now that five superpowers’ teams have arrived, don’t you think you’re going a little too far?” Melody, one of the Sacred Temple’s Vice Temple Masters, coldly challenged Diverging Phoenix.

“The Flower of Seven Sins is conducting an important mission right now. Once our mission is complete, we’ll move out of the way. But you’re more than welcome to try forcing your way through us,” Diverging Phoenix impassively replied, glancing at Melody.

As Diverging Phoenix spoke, the 20 players around her stepped forward. Every one of them wore a blood-red emblem, and a thick layer of black fog surrounded their bodies. Every player in the area felt a sense of dread as these players’ frightening aura touched them.

The moment these 20 players stepped forward, the waiting experts’ expressions darkened.

The Blood Guards? Melody frowned at the experts on the elevated platform, noting their blood-red emblems.

The Thunder Temple had more than just a Dungeon inside; it was also a place that offered quests and items for exchange.

At first, the Sacred Temple had only sent a little over 20 players to the Thunder Temple, and as a result, they hadn’t been able to do anything about the Flower of Seven Sins’ blockade, but now that four more superpowers had arrived, they had just as many players as the Flower’s team.

However, the Blood Guards altered the situation. The Flower of Seven Sins’ Blood Guards were even famous among the various superpowers.

The Blood Guards had risen to fame after their participation in a war on the western continent. A newly-promoted superpower had fought with the Super Guild, Rashomon, over a key town. Knowing that it was no match for Rashomon, the new superpower had paid a high price to hire the Flower of Seven Sins' help in the battle.

Rashomon was no weaker than Battle Wolves, considered an above-average Super Guild. However, once the Flower of Seven Sins' Blood Guards had joined the battle, Rashomon had lost its commanding Vice Guild Leader and peak experts.

The Vice Guild Leader had been protected by 5,000 of Rashomon's experts, including four Domain Realm experts and over a dozen peak experts, but with a 100-man team, the Blood Guards had slain the Vice Guild Leader...

After that, the Blood Guards' fame had spread through the various superpowers, and everyone had learned to fear the Flower of Seven Sins even more than before.

Although only 20 Blood Guards stood before them, Melody wasn't confident that the five superpowers' 100-plus experts were enough to take them on.

Vice Temple Master, these Blood Guards are quite powerful, but I believe that we still have a chance of victory. As we wait, more superpowers will start to enter the Thunder God's Secret Land. If that happens, we'll lose our advantage," Ruthless Sky, the Gale Sword Meister, said.

The Blood Guard was quite famous, but more than a month had passed since their battle with Rashomon. At this point, the various superpowers had obtained more Epic items, combat techniques, and Legacies, growing far stronger than they had been.

Furthermore, these superpowers, excluding the Sacred Temple, had each sent a Domain Realm expert to accompany their teams. Even if their five teams were no match for the Blood Guards, they should be able to distract these players while Melody and the other superpowers' upper echelons made it into the main temple to investigate the situation.

"Alright, tell everyone to get ready to move!" Melody commanded. She understood that the longer they let this continue, the less of an advantage the Sacred Temple would have.

"Leave it to me!" Ruthless Sky said, laughing.

The Secret Pavilion had titled him one of the Eight Sword Meisters, and since then, he had improved himself considerably. He had even mastered a Bronze Combat Technique and was confident of contending with the Sword Freak, Miracle Dragon, who had recently reached the Domain Realm. He should have no problems against these 20 Blood Guards, who mainly consisted of Flowing Water Realm experts.

With the Sacred Temple leading the charge, the four other superpowers' teams followed Ruthless Sky.

"You're overestimating yourselves!" Diverging Phoenix snarled disdainfully as she watched the 100-plus experts charge toward her. Calmly, she commanded, "Blood Guards, get rid of them!"

As Diverging Phoenix issued the order, a flash of madness appeared in the Blood Guards' eyes as the dark fog around them began to expand. Their bodies began to grow slightly, and pitch-black scales and spikes burst through their skin. A crimson gem manifested in the center of their foreheads, as well. None of these players looked human at this point, and their frightening auras made them feel like Demonic Creatures that had crawled up from the Dark Abyss.

“What’s going on?”

These Blood Guards’ transformation confused the various superpowers’ experts.

Players couldn’t use Berserk Skills in the Thunder God’s Secret Land, but based on the intensity of the Blood Guards’ auras, they had done something to increase their Basic Attributes.

Before the various superpowers’ experts could react, the 20 Blood Guards left afterimages in their wake as they appeared before Ruthless Sky and the others. A Level 77 Blood Guard Berserker swung his greatsword straight at Ruthless Sky, simple and swift. The attack didn’t contain the slightest hint of excess movement as if the player were a natural killing machine.

“Don’t even think you can stop me that easily!”

In response, Ruthless Sky executed Twisting Space, the Bronze Combat Technique he had recently learned.

Ruthless Sky sent three sword lights at the Blood Guard, which merged to form a devastating attack just before they hit the opposing greatsword.

Boom!

The sound of colliding metal echoed throughout the secret land.

The Blood Guard stumbled back two steps, staring at Ruthless Sky in astonishment. The latter also slid a half-step backward.

Impossible! Ruthless Sky was stunned as he stared back at the Blood Guard.

The Bronze Combat Technique, Twisting Space, allowed him to combine three attacks into one. Although he hadn't been able to combine the power of all three attacks perfectly during his past experiments, he could still exhibit 240% of his Strength in the one attack.

However, even after more than doubling his Strength, the Blood Guard's Strength was only slightly less than his own. Had he not used Twisting Space, he would've been at a disadvantage in that clash.

Executing a Bronze Combat Technique cost a lot of Stamina and Concentration, and Ruthless Sky could only afford to use Twisting Space six or seven times before collapsing.

The other superpowers' experts were just as shocked by the Blood Guards' Strength. Thus far, the Blood Guards had killed a few of the superpowers' Flowing Water Realm experts before the healers had a chance to cast their Healing Spells.

"Did you really think a numerical advantage was enough to deal with the Blood Guards? How foolish!" Diverging Phoenix ridiculed as she watched Ruthless Sky and his companions.

Even Domain Realm experts would have to expend a lot of effort to defeat the Blood Guards in a one-on-one fight outside of the Thunder God's Secret Land. Within this secret land, even Diverging Phoenix found the idea of facing a Blood Guard daunting. How could these peak experts possibly be a match for the Flower's Blood Guards?

However, as these Blood Guards pushed back the various superpowers' experts, 10 figures appeared before the Thunder Temple's side temple. These players' abrupt arrival immediately caught everyone's attention.

"Why are other players still here?"

"Who are those people? Why did they just come out from the side temple?"

While the various superpowers' experts wondered about this small group, Sand Bone, who stood beside Diverging Phoenix, excitedly shouted, "So, you finally accepted your deaths?"

"Activate the magic array! We cannot let them escape back into the Dungeon!"

Immediately, a group of Assassins revealed themselves from their hiding spot near the side temple and activated the Blood Magic Seal.

A crimson magic array then appeared above the secret land, enveloping Samsara's group, as well as the various superpowers' experts. However, unlike the Blood Magic Seal the Flower of Seven Sins had used previously, this one completely separated Shi Feng's team from the side temple. The small team couldn't escape back into the Dungeon unless they destroyed the magic barrier.

"I'll make sure to take my time with you this time!" Once the magic array had locked down the area, he returned his gaze to Samsara and his companions, but just before he could comment further, he noticed his prey's levels. He couldn't help but gasp in shock. "Level 81?! You all... How can you be..."

Chapter 2207 – Repelled in One Move “Level 81?!”

“How are their levels so high?!”

When the rest of the players in the secret land noticed Samsara and his teammates’ levels, they stared with wide, disbelieving eyes, but when they used their Identification Skills, the system confirmed that every member of Samsara’s team had reached Level 81.

Who are these people? Melody, who commanded the Sacred Temple’s members, could not help but glance at Samsara’s group in surprise. She very quickly noticed a familiar figure among the group. Black Flame!

Unlike the last time she had run into Shi Feng, he now wore a suit of red-black armor and carried two exquisite longswords—one blue and one white—at his waist. His aura felt as vast as the great ocean, boundless and unfathomable. In comparison, Shi Feng’s aura in the past had felt like a sheathed blade. He felt like a completely different person.

In the past, Melody had, more or less, seen the depths of this Swordsman’s strength, but now, she couldn’t see anything.

Moreover, the fact that Shi Feng was Level 81 left Melody speechless.

Every level after Level 70 required an astonishing amount of EXP to reach. Despite grinding continuously and completing one high-ranked quest after another, she had only reached Level 78 thus far. Even so, she was one of the highest-leveled players in the Sacred Temple. She’d be amazed to find a player even one level higher than her, yet Shi Feng was three levels higher. She had no idea how he had gotten so far.

Moreover, Level 80 was a minor threshold. Depending on one's equipment, a Level 80 player could have far higher Basic Attributes than a Level 79 player.

She wouldn't have been so surprised if Shi Feng had been the only player to reach such a high level. After all, he was responsible for plenty of miracles in God's Domain already. It was certainly possible that he would attain a higher level than she, but the problem was that he wasn't the only player to reach Level 81. The nine players alongside him were the same Level. Just what had they done?

Most importantly, Melody didn't recognize any of the nine players...

Although levels couldn't reflect a player's true strength in God's Domain, they offered a rough estimate of a player's standards.

The fact that Samsara and the others had reached Level 81 meant that they should, at the very least, be peak experts.

Just how many secrets does Zero Wing have? As she watched the small group of players, Melody could tell that their relationship with Shi Feng was a relatively close one. Moreover, they vaguely seemed to treat Shi Feng like their leader.

These were peak experts they were talking about!

Peak experts were treated like upper echelons even in a Super Guild like the Sacred Temple. In a budding superpower, such experts would be absolute mainstays. Budding superpowers would pay astronomical sums just to recruit a peak expert. Unfortunately, doing so was extremely difficult.

Experts of such caliber were incredibly rare, with every one of them looming like a dragon among men.

They also didn't lack money, which was why it was so difficult to recruit them with offers of wealth.

On top of that, peak experts tended to have different goals in mind.

Since she had discovered that Shi Feng was close with nine unknown peak experts, the Secret Temple would have to re-evaluate its opinion of Zero Wing.

Although Zero Wing had held onto Stone Forest city and gained access to an abundance of resources, the Guild still didn't have a background. The number of experts in the Guild was pitifully low compared to superpowers, and experts were essential for any developing Guild.

To make matters worse, Zero Wing had made plenty of powerful enemies. Its feud with Starlink, in particular, had reached a point of no return.

Starlink might not be able to touch Zero Wing right now, but that wouldn't last. The advantages Stone Forest City provided were only temporary. Once players reached higher levels, Stone Forest City wouldn't be as useful in the Bottomless Abyss. Moreover, unlike Zero Wing, Starlink's background was sturdy. The Guild was not as simple as it seemed. Taking care of Zero Wing wouldn't be a challenge to Starlink.

Hence, none of the various superpowers were optimistic about Zero Wing's future and refused to partner with the Guild. By allying themselves with Zero Wing, they'd gain Starlink as an enemy, which wasn't a worthwhile trade.

However, if Zero Wing gained an additional ten or so peak experts, its circumstances would change.

At the very least, Zero Wing would be just as capable of raiding Team Dungeons as the various superpowers. Including the massive benefits from Stone Forest City, Zero Wing would be a lot closer to becoming a true superpower.

However, Sand Bone and Diverging Phoenix were even more shocked than Melody.

“How did they level up so quickly?” Diverging Phoenix stared at Samsara and his teammates, confused.

She had clearly seen their levels before they had fled into the side temple.

She had also experienced the Thunder Temple’s side temple personally. Current players shouldn’t have a shred of hope of surviving in there, and Samsara’s team only had 10 players!.

They should’ve been lucky to survive, let alone level up in the Dungeon.

Not only had Samsara and his people leveled up, but they had also done so multiple times, reaching Level 81. How could she possibly believe this wasn’t some kind of illusion?

“You’ve reached Level 81? No wonder why you finally dared to emerge,” Sand Bone said after snapping out of his daze, but rather than feel intimidated, his excitement grew as he looked at the small party. “It seems that Brother Sky was right. The Thunder God’s Secret Key is crucial for conquering the Thunder God’s Secret Land. Once we obtain that key, we’ll pull ahead of the various Super Guilds’ experts.”

Even the Flower of Seven Sins had been helpless within the side temple, but Samsara and his comrades had leveled with flying speeds in the Dungeon. Sand Bone could only think of one reason for this situation.

The Thunder God's Secret Key!

Originally, Sand Bone had only considered the Thunder God's Secret Land as a good place to find treasure, but after seeing this, he realized that this secret land was a heavenly leveling spot, as well.

"To think that the Thunder God's Secret Key has such an ability, as well. We have to get our hands on it!" Diverging Phoenix's eyes also glowed with excitement when she considered the possibility. "Blood Guards, ignore the Guilds, and help me get rid of those players first!"

The 20 Blood Guards promptly broke away from their opponents and charged toward Samsara's party.

"Should we help them, Vice Temple Master?" Ruthless Sky asked Melody as the Blood Guards changed targets.

"Help them. The magic barrier affects us, too. The Blood Guards will likely return their attention to us once they eliminate Black Flame's team. If we want to enter the main temple, we'll have to work with Black Flame," Melody said.

Ruthless Sky nodded in response. He agreed that the Flower of Seven Sins wasn't likely to let them go after killing Shi Feng and his companions.

Moreover, with how powerful Shi Feng's team was, they'd have a better chance against the Blood Guards if they cooperated.

Ruthless Sky immediately led a small detachment to help Shi Feng's team. Melody then led the rest of the Sacred Temple's team to distract the Flower of Seven Sins' ranged members.

However, the Blood Guards were clearly a fraction faster than Ruthless Sky's team, and the gap between them grew. After a short moment, the Blood Guards stood within 30 yards of Shi Feng's team, spreading out to surround the players.

"I want to see how you plan to escape us this time!" Diverging Phoenix snarled. Glaring at Shi Feng, she commanded, "Prioritize the healers! And be careful of Black Flame! His Strength is very high!"

"Understood!"

Hearing Diverging Phoenix's command, the Blood Guards turned their focus to Samsara's healers.

Seeing the Blood Guards in position, Ruthless Sky shouted, "Be careful! Those Blood Guards' Strengths are absurd! If they get close to you, you're finished!"

After fighting the Blood Guards himself, he knew how powerful they were. Even he would've been at a disadvantage in a one-on-one fight without the help of his Bronze Combat Technique.

And yet, Shi Feng and his comrades showed no intention of moving even as the Blood Guards moved within 20 yards of the team's healers. It made Ruthless Sky nervous. He felt that Shi Feng and the others were being overconfident and careless.

You're not going to flee? Do you think you can stand against us just because you're Level 81?" Diverging Phoenix sneered at Shi Feng as his team prepared to face the Blood Guards head-on.

The Blood Guards' Basic Attributes were even higher than the Flower of Seven Sins' cadre members, especially their Strength Attribute. Not even Sand Bone was a match for their Strength. Trying to face the Blood Guards head-on in the Thunder God's Secret Land was the epitome of foolishness.

By the time the Blood Guards were within 10 yards of the small party, Endless Scars had finished casting her Spell from behind Shi Feng. Immediately, over 100 magic blades shot toward the approaching Blood Guards.

What a powerful offensive Spell! At such a close distance, it would normally be quite effective, but against the Blood Guards...

Ruthless Sky felt his scalp tingle when he saw the 100-plus magic blades under Endless Scars' control. The closer a target was, the easier they'd be to hit with a Spell, but when attacking expert players with superb Strength and Speed, such a powerful Spell would backfire on the caster. Expert players could use the Spell to propel themselves forward and instantly shorten the gap between them and the caster.

And sure enough, the Blood Guards showed no intentions of dodging the incoming magic blades, raising their weapons to receive the magical projectiles.

The instant the magic blades crashed into the Blood Guards' weapons, however...

Boom!

A series of explosions shook the battlefield, immediately halting the Blood Guards' advance. The outcome stunned these strangely demonic players. They certainly hadn't expected the magic blades to be so powerful, and before the Blood Guards could react, the remaining magic blades split into pairs and merged, attacking once more. These Blood Guards were no weaklings, though, and they readied their weapons to defend themselves against the new wave of attacks.

Boom!

As if they had been hit by a truck, the 20 Blood Guards were thrown through the air, landing over eight yards away with damages in the hundreds appearing above their heads. The weapons in their grips trembled violently.

Surprised by the outcome, the battlefield fell silent.

Chapter 2208 – Overwhelming the Blood Guards

“How are her attacks so powerful?”

Shock colored both Diverging Phoenix's and Sand Bone's faces as they watched a single attack repel the Blood Guards. After their transformation, those players wielded Strength that could rival Great Lords of the same level within the Thunder God's Secret Land. Even Diverging Phoenix and Sand Bone would have to rely on Advanced Combat Techniques to stand against the Blood Guards.

Diverging Phoenix had fought Endless Scars personally, so she knew how powerful those magic blades were, and they definitely weren't a match for a Great Lord's attacks. At best, Endless Scars' standard was roughly on par with Diverging Phoenix's.

However, after emerging from the side temple, Endless Scars' magic blades were powerful enough to rival the Blood Guards' attacks. Moreover, she could now merge 40 of her black blades to send the 20 Blood Guards flying.

Endless Scars' current Basic Attributes and combat standards were on an entirely different level than before she had entered the side temple.

Even the various superpowers' experts gaped in shock after seeing the incredible attack.

"Who is she?" Ruthless Sky muttered as he tried to recall the formidable caster, but no matter how hard he searched for her in his memory, he couldn't find a trace of Endless Scars.

Endless Scars had repelled the 20 Blood Guards in one move!

The Blood Guards had even suppressed the superpowers' peak experts, yet Endless Scars had single-handedly thrown the players...

Moreover, Ruthless Sky had recognized the technique she had employed, Strength Combination.

Ruthless Sky knew the technique and just how challenging it was to execute. With his combat standards, controlling four or five combination attacks was his limit, yet Endless Scars had controlled 20 combination attacks. She was a monster!

So, this is her true strength? Shi Feng also could not help his astonishment as he watched Endless Scars manipulate the magic blades.

Although the Thunderbolt Set had restored Endless Scars to Tier 1, a Tier 1 player's physique wasn't sufficient to allow a peak expert to control 20 combination attacks. Not even Shi Feng could accomplish the feat.

But when Shi Feng thought back to how Endless Scars had held the number-one position on the God's Domain Experts List in the past and been responsible for numerous miracles, such as defeating Tier 6 God-ranked players as a Tier 5 player, he found the current situation quite reasonable.

Only, Endless Scars' performance had further excited Diverging Phoenix and Sand Bone. The fact that Samsara and the others had leveled so quickly in the side temple was astonishing, but they had never thought that players could increase their overall strength so quickly in the Dungeon, as well.

This only fanned the flames of their desire to obtain the Thunder God's Secret Key.

"Kill them! We need to kill them' no matter the cost!" Diverging Phoenix shouted as she focused on Samsara.

The woman then began to cast the strongest Spell in her arsenal. Sand Bone, on the other hand, charged toward Samsara.

With Diverging Phoenix's command to go all-out, the 20 Blood Guards revealed maddened expressions as the dark fog around them grew more intense, and their auras grew stronger. These players' figures blurred as they rushed at Shi Feng and his teammates.

Suddenly, the Blood Guards were at least 30% faster, and their reaction speeds had improved drastically. The Blood Guards could now deflect Endless Scars' attacks, and some of them even had the leeway to dodge.

"How has their Movement Speed and reaction speed risen so much?"

Endless Scars could feel that these Blood Guards' had suddenly become much stronger, especially regarding their physiques.

"Crap! These Blood Guards weren't this strong when we fought them earlier!"

The various superpowers' experts, who had moved to reinforced Shi Feng's team, revealed grim expressions as the Blood Guards became even more of a challenge.

Humiliation!

Anger!

Powerlessness!

The majority of them were Flowing Water Realm experts, and a few were even Void Realm experts. Even the various superpowers would have to be cautious around them in the outside world, and yet, these Blood Guards had only been toying with them during the previous fight...

In a split second, the Blood Guards had reached Samsara and his melee comrades.

However, Samsara and his team were no weaklings. Now that they had reached Level 81, their Epic Equipment had improved, as well. Including the Thunderbolt Gemstones they wore, their Basic Attributes were only slightly lower than the Blood Guards', and with their combat standards, they had no issues facing the Blood Guards in one-on-one combat. They could even take on two at once, albeit barely.

Naturally, Shi Feng had an overwhelming advantage against these Blood Guards. He was Level 85, two minor thresholds above the Level 77 Blood Guards, and he currently had multiple Fragmented Legendary items on him. Even though his tier had been reduced to zero, his Basic Attributes were leaps and bounds higher than the Blood Guards'.

As a result, Shi Feng practically sent a Blood Guard flying with every swing of his blade. Shi Feng didn't even take damage when six Blood Guards had ganged up on him. On the contrary, the six Blood Guards continuously lost HP as they clashed with Shi Feng. If the Flower of Seven Sins' healers hadn't frantically cast their Healing Spells, the six Blood Guards would've fallen after exchanging a few moves.

Even so, Shi Feng still found an opportunity to activate Flame Burst and kill two of the Blood Guards instantly. His display was even fiercer than Endless Scars', and the remaining Blood Guards felt an immense pressure weigh on them after witnessing his performance.

"Is Black Flame even stronger than the rumors made him out?"

“It looks like they can kill these Blood Guards even without our help.”

The various superpowers’ experts were at a loss for words as they watched Shi Feng and his team overwhelmed the Blood Guards. They finally realized why Zero Wing openly dared to provoke multiple superpowers. With such a powerful team, Zero Wing certainly qualified to do so.

Meanwhile, when Ruthless Sky and the various superpowers’ other experts eventually joined the fray, the Blood Guards steadily lost their advantage.

“Phoenix, at this rate, it’ll be our lives on the line! The Blood Guards’ Stamina won’t last much longer!” Sand Bone, who pinned down Burning Sea, shouted to Diverging Phoenix.

The Blood Guards’ transformation was already a heavy burden on their Stamina. Now that they had improved their physiques further, their Stamina consumption rate had reached frightening levels. This was why these Blood Guards avoided casually using this move.

“I know!” Diverging Phoenix growled back. She couldn’t help but grind her teeth in fury as she glared at Shi Feng. “Black Flame! I’ll admit that you’re quite impressive to push us this far, but this ends here!”

Diverging Phoenix pulled a piece of parchment from her bag space. It looked like a relic, but the moment she revealed this parchment, its energy pulled everyone’s attention to it.

The parchment radiated horrific Divine Might that made everyone’s bodies feel heavier.

Moreover, the parchment transformed its surrounding space into its own territory, and the Thunder God’s Secret Land’s rules no longer applied within the affected area.

Diverging Phoenix began to chant an incantation, and skeletal warriors in exquisite armor, wielding all sorts of weapons, began to emerge from the void. The skeletal warriors' equipment had been engraved with magic runes, and every piece shared a similar pattern. Based on the equipment's glow, it was obvious that these undead creatures wore Epic Set Equipment, far better than many of the peak experts present.

After three short seconds, a total of 12 skeletal warriors had surrounded Diverging Phoenix.

[Heroic Warrior] (Undead, Tier 3 Berserker King)

Level 88

HP 28,000,000/28,000,000 "How is this possible?"

Everyone gasped when they saw the Heroic Warriors. The Thunder God's Secret Land did not permit players to use tools, yet Diverging Phoenix had done just that. Moreover, she hadn't just summoned ordinary monsters. These creatures rivaled NPCs and Tier 3 NPCs, at that...

"Black Flame, I really hadn't expected you to force me to use this trump card, but no matter how much stronger you've grown in the side temple, it means nothing before the Flower of Seven Sins!" Diverging Phoenix hissed as she glared daggers at Shi Feng. The tool she had just used wasn't an easy one. Once she activated the parchment, she would be cursed, and her soul would enter a Weakened state for a long time, preventing her from improving herself.

After her comment, Diverging Phoenix ordered her Heroic Warriors to slay Shi Feng and his comrades.

“Is that so?”

Glancing at the 12 Heroic Warriors, Shi Feng retrieved the Thunder Eagle’s Summoning Flute and blew in it.

Chapter 2209 – Powerful Flying Mount

The moment Shi Feng blew into the flute, a gigantic, silver magic array manifested above him. After a few seconds, a ten-meter-tall eagle with light-blue feathers emerged, surrounded by dancing arcs of electricity.

The eagle announced its arrival with a deafening screech that echoed throughout the area around the Thunder Temple.

An intense pressure bore down on every player in the area, even forcing the Heroic Warriors that charged at Shi Feng’s group to pause for a moment. Even the Heroic Warriors charging at Shi Feng’s group could not help but stop momentarily.

“What?! Black Flame can summon a monster, too?! I thought tools couldn’t be used in the Thunder God’s Secret Land?!” “Level 100! Crap! Black Flame summoned a Level 100 Great Lord!”

“What’s the point of summoning a Level 100 Great Lord? The Flower of Seven Sins has 12 Level 88, Tier 3 Undead.”

Although Shi Feng's ability to summon such a high-leveled monster surprised the various superpowers' experts, the inwardly shook their heads.

Level 100 was a very high level, but the Thunder Eagle was only a Great Lord. Even if it was individually stronger than the Heroic Warriors, there was a limit to its strength. At most, it could take on two or three Heroic Warriors simultaneously. Meanwhile, the remaining Heroic Warriors would work alongside the Flower of Seven Sins' members to slay the rest of them...

When Samsara and his teammates saw the Thunder Eagle, however, shock and envy filled their hearts. They had never thought that the Flying Mount would start out as a Great Lord. It was far stronger than what Land Mounts started as.

Not only could Shi Feng use his Thunder Eagle as aerial transportation, but it could also serve as a true combat companion. Even after reaching Tier 3, the Thunder Eagle would be useful. In comparison, current Land Mounts could only assist ordinary experts and weaker players. They were simply excess baggage to experts of their caliber.

So, this is a Flying Mount? I'll need to get one for myself later, Endless Scars inwardly swore as she gazed up at the Thunder Eagle.

The rest of the team shared her silent sentiment. The Thunder Eagle's Tier 3 combat power could help them accomplish many things that had been impossible before.

"Black Flame, it seems you're at your wit's end. Do you really think one Great Lord can save you?" Diverging Phoenix laughed when she saw the Thunder Eagle. "Since you think that's the case, you can bear witness to the power of my Heroic Warriors!"

Diverging Phoenix controlled six of her Heroic Warriors to attack the Thunder Eagle while she sent the remaining creatures after Shi Feng and the others.

“Diverging Phoenix is being quite cautious, sending six Heroic Warriors after that eagle. The creature is doomed, now.” Melody, who saw this from afar, could not help but despair.

The Sacred Temple had uncovered some information regarding Heroic Warriors.

Heroic Warriors weren't like ordinary monsters; they were more akin to NPCs. They had their own Skills and Spells, and when enough of them worked together, the Heroic Warriors could exhibit even greater combat power. Six cooperating Heroic Warriors could even take down a Grand Lord of the same level.

Although the Thunder Eagle was 12 levels higher than the Heroic Warriors, its Basic Attributes should, at best, be on par with a Level 88 Grand Lord.

It wouldn't be of any help to Shi Feng.

“Just one Great Lord?” Shi Feng chuckled at Diverging Phoenix's comment. “You sure are taking a Level 100 monster lightly. In that case, I'll show you how immense the difference is!”

Shi Feng immediately instructed his Thunder Eagle to attack the approaching Heroic Warriors.

With a flap of its massive wings, the Thunder Eagle sent hundreds of lightning bolts arching toward the six Heroic Warriors. Reacting quickly, the Heroic Warriors tried to activate Skills to defend themselves.

Boom... Boom... Boom...

In the next moment, all six Heroic Warriors were thrown over 20 yards away, their bodies scorched black. They lost over 2,000,000 HP in the process.

The Thunder Eagle screeched again as it transformed into a blue lightning bolt and shot towards its targets.

The Flying Mount was incredibly fast, practically crossing 100 yards in an instant as it crashed into the six Heroic Warriors that were about to attack, sending all six Tier 3 Undead flying another 20 yards back. The Heroic Warriors were utterly powerless against the Thunder Eagle...

For a time, the various experts were dumbfounded.

These powerful, NPC-like, Tier 3 Heroic Warriors were little more than helpless children before the Thunder Eagle, which was the same tier.

“Impossible! My Heroic Warriors are Tier 3!” Diverging Phoenix shouted in shock as she watched the summoned creatures suffer an absolute disadvantage.

Both the Heroic Warriors and Thunder Eagle were Tier 3, so how could the gap between them be so large?

“That Flying Mount is too powerful! I’ll have to get one for myself when I return!” Burning Sea could barely stop his jaw from hanging open as he watched the Thunder Eagle’s performance.

How was this a Great Lord? The Thunder Eagle was almost stronger than Grand Lords! It was nearly as powerful as a Mythic monster!

“Big Brother Black Flame, you must treat us to a meal after we get out of here!” Happy Art said, her eyes glued on the Thunder Eagle.

She had known that Flying Mounts were powerful, but she had never dreamed that they would be this powerful. If she had a Thunder Eagle as her companion, she could easily solo Grand Lords out in the fields.

“Sure, no problem,” Shi Feng replied, chuckling.

Every 50 levels was a major threshold in God’s Domain. Not only would players’ weapons and equipment undergo a qualitative transformation, but monsters would grow stronger, as well.

Meanwhile, Level 100 was the second major threshold in the game, and it was a far greater one than Level 50.

To be precise, Level 100 was a major turning point when it came to monsters’ Basic Attributes. Everything, including the monsters’ HP, Strength, and Agility, would undergo a qualitative transformation. In comparison, there wasn’t much of a difference when it came to players’ equipment. After reaching Level 100, the Main God System stopped sheltering players and fully removed its binding on God’s Domain’s monsters.

When players in the past had begun to explore Level 100 maps, many Tier 2 players had been demoted to commoners. Even killing Chieftain ranked monsters would require full parties or teams of Tier 2 experts, not to mention Lord ranked monsters.

This was why it was so dangerous for Tier 2 players to explore Level 100 maps. Normally, only Tier 3 players could afford to roam these areas by themselves.

Although the Thunder Eagle was only a Great Lord, its Basic Attributes were roughly two tiers higher than the Heroic Warriors'. It might not be a match for Level 88 Mythic monsters, but it could rival Level 88 Grand Lord ranked Archaic Species. How could the Tier 3 Heroic Warriors possibly be a match for the Thunder Eagle?

The first Heroic Warrior fell after just 20 seconds. The remaining five only had half of their HPs remaining as they tried to deal with the Thunder Eagle. The Flower of Seven Sins' healers couldn't keep up with the Thunder Eagle's damage. In contrast, the Flying Mount still had 93% of its HP remaining. The Thunder Eagle's strength and the Heroic Warriors' were on entirely different levels. It was only a matter of time before the feathered creature annihilated the skeletal monsters.

"Retreat! Everyone retreat!" Diverging Phoenix commanded, gritting her teeth.

It was obvious that the Flower of Seven Sins no longer controlled this situation. Once the Thunder Eagle finished off the Heroic Warriors, it would doubtlessly set its sights on her and the other Flower's members. In the outside world, they might be able to take it down, but they were in the Thunder God's Secret Land, where the Thunder Eagle was basically invincible.

"Don't think you can get away that easily! You won't leave here alive!"

As Diverging Phoenix and her people tried to flee into the main temple, Shi Feng activated Wind Blade and gave chase. He was far faster than his opponents, and once he was within 40 yards of Diverging Phoenix, he activated Instant Strike to appear before the Elementalist.

Sword's Transmigration!

Diverging Phoenix wanted to defend herself, but her physical control was hanging by a thread since her soul had been Weakened. She simply couldn't block or evade Killing Ray in time.

Shi Feng's blade bit into the woman, and her HP fell to zero instantly. Collapsing as she died, she dropped two items: a pair of Dark-Gold ranked cloth gloves and the parchment she had used to summon the Heroic Warriors.

Chapter 2210 – Ancient God's Document Fragment

Chaos tore at the Flower of Seven Sins' members when Diverging Phoenix had died. Furthermore, the Heroic Warriors hadn't disappeared when she had died, but without the woman to control them, they had gained their freedom and no longer cooperated. As a result, their combat power plummeted drastically, and the Thunder Eagle had a much easier time taking them out.

Realizing that the Heroic Warriors couldn't even keep the Thunder Eagle distracted anymore, the Flower's members began to panic further. The mindless charged toward the Thunder Temple's main temple.

Getting into that main temple was their only hope for survival. The main temple was guarded by Tier 3 Temple Guards, who didn't allow combat between players.

This was also why Supreme Sky had been so adamant about blocking the main temple's entrance. He wouldn't have been able to touch Samsara's team if they had made it into the main temple.

Shi Feng didn't bother to chase down the fleeing Flower of Seven Sins' members, pausing to collect the two items Diverging Phoenix had dropped, instead.

Although he had no interest in the Level 75 Dark-Gold Equipment piece, it was top-tier equipment for other experts. Most current peak experts might not have a single piece of Level 75 Dark-Gold Equipment on them; only monster-level experts like Diverging Phoenix were strong enough to acquire such top-tier items.

Current peak experts were only around Level 77, and acquiring Level 75 Dark-Gold Equipment was still a major challenge for the various superpowers.

Shi Feng was far more interested in the parchment the Elementalist had dropped than the cloth gloves.

Any item that could summon Heroic Spirits within the Thunder God's Secret Land was definitely an extraordinary item. At the very least, Shi Feng couldn't think of an item that could do such a thing.

The Thunder God's Secret Land followed the world rules the Thunder God himself had created. Not even Fragmented Legendary items could break those rules without the Thunder God's permission, yet this mysterious parchment had successfully done so.

Pursuing the remaining Flower of Seven Sins' members wasn't worth the risk of losing this mysterious parchment.

This is...an Ancient God's Literature Fragment! When Shi Feng inspected the mysterious parchment and learned its name, he was taken aback.

'Ancient Gods, referred to the earliest Gods to manifest. There were rumors that these Ancient Gods had been responsible for creating the continent of God's Domain, but due to war, they had vanished, never to appear again.

Any item that was related to an Ancient God was a precious treasure.

The most famous of the Ancient God's many items had to be the Ancient God's Literature Fragment. Many Guild wars had erupted across entire kingdoms and empires over these Literature Fragments in Shi Feng's previous life.

Every Ancient God's Literature Fragment possessed unbelievable power. It was rumored that if one could collect a complete volume, they'd gain devastating power, even enough to fight the Gods.

This rumor didn't refer to Tier 6 God-ranked players, but true Tier 6 Gods.

It was also said that some kingdoms and empires had only appeared after the Great Ancient War, created and ruled by those with an Ancient God's Literature Fragment. Claiming territory from the world's various races would've been impossible for a human without such power.

Shi Feng finally realized how Diverging Phoenix had summoned so many Heroic Spirits in the Thunder God's Secret Land, ignoring the Thunder God's rules. Accomplishing such a feat wouldn't have been possible with an Ancient God's Literature Fragment. The Ancient Gods were far more powerful than the Gods that had been born on the continent of God's Domain, after all. The Thunder God's world rules simply couldn't contend with a Literature Fragment an Ancient God had created.

Shi Feng took a moment to inspect the Ancient God's Literature Fragment carefully.

[Ancient God's Literature Fragment – Page V] (Epic Rank Item)

An ancient parchment that has undergone the baptism of time. Its divine runes remain intact and contain unbelievable power.

Skill 1-

Summon Heroic Spirit: Sacrifice a portion of the user's soul to summon 12 ancient Heroic Warriors to do battle. The summoned Heroic Warriors will be one tier higher than the user up to Tier 3.

Duration: 12 hours

Cooldown: 5 natural days

(A Weakened Soul cannot conduct the summoning.)

Skill 2-

Soul Absorption: Absorbs the souls of half-dead creatures for a chance to generate a drop of Soul Essence.

Cooldown: 6 hours

(Stronger targeted creatures increase the chances of generating Soul Essence.)

Skill 3-

Soul Strengthening: Consume Soul Essence to strengthen a creature's soul.

Cooldown: 1 natural day

(Stronger targeted creatures require more Soul Essence for Soul Strengthening.)

This item is bound to the owner's soul and cannot be traded or stored in a warehouse. This Fragment also has a chance of dropping on death. (Drops on death if in a Weakened Soul state.)

Amazing! Truly amazing! Indescribable shock and excitement filled Shi Feng as he finished reading the Ancient God's Literature Fragment's Attribute Panel. It's no wonder why those powers contested over these Literature Fragments so desperately! If a single fragment can exhibit such power, how much power does a complete volume offer?

Summon Heroic Spirit was a godly Skill against current expert players. The Combat power 12 Tier 3 NPCs wielded would be no trivial matter. If not for the Level 100 threshold, the Thunder Eagle would never have been a match for the 12 Heroic Warriors.

However, Shi Feng valued the Soul Strengthening Skill far more than the Summon Heroic Spirit Skill.

Current players might not truly understand the importance and meaning of their souls, but as they continued to level up and encountered far more NPCs and monsters, they would figure it out. Without a powerful soul, players had no hope of reaching Tier 5, much less Tier 6.

Moreover, the Soul Strengthening Skill clearly stated that it could be used on 'creatures.' In other words, the Skill wasn't limited to players, affecting NPCs, as well.

In NPCs, their souls represented their potential.

The stronger an NPC's soul was, the more Growth Potential it would have. Higher Growth Potential also meant that NPCs would have an easier time reaching higher tiers.

At this stage of the game, Personal Guards were a common sight. However, there were very few Personal Guards with high Growth Potential. Even first-rate Guilds would celebrate if they obtained another Secret-Silver Guard.

First, Secret-Silver Guards wielded incredible combat power. If they had level and equipment advantages, they could easily suppress current peak experts.

Second, Secret-Silver ranked Personal Guards wouldn't reach a bottleneck when reaching for Tier 3. Once they rose to Level 100, they'd have no problem advancing to the next tier. Moreover, they had a chance of reaching Tier 4. At Tier 4, not only would Personal Guards be a massive help when defending Guild Towns or Cities, but they'd also be meat grinders in large-scale combat.

However, obtaining a Secret-Silver Personal Guard was extraordinarily difficult. Even Zero Wing only had 22 Secret-Silver Guards, and that was largely thanks to Shi Feng's past knowledge of these guards. Otherwise, Zero Wing wouldn't even have 10 Secret-Silver Guards right now.

However, obtaining NPCs with high Growth Potential wouldn't be a problem now that he had the Soul Strengthening Skill. Secret-Silver Guards might be difficult to find, but Mysterious-Iron Guards were abundantly available.

Once he collected enough Soul Essence, he could nurture a powerful NPC army, reinforcing Zero Wing until it could easily stand up against superpowers.

While Shi Feng pondered on the potential of a Personal Guard army, the battle with the Flower of Seven Sins had come to a close.

Over half of the Flower of Seven Sins' players had died in the battle, and every one of them had been a cadre member in the organization. Furthermore, 15 of the 20 Blood Guards had died. It was a tremendous loss to the Flower of Seven Sins. The organization would most likely need a long time to recover. Meanwhile, the various superpowers would've long since stabilized their positions in the Thunder God's Secret Land.

"Big Brother Black Flame, the Blood Magic Seal has lifted, and the superpowers' people have entered the temple. We should hurry in, as well," Happy Art ecstatically reported as the barrier around them faded.

The Thunder Temple's main temple was the most important location within the Thunder God's Secret Land. It was also their team's true goal. If the side temple had so many awesome items to offer, she couldn't even imagine what waited in the main temple.

“Alright, let’s move out, then,” Shi Feng said, nodding.

Chapter 2211 – Sacred Land

Walking into the Thunder Temple’s main temple was like entering a bustling shopping mall. Rare items and top-tier equipment had been put on display. Even Bronze Mounts, which were a rare sight anywhere else, were available for purchase. The spectacular view mesmerized these players as they entered the temple.

“So, this is the main temple? It’s amazing! There’s even Level 80 to Level 100 Dark-Gold Set Equipment here!” Happy Art exclaimed when she saw the equipment displayed on one of the numerous counters.

Samsara and the others were similarly thrilled.

Experts like them wanted Level 80 Dark-Gold Equipment now more than anything, but raiding Level 80,100-man Hell Mode Team Dungeons was the only reliable way to acquire such equipment right now. Needless to say, Level 80 Dark- Gold Set Equipment would be even harder to collect.

And yet, the Thunder Temple’s main temple actually had such high-level Dark-Gold Set Equipment for a fixed price.

One could purchase the complete Phantom Thunder Set, a six-piece, Level 80 Dark-Gold Set Equipment, for 300 Thunder Source Crystals. Aside from the incredible Basic Attributes bonuses the set provided, the Phantom Thunder Set’s set effects were astounding. The six-piece set effect even increased the wearer’s physique and Stamina by 30%.

Both physique and Stamina were incredibly important when players explored high-level maps, even more so than Basic Attributes. Unfortunately, equipment that improved these two Attributes was scarce on the market.

However, the Thunder Temple sold such items...

The various superpowers' experts drooled over the Phantom Thunder Set even more than Samsara's group. They gazed upon the set equipment with bloodshot eyes, and some even considered stealing the set.

"If we can get our hands on a few dozen of these sets, Vice Temple Master, we'll have no problems capturing one of the fortresses in the Gravity Mountain Range," Ruthless Sky reasoned as he gave the Phantom Thunder Set an adoring look.

Epic Equipment did provide significant boosts to players' combat power, but it was just too rare. Moreover, most Epic Equipment didn't improve Stamina and physique, merely providing higher bonuses to players' Basic Attributes. When exploring new maps, players would perform far better with the Phantom Thunder Set than with six pieces of Epic Equipment.

As for the Gravity Mountain Range, the various superpowers had recently discovered the deadly forbidden land. It wouldn't have caused such a stir if the area had only offered abundant resources, but the superpowers had also discovered that the map had a unique aspect.

The map was unusually free in that no kingdom or empire had jurisdiction over it. Players could take control of the map as their own territory.

The various superpowers had gone crazy over the discovery.

Normally, utilizing the territory around a city was enough for a first-rate Guild to become immensely wealthy. Even superpowers would be tempted to claim such an area, but now, players had discovered that it was possible to take control of an entire map. Moreover, the map in question was particularly resource-rich. The potential profits one could earn from the Gravity Mountain Range was unimaginable.

Laying claim to the Gravity Mountain Range would be the equivalent of obtaining a super-miniature kingdom. The area was also surrounded by Level 100 maps, which was extremely important to the various superpowers' development.

This discovery was also the reason that many of the superpowers hadn't bothered Zero Wing, despite the fact that it maintained ownership of Stone Forest City. After all, this forbidden land was far more important than a God Mode Regional Dungeon.

However, the Gravity Mountain Range was still a forbidden land; Regional Dungeons and secret lands simply couldn't compare. Not only was players' Stamina consumption amplified in the mountain range, but the Mana there was also quite thin. Despite the fact that monsters in the Bottomless Abyss were far stronger than those in the Gravity Mountain Range, the various superpowers' teams had a much harder time fighting the mountain range's monsters. Naturally, capturing the ancient fortresses in the Gravity Mountain Range and transforming them into fortified bases would be even more of a challenge.

"I agree, but what is a Thunder Source Crystal?" Melody understood what Ruthless Sky was trying to say. In fact, this was one of the main reasons that the Sacred Temple had visited the Thunder God's Secret Land in the first place.

The Sacred Temple hadn't made any progress in exploring the Gravity Mountain Range, so the Guild had shifted its focus to strengthening its exploration teams. The Thunder God's Secret Land was the perfect place to do just that. This was an Ancient God's secret land, and it would have plenty of valuable items available.

However, players needed Thunder Source Crystals to purchase any of the items for sale in the main temple.

While the various superpowers' experts wondered what the Thunder Source Crystals were, Samsara and his team found the name familiar.

"Didn't that Boss drop a Thunder Source Crystal?" Burning Sea whispered.

"I see. So, these items won't be so easy to acquire," Samsara commented as he nodded to Burning Sea. Somewhat disappointed, he continued, "It seems we'll have to start with the guidance quest."

The Thunder Source Crystal was one of the items the Naga General, Volenka, had dropped. To be precise, it had come from an item called the Crystal Box. One Crystal Box only contained a dozen or so Thunder Source Crystals, but Volenka had only dropped two boxes. After dividing the loot, there hadn't even been enough to give each team member three Thunder Source Crystals. To purchase the Phantom Thunder Set, they'd have to kill all of the side temple's Bosses several dozen times.

Unfortunately, the Dungeon only reset once every three days, and current players were helpless against the side temple's Bosses. In other words, current players could only gaze longingly at the main temple's top-tier equipment.

Of course, Shi Feng had long since gotten used to that.

The Thunder Temple within the core of the Thunder God's Secret Land was a treasure trove. Even Tier 5 players would find tempting items, not to mention Tier 2 players. However, it would take more than a few days of hard work to afford these items.

After browsing the items inside the main temple for a little while longer, Samsara led Endless Scars, Burning Sea, and Frozen Gem to turn in their Epic Guidance Quest on the main temple's second floor. As for Shi Feng and the others, they had only been hired to escort the three players and were free to leave and do their own thing.

Fortunately, leaving the Thunder God's Secret Land was quite simple. One just had to use the teleportation array within the main temple.

"Guild Leader Black Flame, I really have to thank you for your help. If not for you, the Flower of Seven Sins would've annihilated us, and we never would've reached the main temple," Samsara expressed his gratitude and admiration. "For your remuneration, I am willing to offer an extra 10 bottles of S-rank Nutrient Fluids. I hope that you can accept them."

"You're being too courteous, Brother Samsara. I was only fulfilling my part of the contract." Shi Feng was at a loss when Samsara offered 10 more bottles.

Although Zero Wing didn't lack funds, obtaining a single bottle of S-rank Nutrient Fluid was excruciatingly difficult, yet Samsara casually handed them out...

"Guild Leader Black Flame, please don't be polite. With your strength, I'd like to trouble you more in the future. Consider the extra bottles as a deposit," Samsara said, shaking his head.

Burning Sea and Frozen Gem nodded in agreement with their leader.

To experts like them, Shi Feng was far more valuable than the various superpowers.

They hadn't realized Shi Feng's strength when he had first shown up, but after witnessing his heaven-defying performance, not taking the chance to befriend him would be a huge waste.

Since Samsara's intentions to form a relationship were genuine, Shi Feng didn't reject his offer again. Even a Super Guild would be fortunate to befriend such powerful experts. Even if recruiting these experts were impossible, Shi Feng could hire them to help in the future. God's Domain wasn't a single-player game, and many aspects would require powerful experts.

Moreover, it was not very often that Shi Feng met someone as generous and wealthy as Samsara. His ability to hand out dozens of S-rank Nutrient Fluids was just frightening.

Shi Feng, Samsara, and the rest of the party then added each other as friends, promising to reach out if any of them needed help.

Once the team disbanded, Shi Feng planned to return to Zero Wing. He had spent quite a bit of time in the Thunder God's Secret Land, and he still had responsibilities in the Guild. Although he hadn't obtained the Guild Alchemy Workshop Design, he had acquired an Ancient God's Literature Fragment, so his trip hadn't been a complete waste. In fact, he considered it to have been a profitable journey.

Just as Shi Feng turned toward the Teleportation Hall in the main temple, Happy Art approached him.

"Big Brother Black Flame, do you have anything urgent to take care of right now?" Happy Art asked.

"Not in particular," Shi Feng replied, shaking his head.

“In that case, would you mind joining me to meet with someone?” Happy Art mysteriously asked.

“Meet with someone? Who is it?” Shi Feng responded, curious about Happy Art’s serious expression.

“Our Thirteen Thrones’ Guild Leader!” Happy Art answered.

Chapter 2212 – Shocking Appearance of a Flying Mount

‘Your Guild Leader?’

Shi Feng could not help his surprise to hear that the Thirteen Thrones’ Guild Leader wanted to meet him.

Thirteen Thrones was a Super Guild. Many superpowers had begun to emerge in God’s Domain at this stage of the game, but most of them could only rival veteran super-first-rate Guilds. Some couldn’t even manage that. One could count the number of superpowers that rivaled Super Guilds on one hand.

Even among Super Guilds, Thirteen Thrones was stronger than average. Although the Super Guild had been stuck in a corner of the God’s Domain continent, far from the continent’s richest locations, during Shi Feng’s previous life, it had nearly been as strong as the Five Great Super Guilds at its peak. At the time, it had controlled three empires and almost ten kingdoms.

“That’s right. Our Guild Leader wishes to meet with you,” Happy Art said, nodding. She, too, found the situation surprising. “He told me that he has something that might interest you.”

She had only reported about what had happened in the side temple and the party's encounter with the Flower of Seven Sins. She hadn't expected her Guild Leader to request a meeting with Shi Feng.

Thirteen Thrones was a veteran Super Guild that maintained its rank among the top 10 Super Guilds. It employed countless experts, and the Guild Leader was always busy with endless responsibilities. Other superpowers' Guild Leaders would have a hard time arranging a meeting with Thirteen Thrones' Guild Leader, not to mention core upper echelons or old monsters.

And yet, her Guild Leader had sent this Swordsman an invitation.

"Something that might interest me?" After giving the matter some thought and ensuring that he didn't have any urgent matters to attend to, Shi Feng agreed, "Alright, let's go."

It wasn't easy to meet with a Super Guild's Guild Leader. Generally, these people operated behind the scenes, issuing a single word to mobilize hundreds of thousands of experts.

Moreover, Shi Feng was curious about what this Guild Leader wanted to discuss.

He accompanied Happy Art as they teleported out of the Thunder God's Secret Land, instantly arriving on an island in the Sea of Death. Several hundred teams, mostly consisting of Level 73 and 74 players, were busy grinding the island's monsters. To ordinary players, these people were definitely experts.

Shi Feng and Happy Art's sudden arrival instantly attracted many of the teams' attention.

“Where did those two suddenly come from?”

“They teleported here?”

“They dared to come here with just the two of them? Are they tired of living?”

The island’s players chatted as they wondered about Shi Feng and Happy Art. This was no ordinary island, and its monsters were quite powerful. The weakest monster here was a Level 75 Chieftain, while most were Lords and Grand Lords, and they all typically worked in groups of 100 or more. To make matters worse, the island was astoundingly cold, and without more than 70 Ice Resistance, players wouldn’t survive on the island. Even a 20-man team of expert players would quickly die.

Why wouldn’t these teams be surprised to see a 2-man team suddenly appear?

While the several hundred nearby experts watched Shi Feng and Happy Art, who had hidden their identities and levels, out of curiosity, the two experts in question ignored them and inspected a map to identify their location.

This is Frosthell Island. My Guild Leader is currently on Dragonheart Island. If we take a Bronze Speedboat, we should arrive in eight or so hours,” Happy Art said, breathing a sigh of relief when she recognized their location.

Due to a lack of teleportation points, travel at sea wasn’t as convenient as travel on land. Players could spend 10 hours just to get from one place to another. Fortunately, Frosthell Island was in the Sea of Death’s inner region, very close to Dragonheart Island.

It was too bad she only had a Bronze Speedboat. A Mysterious-Iron Speedboat would get them to their destination a lot sooner, but such speedboats were painfully rare, even in a Super Guild like Thirteen Thrones. Normally, they would be assigned to peak experts that focused on naval prowess. Experts like her, who shifted between land and sea, were only given Bronze Speedboats.

“We’re heading to Dragonheart Island?” Shaking his head, Shi Feng said, “A boat will take too long, and we’ll have to deal with plenty of sea monsters. Let’s just fly there.”

After saying so, Shi Feng retrieved the Thunder Eagle’s Summoning Flute and activated it.

In the next moment, the ten-meter-tall Thunder Eagle descended from the sky. It looked like a medium-sized passenger aircraft with its massive wingspan, stretching across several dozen meters. The eagle’s impressive aura even dwarfed that of the island’s Great Lords.

As the Thunder Eagle landed, its wings stirred the air into a small storm that engulfed nearby players. At the same time, these players felt an immense pressure press down on them.

“Let’s go,” Shi Feng said as he hopped onto the Thunder Eagle’s back.

In God’s Domain, most Land Mounts could only carry two to seven people, depending on their strength. The weakest Flying Mount, however, could carry up to ten people.

An Extraordinary Flying Mount like the Thunder Eagle was capable of carrying up to 20 people at one time.

Hearing Shi Feng’s invitation, Happy Art nodded and eagerly jumped onto the Thunder Eagle’s back.

With a flap of its wings, the Thunder Eagle blurred as it left its position. By the time the watching players spotted it again, the Mount was several dozen meters above the ground. With its lightning speed, the Thunder Eagle vanished after several seconds.

The experts on Frosthell Island only snapped out of their daze after the Thunder Eagle was gone. Shocked, they stared at the horizon, where Shi Feng and his companion had vanished.

“Crap! That was...a Flying Mount! It’s the rumored Flying Mount!”

“I must be seeing things! How can those two have a Flying Mount when the various superpowers haven’t even found one? Were they NPCs?”

“Nonsense! I used an Advanced Identification Skill on them before they left! I couldn’t see any of their information, but I did see player markers above their heads! They are definitely players!”

“So, that was a Flying Mount! Amazing! Truly amazing! Our Land Mounts are no more than turtles compared to that eagle!”

“That eagle looked so cool! I’ll have to get 汪 Flying Mount for myself someday!”

The expert players on Frosthell Island quickly published the situation on the Sea of Death’s official forums, starting a heated discussion about the two players’ identities. Since the forum post had included pictures and video of the Flying Mount, it quickly became a hot topic.

Most ordinary experts were still searching for a Bronze Mount of their own. They could only dream of riding a Mysterious-Iron or Secret-Silver Mount. Only large Guilds' upper echelons might own such a high-quality Mount, and not even first-rate Guilds were guaranteed to have a Fine-Gold Mount.

Yet, they had just witnessed a Flying Mount!

With the ability to ignore terrain, Flying Mounts were even faster than Epic Land Mounts.

Moreover, they had all seen the Thunder Eagle's speed. With such a fast Mount, traveling across God's Domain wouldn't be a problem.

When the various superpowers received news of the Thunder Eagle, the matter became a sensation. They frantically began to search for the identities of the Thunder Mount's riders.

Chapter 2213 – Twelve Holy Swords

"I want this matter investigated! Find out who those people are!"

"Once you learn their identities, figure out how they got that Flying Mount!"

"They came from Frosthell Island! They should still be in the area! Notify everyone there to search for those players and report back when they find them!"

Once the various superpowers found out about the Thunder Eagle, they poured manpower into investigating the Flying Mount. Its appearance had stirred the previously peaceful Sea of Death to life.

While the various superpowers searched frantically for the Thunder Eagle, Sand Bone, who had just escaped the Thunder God's Secret Land, received news of the Flying Mount as well.

"Isn't this the monster Black Flame had summoned?" Sand Bone stared at the pictures he had received in shock. "It's actually a Flying Mount?"

As an apex expert, he knew just how valuable a Flying Mount was in God's Domain. Apex experts often found resource- rich areas when exploring the continent, but since they were so far from civilization, these players couldn't exploit these regions. However, they could increase their harvests by several-fold if they had a Mount, exploring regions that other players couldn't reach. Needless to say, their leveling speed would substantially increase as well.

The main reason that players' leveling speeds decreased as they reached higher levels was due to the fact that high- level maps were very far away from teleportation points, and building or relocating a Guild Town was easier said than done.

"Boss Sand, why don't we publicize this matter? Even if we do nothing, the various superpowers will take Black Flame out if they know that he is the one riding that Flying Mount," the Level 77 Assassin suggested from beside Sand Bone.

Now that they had discovered the existence of Flying Mounts, the various superpowers would stop at nothing to find their own. Their players' leveling speeds and ability to gather resources would skyrocket with a Flying Mount. It was the perfect opportunity for these superpowers to gain an advantage over their rivals. If they found out that Black Flame was the Thunder Eagle's owner, they would go after him.

"No! We mustn't let anybody know about this!" Sand Bone said, shaking his head. "This is a good opportunity for us!"

“An opportunity?” the Level 77 Assassin asked in confusion.

Your idea might be useful if that were an ordinary Flying Mount, but Black Flame had summoned it within the Thunder God’s Secret Land. Only tools from within the secret land will work there, and Black Flame hadn’t summoned the eagle before entering the side temple. Had he done so, his team wouldn’t have fled from us,” Sand Bone said, chuckling. “Do you know what that means?”

“It means that Black Flame obtained the Flying Mount from the side temple!” the Level 77 Assassin answered, his eyes glowing with excitement.

“Correct, and the various superpowers don’t know that yet. The few superpowers’ teams inside still can’t communicate with their Guild members outside of the Thunder God’s Secret Land. They likely don’t know that the eagle Black Flame summoned is a Flying Mount,” Sand Bone said, sneering. “Black Flame may have disrupted Brother Sky’s plans, but he led us straight to a Flying Mount’s origin. We need to secure the side temple before other powers figure this out. Then, we can take our time with Black Flame and Samsara’s group!”

Sand Bone had witnessed the Thunder Eagle’s strength personally. Not even the 12 Tier 3 Heroic Warriors had been a match for it. If the Flower of Seven Sins could acquire a few Thunder Eagles of their own, no one could stop the organization within God’s Domain.

While entering the Thunder God’s Secret Land was a challenge for the various superpowers, it wasn’t hard for the Flower of Seven Sins.

Sand Bone immediately contacted Supreme Sky to inform him of the situation.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng's Thunder Eagle hovered above the sea near Dragonheart Island. He had Happy Art summon her Bronze Speedboat to carry them the rest of their way. The Thunder Eagle was too eye-catching to fly directly to the island; it would almost certainly attract trouble. Dragonheart Island was, after all, a hub for the various superpowers.

As Happy Art watched the Thunder Eagle vanish, she couldn't help her disappointment that she hadn't gotten to ride it for a while longer. Aside from the wonderful feeling of soaring through the sky, the Flying Mount's speed was aweinspiring. Thanks to the Thunder Eagle, the trip that would've taken eight hours by Bronze Speedboat, had lasted less than an hour. With such speed, she could visit any leveling spot she wanted.

After a moment, Shi Feng and Happy Art reached Dragonheart Island's port.

Easily several hundred ships floated at the docks, and Bronze Speedboats were a particularly common sight. There were even more than 20 extremely rare sailboats.

The entrance to Dragonheart City lay beyond the port. Majestic walls, over 100 meters tall, surrounded the city, and the lowest-level player they saw entering or leaving was Level 75. Moreover, most of these players were experts from the various superpowers.

Some experts, who had just arrived, were shocked by what they saw.

As the only large-scale democratic NPC city in the Sea of Death, Dragonheart City was a forest of unique, monumental buildings. Occasionally, players could even spot flying ships as they glided through the sky above. NPCs of various races, such as Half-ores, Half-elves, Naga, and Dwarves, roamed the city streets. The majority of these NPCs were merchants, carrying massive backpacks or driving freight wagons. These NPCs hawked their wares all over the city.

If one paid close attention to the NPC merchants' comments, they'd learn that many of the items for sale were unique, not available elsewhere. Most of these merchants' stocks, in fact, included incredibly

rare, valuable items. Some NPCs even sold Mysterious-Iron Mounts and Holy Fruit, which could permanently increase a players' Attributes. Players could even buy Tier 3 Slave Guards.

Much of what they saw sorely tempted players who were new to the city. Unfortunately, these NPCs did not accept the human race's Coins as currency. They only accepted Ancient Coins.

Without Ancient Coins, surviving in Dragonheart City was nearly impossible.

The Ancient Coin was a type of currency that had been used since ancient times. The Mana these coins carried made them different from ordinary Coins, and when players collected a certain amount, they could even increase the Mana density around them. However, actually acquiring Ancient Coins was an extreme challenge for players.

Even Zero Wing struggled to earn Ancient Coins.

After Happy Art guided Shi Feng through the city for about half an hour, they arrived before an Advanced Bar named Dragon Blood. Passersby marveled at the two for their assumed wealth when Shi Feng and Happy Art entered the tavern.

Everything in Dragonheart City cost Ancient Coins, and the products and services that Dragon Blood offered were particularly expensive. The cheapest fruit wine the bar sold cost 10 Ancient Coins per bottle. Expert players like themselves couldn't even earn that much after two days of questing in Dragonheart City.

Once they entered the bar, Happy Art led Shi Feng to one of the top-floor rooms.

When they entered the room, they were greeted by a young, white-haired Swordsman in white clothes who sat by the window, enjoying a glass of wine. Aside from the young man's name, Shi Feng couldn't see any of his information.

Despite sitting there quietly, the young man felt like the most important thing in the room.

Amazing! So, this is Melancholy, Thirteen Thrones' Guild Leader? Shi Feng inwardly exclaimed as he watched the youth before him.

Although he could not see Melancholy's level or equipment, the man felt dangerous. Shi Feng also spotted something familiar on Melancholy's body.

That weapon was the reason that Melancholy had risen to fame in God's Domain-the Sacred Dragon's Blade.

The sword was a bona fide Fragmented Legendary Weapon and one of God's Domain's Twelve Holy Swords. It was leagues stronger than Fire Dance's Thousand Transformations.

Someone else stood in the room, as well, and Shi Feng was very familiar with this player.

Starlink's Guild Leader, Lu Xingluo!

Chapter 2214 – Meeting Lu Xingluo Again

Why is he here? Shi Feng could not help his surprise as he looked at Lu Xingluo.

Lu Xingluo was an insufferable young master. Before entering God's Domain, he most likely hadn't even been aware of the superpowers that existed in the virtual gaming world. Needless to say, he wouldn't have had any relations with the Super Guilds in the virtual gaming world, much less the Guild Leaders of Super Guilds.

Shi Feng found it incredible that Lu Xingluo was acquainted with Melancholy.

Melancholy was extremely secretive with his movements; let alone someone like Lu Xingluo, even the Guild Leaders of other Super Guilds had a very difficult time meeting with him.

Although Lu Xingluo was the heir of the Starline Corporation, he did not actually hold much authority. In comparison, Melancholy had direct control over Thirteen Thrones. Not only was Thirteen Thrones itself a major corporation, but the Guild also received the full support of multiple major corporations. Melancholy was someone with true power, someone leagues above Lu Xingluo. Comparing Lu Xingluo with Melancholy was akin to standing a child beside an adult. Even if the child was dressed luxuriously, a child was still a child.

Moreover, Starlink had always focused its development in the Dark Night Empire, whereas Thirteen Thrones' development was in a far corner of the continent. The two Guilds' bases of operations were extremely distant from each other, giving them no opportunity to come into contact.

Now, however, Lu Xingluo was actually sitting in the same room as Melancholy. Shi Feng found this situation truly surprising.

Meanwhile, the originally calm atmosphere inside the room suddenly became tense with Shi Feng's appearance, as Lu Xingluo started glaring at him hatefully. However, similar to Shi Feng, Lu Xingluo was also surprised to see him here.

In Lu Xingluo's opinion, Shi Feng was merely the Guild Leader of Zero Wing. Even if Shi Feng was strong, the man was just a slightly stronger ant. He and Shi Feng stood on entirely different levels.

Although Zero Wing currently possessed the ability to provoke superpowers, that was merely due to Stone Forest City's existence. The number of experts in Zero Wing was extremely low. The Guild itself did not have any noteworthy strength at all. Once Stone Forest City's advantages disappeared, Zero Wing's days would be numbered.

Now, however, Shi Feng had actually appeared in this venue.

Meanwhile, when Melancholy looked at Shi Feng, surprise briefly flashed in his eyes. However, he quickly calmed himself and took the initiative to greet Shi Feng. "Guild Leader Black Flame, please, sit."

What's going on here? Lu Xingluo was further confused when he saw Melancholy greeting Shi Feng first. Previously, when he had been conversing with Melancholy, the latter had consistently maintained an indifferent attitude. On the other hand, Melancholy's attitude toward Shi Feng actually contained a trace of friendliness.

Since Melancholy had taken the initiative to greet him, Shi Feng responded with a nod and went straight to business, asking, "Guild Leader Melancholy, may I know your reason for calling me here?"

"Just like Happy Art has said, you really are a straightforward person," Melancholy said, chuckling. He then pointed at the city outside the window and asked, "Guild Leader Black Flame, may I know your thoughts on Dragonheart City?"

“A sacred land for commerce,” Shi Feng answered after pondering the matter.

During his previous life, Dragonheart City was one of the strongest commercial cities in God’s Domain. Every inch of land here had been worth its weight in gold as one of the main areas of activity for Tier 3 naval players. The resources available here were much more abundant compared to what Thunder Island had.

Not to mention, Dragonheart City was the sole large-scale free NPC city in the Sea of Death.

Unlike the NPC cities on the main continent, Dragonheart City was a place where players could become king. Of course, this did not mean that players could capture it. Instead, players had the option to purchase it.

Every construction in Dragonheart City—including the Auction House, City Lord’s Mansion, Teleportation Hall, and other key constructions—could be purchased so long as one had the money to do so. Players could do anything they wanted with the construction they purchased. They could even demolish the original construction and build another construction of their choosing.

Moreover, Dragonheart City was also home to the famous World Tower.

The World Tower was a place that the mainstream powers in God’s Domain would keep an eye on. When compared to the World Tower, the value of Otherworld Gates was insignificant because one could find super-rare Epic materials inside the World Tower and even the main materials needed to produce Fragmented Legendary items.

Due to this reason, Dragonheart City had become one of the strongest commercial cities during Shi Feng’s previous life. At its peak, the city’s commercial influence had surpassed even that of an empire.

“That’s right. This place will become a sacred land for commerce.” Melancholy nodded approvingly. He never thought that Shi Feng would be so on point with his answer. Smiling, he continued, “May I know if Guild Leader Black Flame is interested in setting up a Shop here?”

“Setting up a Shop here?” Shi Feng looked at Melancholy in confusion.

If possible, he really wished to set up a Shop in Dragonheart City. Unlike the player Shops in ordinary NPC cities, those in Dragonheart City could do business with the NPCs of other races. Meanwhile, Dragonheart City hosted a very large number of foreign races, far more than even Thunder Axe City. Obtaining Epic materials and ancient designs was much easier here. In the entire God’s Domain’ there were only a handful of NPC cities capable of rivaling Dragonheart

Hence, Dragonheart City’s Shops were incredibly valuable.

However, setting up a Shop here was not an easy task. Even Zero Wing couldn’t do so right now since all Shops in Dragonheart City utilized only Ancient Coins as currency.

Ancient Coins were different from ordinary Coins. Not only were Ancient Coins difficult to obtain, but exchanging them was also a big problem.

Unlike ordinary Coins, Ancient Coins were not automatically converted to a higher denomination after a certain amount was collected. The system did not convert Ancient Copper to Ancient Silver, or Ancient Silver to Ancient Gold automatically. Meanwhile, the merchandise sold in Dragonheart City required specific Coins. In other words, items priced in Ancient Silver could not be purchased using Ancient Copper. The same was true for items selling for Ancient Gold.

However, items sold for Ancient Silver could be purchased with Ancient Gold. The conversion used the official exchange rate, which was a 1-to-100 ratio.

Due to this reason, the value of Ancient Gold was extremely high—even after ten years had passed in God's Domain.

Moreover, even the cheapest Shop in Dragonheart City cost 8,000 Ancient Gold, which was not a sum the current Zero Wing could acquire.

“That’s right! Setting up a Shop here!” Melancholy affirmed. “Of course, there is a price for this Shop. I wish to borrow Zero Wing’s strength to capture a fortress in the Gravity Mountain Range. As long as we succeed, I’ll give you 10,000 Ancient Gold to purchase a Shop in Dragonheart City.”

Realization immediately dawned upon Shi Feng at Melancholy’s words.

It was no wonder Melancholy could offer him such remuneration. The Gravity Mountain Range was located beneath the World Tower. Not only was the Gravity Mountain Range rich in resources, but the fortresses found there were also the main method for the acquisition of Ancient Gold Coins. By securing a fortress there, one could net a profit of two or three thousand Ancient Gold every day. Moreover, as more time passed and the fortress became better-equipped, more NPCs of foreign races would visit the fortress, further increasing the fortress’s income of Ancient Gold.

Only, the fortresses found in the Gravity Mountain Range were not easy to capture. Setting aside the countless monsters that resided in these fortresses, just the Level 100-plus Mythic monsters serving as the Guardian Boss of these fortresses were sufficient to annihilate any of the current superpowers.

Just as Shi Feng was about to reply to Melancholy, Lu Xingluo suddenly frowned and said, “Guild Leader Melancholy, aren’t you thinking too highly of Zero Wing? With our two Guilds cooperating with each other, we are almost certain to secure the fortress. Zero Wing is merely lending a little help, yet you’re giving them 10,000 Ancient Gold? Isn’t that a little too much?”

Chapter 2215 – You're Not Fit

Lu Xingluo's words made Melancholy frown for a moment.

"What are you trying to say, Guild Leader Lu?" Melancholy asked coldly.

He had long since known about the feud between Starlink and Zero Wing. However, as a Guild Leader, he had to prioritize profits above all. There were no eternal enemies, only eternal profits, which was also why he had invited Shi Feng over for a negotiation.

Not only did Shi Feng himself possess the ability to summon the powerful Thunder Eagle, but Zero Wing's Combat Puppets and Tanks were also very suitable for siege battles.

The matter regarding the Gravity Mountain Range's fortress was of utmost importance. Although Thirteen Thrones and Starlink already had an 80% chance of securing the fortress they were aiming for, having a little more insurance would never hurt.

Melancholy had never imagined that Lu Xingluo would throw a tantrum over such an important matter.

If not for the great personage backing Lu Xingluo, as well as Starlink indeed having the strength to deal with the monsters inside the fortress and its territory being very far away from Thirteen Thrones' territory, Melancholy wouldn't have bothered cooperating with Lu Xingluo at all.

“A thousand Ancient Gold should be more than enough. After all, Zero Wing will only play the role of a spectator. Countless other Guilds would be willing to accept 1,000 Ancient Gold to take on such a role,” Lu Xingluo said, chuckling as he glanced at Shi Feng. “Don’t you think so as well, Guild Leader Black Flame?”

“You...” Happy Art, who stood at a corner of the room, could not help gnashing her teeth in anger at Lu Xingluo’s words.

Shi Feng was her Guild Leader’s guest, yet Lu Xingluo was speaking as if he was the one presiding over this business transaction. He was showing Thirteen Thrones no respect whatsoever.

She had personally witnessed Shi Feng’s strength. The Thunder Eagle’s combat power would definitely increase Thirteen Thrones’ chances of securing the fortress in the Gravity Mountain Range. Moreover, she knew what kind of remuneration Samsara had paid Shi Feng. That was several dozen bottles of S-rank Nutrient Fluid they were talking about, something one could not buy even if they had the money to do so.

Although an individual’s combat power would indeed have a limited effect in a siege battle, if it became public that Thirteen Thrones was offering to hire Shi Feng at a price lower than Samsara’s, Thirteen Thrones would definitely be the butt of everyone’s jokes.

However, before Happy Art could say anything, Shi Feng preempted her, smiling and saying, “What Guild Leader Lu said is indeed correct. It would be very wonderful if a Guild could receive 1,000 Ancient Gold just for spectating. Only, I wonder how much a Guild that can’t even beat a spectating Guild should receive?”

Shi Feng was well aware of Melancholy’s habit of developing partners. Meanwhile, it was quite obvious that Lu Xingluo had grasped this point as well.

If Zero Wing partnered up with Thirteen Thrones this time, the relationship between the two Guilds would undoubtedly become stronger.

Meanwhile, Thirteen Thrones was an existence far above super-first-rate Guilds like the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion and Unyielding Soul. If Zero Wing received Thirteen Thrones' support, Starlink would definitely have plenty of trouble dealing with Zero Wing in the future.

Knowing this, Lu Xingluo naturally couldn't allow the partnership between Zero Wing and Thirteen Thrones to succeed, even if it meant earning Melancholy's dislike. Not to mention, Melancholy's goal was profits. The man wouldn't dismiss Thirteen Thrones' partnership with Starlink just because of a little dislike.

Hence, Shi Feng couldn't allow Lu Xingluo to have his way.

Moreover, securing a Shop in Dragonheart City was a great temptation. Although the value of Dragonheart City's Shops was nowhere close to the value of the Gravity Mountain Range's fortresses, the Shops were still one of the main avenues of earning Ancient Gold.

However, Zero Wing would need a lot of time to collect enough Ancient Gold to purchase a Shop in Dragonheart City. During this period, Zero Wing would lose out on many opportunities. If it could receive some startup funds from Thirteen Thrones, earning Ancient Gold would become much easier later on.

Upon hearing Shi Feng's words, Happy Art silently snickered.

The feud between Starlink and Zero Wing was already common knowledge among the various superpowers.

Meanwhile, Starlink had suffered not only failure in its multiple attempts to destroy Zero Wing but even significant losses.

“Black Flame!” Lu Xingluo burst out in rage at Shi Feng’s words. “Don’t think that you’re amazing just because you managed to protect your turtle shell! Attacking a fortress requires absolute strength! It is not something that can be accomplished with your little tricks! You think your Guild is amazing, right? Why don’t we have a true comparison of our Guilds? I won’t take advantage of your lack of numbers, either. We’ll each send 10,000 players to fight it out in the Divine Colosseum!

“If Zero Wing wins, I will no longer doubt Zero Wing’s strength and will admit that Zero Wing is qualified to receive that 10,000 Ancient Gold. If Zero Wing loses, then obediently take your spectator fees!

“We’ll have Guild Leader Melancholy preside over this match. How about it? Do you dare accept this challenge?”

Happy Art could not help but curse Lu Xingluo for his shamelessness.

Zero Wing had just recently stepped onto the path of becoming a superpower. The quantity and quality of experts Zero Wing possessed were still far from comparable to what an actual superpower like Starlink had. Moreover, at this stage of the game, expert players had long since gotten used to the combat style of God’s Domain. Everyone’s equipment was also continuously improving. Now, it was very difficult for anyone to have an edge in terms of equipment quality.

It might be fine if the competition this time was only a 100-versus-100 match. In such a case, Zero Wing would still have a chance of victory.

However, in a battle involving 20,000 players, Zero Wing wouldn't even have enough expert players to fill its slots. In contrast, Starlink had a bunch of old monsters and peak experts under its command.

It seems he is still too young, Melancholy thought as he turned to look at Shi Feng. However, he did not address Lu Xingluo's words.

This was because what Lu Xingluo said was indeed true. Being on the defensive side of a siege battle held a completely different meaning to being on the offensive side. It was much easier to defend a fortified location. Generally, the one on the offensive side had to pay a much higher price than the defensive side to achieve victory.

Although Zero Wing could indeed repulse Starlink's forces, its actual strength was still far from comparable to Starlink's.

In Melancholy's opinion, Shi Feng's provocation of Lu Xingluo now was a very unwise move. Otherwise, Lu Xingluo wouldn't have had the opportunity to take advantage of Zero Wing's weakness.

As for the matter of partnering up with Zero Wing, it was obviously no longer possible this time. After all, if Melancholy allowed Zero Wing to fight Starlink, Thirteen Thrones' reputation would only suffer. Nevertheless, after all was said and done, Black Flame was his invited guest. He had no choice but to smooth things over and have Black Flame take a step back in this struggle.

However, just as Melancholy was about to speak up, Shi Feng looked at Lu Xingluo and replied calmly, "Whether Zero Wing is qualified or not is not up to you to decide, Guild Leader Lu. Moreover, you're not fit to do so, either. Since Guild Leader Lu wishes for a fight, let's just fight. Only, I wonder, what do you plan to do if you lose, Guild Leader Lu?"

Is he insane? Surprise flashed across Melancholy's face when he heard Shi Feng's reply.

At this point, Starlink's strength was already close to rivaling that of Super Guilds. Moreover, the Guild's background was one that even Thirteen Thrones would not dare to take lightly.

Meanwhile, Zero Wing was currently in the limelight of God's Domain and had recruited many talented people from the Dark Night Empire and various other kingdoms. A defeat at Starlink's hands would wash all of the reputation it had accumulated before down the drain. In the aftermath, the loss of this competition might even bring about Zero Wing's thorough demise.

"I'm not fit?" Lu Xingluo laughed at Shi Feng's reply. "If I lose, I'll give you 10,000 Ancient Gold! Three days! Don't say that I didn't give you time to gather your men. In three days, we'll fight it out in Dark Night City!"

"Good! We'll fight in Dark Night City in three days!" Shi Feng nodded.

Following which, Shi Feng said his goodbyes to Melancholy before leaving the room. He then returned to Zero Wing's main headquarters in White River City.

Before Shi Feng had acquired a Flying Mount, he indeed had not possessed the confidence to fight Starlink in a frontal confrontation. However, the situation was different now that he had a Flying Mount. With the Thunder Eagle, he could now visit distant locations that he originally couldn't.

Three days was more than enough for Zero Wing's strength to undergo a qualitative transformation!

Star-Moon Kingdom, White River City:

As soon as Shi Feng walked out of the Guild Residence's teleportation area, he noticed that the Guild Hall was crowded with players. The bars and restaurants set up there, in particular, were packed with chatting players, the majority of them talking about their recent harvests.

When they saw Shi Feng walking out of the teleportation area, they fell silent. In the next moment, however, everyone went into an uproar.

"Guild Leader! It's the Guild Leader!"

"The Guild Leader actually came to White River City's Residence!"

The Guild members present were all excited to see Shi Feng, and everyone started greeting him.

To Zero Wing's members, their Guild Leader was a true legend. Not only was he Star-Moon Kingdom's number one expert, but he had also personally established Zero Wing and developed it into the kingdom's number one Guild. Now, Zero Wing was even being recognized as a pseudo-super-first-rate Guild, and it was only a matter of time before it became a real one.

Nowadays, Zero Wing was the most famous Guild in Star-Moon Kingdom and the neighboring kingdoms and empires. If one mentioned Zero Wing's name in the Purple Thorns Kingdom, the Twin Towers Kingdom, and the Black Dragon Empire, the Guilds and powers of these countries would react with awe and fear.

Moreover, after Zero Wing secured its hold over Stone Forest City, countless experts had started fighting to join Zero Wing. At this point, Zero Wing's expert count had long since surpassed that of first-rate Guilds by leaps and bounds. The average level of Zero Wing's expert players was also shooting up, thanks to the Bottomless Abyss. Due to these positive developments, the Guild was also making rapid progress in Team Dungeons, and its inventory of weapons, equipment, and resources had expanded considerably. Now, Zero Wing was inferior only to the various superpowers. However, compared to the superpowers, the conditions to acquire the weapons and equipment inside Zero Wing's Guild Warehouse were much looser.

Most importantly, the top-tier Crystal Light Set—Dark-Gold Set Equipment that could be used up to Level 80—was exclusive to Zero Wing.

“Guild Leader, you're back.” When Aqua Rose came across Shi Feng, she quickly reported, “During the time you were absent, the Guild has been developing rapidly. We have recruited many Refinement Realm experts. After including the Lost Town's special training and the complete Refinement Realm Legacy we obtained, we now have 86 Refinement Realm experts.

The S-rank Nutrient Fluids you brought back also allowed quite a few of us to break through. Now, we have seven Flowing Water Realm experts in the Guild.”

When Aqua Rose spoke, her voice bubbled with excitement.

Refinement Realm experts were far stronger than ordinary experts. Although God's Domain provided the perfect environment and tools for players to train themselves, the number of experts capable of reaching the Refinement Realm standard was still extremely low. At this stage of the game, even first-rate Guilds had only a handful of Refinement Realm experts, much less Flowing Water Realm experts.

Logically, even if Zero Wing had the support of all these tools, it shouldn't have many people reaching the Refinement Realm and Flowing Water Realm. Hence, Aqua Rose found this outcome truly unbelievable.

Now, after including the Domain Realm expert Yan Tianxing and Void Realm expert Yi Luofei, Zero Wing possessed a considerably dazzling array of experts. Although the overall strength of Zero Wing's top-tier combatants currently could not rival that of superpowers, the Guild had already gained a portion of the strength necessary to face superpowers in a frontal confrontation.

"We already have so many Refinement Realm experts?" Shi Feng was also surprised by this outcome.

He had been gone for only two weeks or so. Before he left, the Guild had only a little over 30 Refinement Realm experts. Now, that number had actually more than doubled. Zero Wing's rate of improvement was simply terrifying.

"This is mostly thanks to our Guild being at its peak. Previously, many members had been stuck at the Half-step Refinement Realm standard. Now that we have the Bottomless Abyss and a complete Refinement Realm Legacy, many finally managed to cross the threshold. In addition, this growth spurt isn't over yet. I believe that in a few more days, the number of Refinement Realm experts our Guild has will increase to 100," Aqua Rose said confidently. "At that time, our Dungeon raiding and map exploration ability will not lose out to those superpowers anymore."

As long as Zero Wing had 100 Refinement Realm experts, it could form 100-man teams to raid the truly top-tier Dungeons and even explore the Bottomless Abyss's second floor. Raiding powerful Field Bosses wouldn't be a problem anymore, either. Now, Zero Wing could also take advantage of the resources the various superpowers had been monopolizing all this time.

"No, we have enough already," Shi Feng said, chuckling. "Have everyone gather. I'm forming a 100-man exploration team."

Zero Wing's development speed truly exceeded his expectations. Originally, he thought that he would have to wait another month or two before the Guild would have so many Refinement Realm experts. Now, he was even more confident of defeating Starlink in the upcoming competition.

“Exploration?” Aqua Rose fell into a daze momentarily when she heard Shi Feng’s words. However, she quickly snapped out of it and said excitedly, “Wonderful! I’ll contact them immediately!”

Zero Wing’s members had been eagerly awaiting the day when they could explore high-level maps. Previously, they could only watch as the various superpowers explored these maps and collected all sorts of top-tier equipment and treasures. Although Zero Wing had the Crystal Light Set, after all was said and done, the set equipment was useful only to plate armor classes. The equipment standards of Zero Wing’s cloth and leather armor classes were still far from comparable to that of the superpowers. Zero Wing also did not possess as many powerful tools as the superpowers.

After merely 30 minutes, all the players Aqua Rose contacted had gathered in White River City’s Guild Hall. Of the assembled players, the majority were at Level 75, and even the weakest piece of equipment on them was Level 75 Fine- Gold rank. This would definitely be considered top-tier equipment in the outside world, and even the main force members of first-rate Guilds would envy these players. After all, most Guild experts had just reached Level 75 recently. Obtaining Level 75 top-tier equipment was still incredibly difficult.

“Guild Leader, which location are we going to explore? The Bottomless Abyss’s second floor?” Blackie asked when he saw the gathered players.

He had been to the Bottomless Abyss’s second floor before, and the drop-rate of equipment and treasures there was on a whole new level compared to the first-floor’s drop-rate. The quality of the loot was also much higher. Killing any random Field Boss would net Level 75 Dark-Gold Equipment with absolute certainty. It was even rumored that some superpowers had obtained individual parts of Level 75 Dark-Gold Set Equipment from these Field Bosses.

However, the monsters on the second floor were not only extremely powerful but also endless. Unless players could simultaneously raid a Field Boss and deal with an endless stream of mobs, survival was almost impossible.

Unfortunately, Zero Wing did not have the strength to survive on the second floor right now; at this point, only the various superpowers did.

Hence, both Blackie and everyone else present had been looking forward to the day when they, too, could set foot onto the Bottomless Abyss's second floor.

"No, we're not going to the Bottomless Abyss," Shi Feng said, shaking his head. Smiling, he continued, "We're going to the Level 100 neutral map, the Endless Desert!"

Level 100 was a major turning point in God's Domain. The changes didn't apply to just players and monsters but also maps. It was no exaggeration to say that the resources contained in pre-100 maps and post-100 maps were as different as heaven and earth. The amount of EXP monsters provided, in particular, was a whole magnitude more.

Meanwhile, the Endless Desert was a vast desert located in the Abandoned Land in the main continent of God's Domain. Not only was teleportation impossible in the Abandoned Land, but this map was also located extremely far from any kingdom or empire. Moreover, as a Level 100 map, even Level 100, Tier 2 experts would have only a 10% chance of survival when exploring the map, even if players went as a team of 100. The reason for this wasn't just the presence of extremely powerful monsters; it was also the poor environment there. Players below Tier 3 would have a tough time surviving there.

If Tier 2 experts tried entering the Endless Desert, death was almost certain, as the monsters there were even more dangerous than the monsters in the Bottomless Abyss.

Of course, this was only true for the Endless Desert's outer area. The inner area was much safer in comparison.

In the past, after mainstream players' levels exceeded 100, many large Guilds would frequently power-level their low-level members in the Endless Desert's inner area.

To enter the Endless Desert's inner area safely, one had to either be escorted by a powerful team or be familiar with the terrain there. However, even players familiar with the Endless Desert's terrain needed to meet stringent strength requirements. At this stage of the game, aside from Shi Feng, nobody else in Zero Wing qualified.

Originally, Shi Feng had planned to bring the Guild's experts there only after they reached Level 95, to help them reach Level 100 quickly. However, now that he had obtained the Thunder Eagle, ferrying players into the Endless Desert's inner area would be a piece of cake.

Chapter 2217 – Abandoned Land

“We're going to a Level 100 map?”

Zero Wing's gathered experts were dazed when they heard Shi Feng's plan.

Current peak experts could only afford to explore Level 80 to 85 maps, not because they were incapable of defeating Level 90-plus monsters, but because it took so much time and effort to do so. Furthermore, Level 90-plus maps were far more dangerous and required more travel time to reach.

Higher-level monsters also had a wider perception range. Level 80 monsters would only notice Level 75 players within 100 yards, but Level 90 monsters would notice a Level 75 player from 200 yards away. This made it much harder to avoid unwanted fights.

This was why most experts decided against grinding in high-level maps right now. They wanted to, but the endeavor was too dangerous and not worth the effort.

Most players didn't even harbor the thought of grinding in Level 100 maps.

"Guild Leader, we're not even Level 80 yet. Won't exploring a Level 100 map be a little too risky?" Yan Tianxing worriedly asked. "The various superpowers have already made more progress in exploring the Bottomless Abyss than our teams. If we take off to explore a Level 100 map, I'm afraid that they'll only widen the gap between us..."

Yan Tianxing knew that these players were experts among experts, and only the various superpowers would be capable of forming such a powerful 100-man team, but it was too risky to explore a Level 100 map.

In contrast, the Bottomless Abyss was perfect for players of their level. It was the best leveling spot for them right now.

"Everyone is a high enough level already." Shi Feng understood Yan Tianxing's concerns. Chuckling, he said, "Moreover, the area we're going to isn't inferior to the Bottomless Abyss in the least."

Normally, the Bottomless Abyss was the best leveling spot available for players at this stage of the game, but when one considered Level 100 maps, that wasn't the case. Moreover, there were more than 10 superpowers within the Bottomless Abyss right now, and competition within the Dungeon was intense. In comparison, no one currently occupied the Endless Desert.

The team of experts couldn't help their excitement when they heard Shi Feng's insistence. They all trusted his word, and since he was so confident, the map they were heading too definitely offered better resources than the heavily contested Bottomless Abyss.

However, quite a few players were still concerned about the expedition. They were, after all' talking about a Level 100 map. The monsters in the area would be the same level at the very least. Even if they wore equipment with the Ignore Levels mechanic, they could, at most, ignore 10 or so levels. They would still have to cope with more than 10 levels of suppression.

But Shi Feng disregarded his team's concerns and led his players to White River City's Teleportation Hall. He instructed them to travel to the closest teleportation point to the Abandoned Land. With each person spending a little over 11 Gold in teleportation fees, the 100-man team had spent more than a 1,000 Gold. Even large Guilds would ache over the expense.

Once they arrived in a remote town, Shi Feng sent everyone to Precipice Valley, a map that bordered the Abandoned Land with his Seven Luminaries Ring's Spatial Gate. The team only reached their destination after four teleportations.

Precipice Valley was a Level 80 map, relatively high-leveled for current players. Only superpowers' expert teams or first-rate Guilds' main forces could survive here. However, since the valley was so far from civilization, players weren't willing to visit the map.

As Zero Wing's members stood before the Precipice Valley's Great Precipice, their expressions darkened.

Then all felt an intimidating aura from atop the thousand-meter-tall cliff.

A visible layer of deadly energy enveloped the crag. They felt a stinging pain, even from so far away, as if something were sapping their strength.

After a moment, every Zero Wing member was overwhelmed with an intense hunger. They started to shiver as if they had been starved for too long.

“Crap! What is this place?!” Blackie couldn’t help the thread of fear he felt as he stared up at the Great Precipice. “Guild Leader, we’re not really going in there, are we?”

This was the first time he had felt death linger around him so intensely. If he felt like this as he just stood before the Great Precipice, he didn’t even want to imagine how he’d feel once he moved beyond it.

The environment alone was likely more than enough to kill him.

“This precipice is special. It has an extremely powerful suppression force. I doubt ordinary Tier 2 experts would survive the climb,” Gentle Snow commented, surprised as she rested her hand against the steep stone side. She hadn’t thought that Shi Feng would bring them to such a place.

She possessed a piece of Fragmented Legendary Equipment and a Peak Legacy. Her Basic Attributes were among the best in God’s Domain right now, yet even she found the idea of climbing this rock face daunting. One could easily imagine the outcome other Tier 2 experts would face if they tried to climb the precipice.

“That’s right. Tier 2 experts have no hope of climbing this cliffside. Anyone who tries will likely fall and die before they reach the halfway point,” Shi Feng agreed, nodding. This was the boundary that separated the Abandoned Land from the outside world. Players couldn’t simply enter the Abandoned Land’s outer region on a whim. Chuckling, Shi Feng continued, “However, we don’t need to climb up it. I can just take you over.”

After saying so, Shi Feng summoned the Thunder Eagle.

When the Thunder Eagle, which was as large as a medium-sized passenger plane, appeared, Blackie and the others' eyes nearly fell from their sockets.

"Gu-Guild Leader... That... Isn't that a Flying Mount?!" Blackie stuttered.

The appearance of a Flying Mount on Frosthell Island had caused a commotion throughout God's Domain. Naturally, Zero Wing had paid very close attention to the matter. However, since it had only appeared once on the island, Zero Wing had no way of investigating the situation.

The Thunder Eagle that hovered before them, however, looked exactly like the one on Frosthell Island. Although Blackie had been 99% sure that Shi Feng was responsible for causing the commotion, he hadn't wanted to jump to conclusions.

After all, that was a Flying Mount they were talking about!

Everyone in God's Domain was going crazy over the discovery. Not only could players soar through the sky with a Flying Mount, but they could also visit far more maps across the God's Domain continent.

The rest of the team eagerly stared at their Guild Leader, as well. They wanted to hear the truth from Shi Feng's lips. "Mhm, this Thunder Eagle is indeed a Flying Mount."

Seeing the madness in his players' eyes, Shi Feng couldn't help but nod and laugh.

Chapter 2218 – Frightening EXP

When Shi Feng confirmed his team's suspicion, they gasped as their faces lit up with joy.

"Guild Leader, you're so amazing! You actually own the Flying Mount that has caused such a commotion throughout God's Domain!"

"So, this is a Flying Mount?"

"Guild Leader, why didn't you tell us earlier?"

Even as Aqua Rose and the others bombarded Shi Feng with questions, they were a little upset that he had hidden the Thunder Eagle from them, only telling them now.

Yet, despite their irritation, they couldn't help but rejoice over the fact that their Guild Leader owned the majestic Thunder Eagle.

It was the first known Flying Mount in God's Domain.

If news of this spread, even more experts would swarm to the Guild's Residences to join Zero Wing. Flying Mounts were many times rarer than Land Mounts, and even the most powerful experts would have to get lucky to acquire one. The best way to secure a Flying Mount was to join a Guild that already had one.

Naturally, that meant that Zero Wing was experts' best option as the first Guild to obtain a Flying Mount. Their Guild would have more of an advantage when acquiring such Mounts.

Of course, they had to keep this information contained for as long as possible. Once the various superpowers found out, they would target Zero Wing with even greater ferocity.

"I'm sure you've all realized the benefits of having a Flying Mount already. They are difficult to come by, but if any of you pass the Extraordinary Tower's second floor, I'll reward you with one of your own," Shi Feng said, smiling as he saw the desire flash in everyone's eyes.

Quite a few of Zero Wing's Refinement Realm experts had already reached the Truth Realm. Unfortunately, they might be considered peak experts in a first-rate Guild, but they would still be trivial in a superpower.

However, it would be a different story if they reached the Ascension Realm.

Once players reached the Ascension Realm, they could effortlessly execute a Basic Combat Technique with every action. Executing Advanced Combat Techniques would also become a lot easier. Moreover, even if one were only in the Refinement Realm, they'd have a high chance of mastering a Bronze Combat Technique once they had entered the Ascension Realm.

If a Flowing Water Realm expert entered the Ascension Realm, they'd be able to contend with peak experts with the same Basic Attributes as long as they had mastered a Bronze Combat Technique.

"Are you serious, Guild Leader?" Fire Dance breathlessly asked.

Shi Feng's declaration even moved Aqua Rose and Gentle Snow.

Based on what they had learned thus far about Flying Mounts, they knew how rare they were. The fact that Shi Feng had obtained one was a miracle. Obtaining a second one would likely be impossible.

"Of course. When have I ever lied to you?" Shi Feng asked, chuckling at his players' incredulous looks.

Flying Mounts were incomparably valuable and even rarer than Epic items, but he had already spent more than a decade in God's Domain. Although he couldn't easily acquire Extraordinary Flying Mounts, he could obtain a Common Flying Mount. In fact, he had originally planned to obtain a Common Flying Mount once he had reached Level 100, but now that he had the Thunder Eagle, it would be a lot easier to obtain that Common Flying Mount.

Shi Feng's confident tone only motivated his team even more to clear the Extraordinary Tower's second floor.

Fire Dance and Violet Cloud were especially inspired since they had already cleared the first floor and had made significant progress on the second floor. They were only a few short steps away from the Ascension Realm.

After the conversation, Shi Feng flew the first group of players into the Abandoned Land.

As they crossed the border, they felt a chill wrap around them. Everyone, aside from Shi Feng, who had an extraordinary physique, felt an intense hunger overtake them, including Gentle Snow. They could feel energy leave their bodies, and if they didn't replenish it, they would likely die after five or six hours.

Fortunately, the Thunder Eagle was extremely fast. Although the Mount shared the sky with flying monsters, as an Extraordinary Flying Mount, the Thunder Eagle's speed was leaps and bounds higher than the Level 100-plus flying monsters. It easily shook off any monsters it aggroed.

After nearly two hours, the first group finally arrived at the Endless Desert's inner region.

The sand in the inner region was silvery-white, and once they entered the area, the first group's hunger eased. Now, Advanced Food and Beverages was enough to restore their lost Life Energy.

However, when Aqua Rose saw the monsters on the ground, her expression darkened.

[Skeleton Spirit] (Undead, Lord)

Level 101

HP 70,000,000/70,000,000 [Skeleton General] (Undead, Great Lord) Level 102

HP 180,000,000/180,000,000

"So, these monsters are over Level 100?" Yan Tianxing frowned as he gazed at the monsters below.

A Lord ranked Skeleton Spirit already had more HP than a Level 80 Great Lord, and its aura even felt deadly to a Domain Realm expert like him. Meanwhile, there were thousands of Skeleton Spirits roaming the desert below...

If they hadn't been flying, they'd already be dead.

The Skeleton Generals in runic, silver armor were even more powerful. Yan Tianxing's instincts screamed at him to run when he sensed their auras.

"That's a good spot. We'll grind there," Shi Feng said as he pointed to a nearby sandstone pillar.

The sandstone pillar was even larger than a seven-story house, with enough room at its peak to fit 100 players. Fortunately, there weren't a lot of monsters near the pillar, so they didn't have to worry about accidentally aggroing too many.

Shi Feng soon landed the Thunder Eagle on the gravel pillar, but when his teammates saw the number of Skeleton Spirits around them, they were at a loss for words.

To defeat a random Skeleton Spirit, they'd likely need to work as a full 20-man team, going all out. These Skeleton Spirits moved in groups of 10 or more, however. How were they supposed to kill these monsters?

While the group was at their wit's end, Shi Feng retrieved the Bible of Darkness and summoned a Tier 3 Demon.

Shi Feng wouldn't have dared to grind here before reaching Level 85. After all, the Bible of Darkness could only summon a Demon that was 15 levels higher than he was, and the difference between Level 99 and 100 was massive. He would only be asking for a beating if he had tried to send a Level 99, Tier 3 Demon against a group of Level 100-plus Lords.

However, now that he had already reached Level 85, the Tier 3 Demons he summoned would be Level 100. Although a Level 100, Tier 3 Demon would have a tough time against a dozen or so Level 101 Lords, it could manage it with sufficient healing. With the Tier 3 Demon serving as the MT, the rest of the team could attack with everything they had, and they wouldn't have to worry about splash damage as long as they remained on top of the sandstone pillar.

Once they saw the Tier 3 Demon, the team realized what Shi Feng intended even without further explanation. As soon as the Demon lured in a group of Skeleton Spirits and solidified its hold on the monsters' aggro, the team bombarded the Skeletons. Violet Cloud and the other healers focused on maintaining the Demon's HP in the meantime.

Since the team members were underleveled, their attacks barely dealt -10,000 damage. Even when they focused on one Skeleton Spirit, they couldn't deal enough damage to overcome the monster's battle recovery. Fortunately, the Tier 3 Demon was quite powerful, and it was only a matter of time before they killed these Skeleton Spirits.

Seeing that his players could handle the situation, Shi Feng returned to Precipice Valley atop his Thunder Eagle.

The Level 100-plus monsters granted an abundance of EXP when they fell, even more than Level 99 Great Lords. Including the bonus EXP everyone received from killing a monster of a higher level, Gentle Snow and the others had leveled up more than once by the time Shi Feng returned with the second group. Their leveling speed stupefied Shadow Sword and the others, who were part of the second batch of players Shi Feng ferried.

Before entering the Endless Desert, Gentle Snow and her comrades had been Level 77. The amount of EXP they needed to level up was horrific, yet after only a few hours, they were very close to Level 79...

By the time Shi Feng had farried the entire 100-man team, Gentle Snow and the rest of the first group had reached Level 80.

Moreover, the team's grinding speed increased as Shi Feng continued to summon more Level 100, Tier 3 Demons when the Bible of Darkness's Summon Demon Skill finished its Cooldown. The team's leveling speed didn't slow in the slightest, even after splitting the EXP between more players.

Once Shi Feng had summoned three Tier 3 Demons, he began to challenge the Great Lord ranked Skeleton Generals.

Even in Level 100 maps, Great Lords were relatively rare. They could be considered mini Bosses in Level 100 maps, and even Tier 3 experts would have to flee from a one-on-one battle with such a monster.

However, by combining the strength of three Tier 3 Demons, in addition to the effects of Demon Ruler, Shi Feng was able to stand against a Level 100 Great Lord. Unfortunately, Aqua Rose and the others could only watch from the sidelines. With the exception of Cola, one of the Skeleton General's AOE Skills would instant-kill any of these team members.

"Die!"

Shi Feng activated Divine Providence and landed the final blow on the Skeleton General, obliterating the Great Lord's last strand of HP. As a result, many of these Zero Wing experts leveled up, and Shi Feng rose to Level 86. Meanwhile, the Skeleton General dropped about a dozen or so items.

Every item radiated a dazzling glow. It was obvious that these items were all extraordinary. Meanwhile, lying among these items was a broken blade, surrounded by a faint, bloody mist. The blade steadily devoured any Life Energy around it, looking the most conspicuous among the loot.

“A Blood Smelting Fragment!” Shi Feng was surprised to see the broken blade.

Chapter 2219 – Level 100 Secret Forging Design

“Blood Smelting Fragment?”

Everyone grew curious, shifting their focus to the broken blade on the ground, when they noticed Shi Feng’s surprise.

At a glance, it was obvious that this broken blade was extraordinary, but their Guild Leader didn’t usually seem shocked, even when an Epic item dropped.

“This is interesting. We’ll prioritize the Skeleton Generals from now on,” Shi Feng said as he collected the Blood Smelting Fragment.

“Guild Leader, is that thing valuable?” Aqua Rose could not help but ask.

She had already inspected the Blood Smelting Fragment’s Attribute Panel, discovering that it was only a Common item.

[Blood Smelting Fragment] (Common Rank Item)

A shattered fragment of a weapon, containing a mysterious energy that absorbs the Life Energy around it.

Although the introductory text mentioned some sort of mysterious energy, the Blood Smelting Fragment was just junk. It didn't have a use; at most, it could be a collection item.

"It's extremely valuable. Even the value of all the other items combined don't come close," Shi Feng said, smiling. "You shouldn't look down on it just because it is a Common item. Even Master Forgers would go crazy to get their hands on this."

"An item that Master Forgers would go crazy for?" Aqua Rose grew even more confused.

The Blood Smelting Fragment was only a Common item. What relation did it have to Master Forgers?

"That's right. There is a chance to extract Secret Forging Designs from this thing," Shi Feng explained. "As long as we collect enough fragments, we could even extract Advanced Secret Forging Designs."

"What?! Extracting Secret Forging Designs?!" Aqua Rose exclaimed.

Nowadays, subclasses were becoming more important in God's Domain, yet among the various subclasses, the forger subclass stood out.

A forger with Secret Forging Designs was treated far differently than those without, enjoying a much higher status.

Secret Forging Designs couldn't be copied, and the items produced possessed extraordinary effects.

Take Shi Feng's Mana Armor Kit, for example. Among the many armor kit designs found in God's Domain, none could compare to the Mana Armor Kit.

Shi Feng's Secret Forging Design was also the reason that Zero Wing had acquired so many advantages over its competition.

One could easily imagine how valuable the Blood Smelting Fragment was if it truly were possible to extract a Secret Forging Design from it. It was no wonder why Shi Feng had been so surprised.

Hearing the conversation between Shi Feng and Aqua Rose, realization dawned on the rest of the team. Their faces lit up with excitement and anticipation.

Shi Feng simply chuckled when he saw his teammates' reactions. He didn't bother to explain further, instructing everyone to continue grinding Skeleton Spirits and Generals.

The Secret Forging Designs that could be extracted from the Blood Smelting Fragment were not as simple as everyone assumed. The items one could produce with these designs would even be a great help to Level 100-plus players. They were on an entirely different level than the Secret Forging Designs players had found thus far.

Furthermore, there was the chance of extracting an Advanced Secret Forging Design!

In the past, any forger that had learned an Advanced Secret Forging Design had been treated as well as Grand Master Forgers, even within the various superpowers. It didn't matter if said forger was only a Master Forger.

This was because, in God's Domain, the stronger players became, the less helpful external items would be. However, that was not the case for items produced with an Advanced Secret Forging Design. These items would even be useful to Tier 5 players, which were considered upper-echelon-level experts in the various superpowers, not to mention Tier 3 players.

The fact that the Skeleton Generals had a chance of dropping the Blood Smelting Fragment completely exceeded Shi Feng's expectations.

Normally, only monsters near the Abandoned Land's core had a chance of dropping these fragments, but not even Tier 3 players could survive in the area.

Now that he knew he could collect Blood Smelting Fragments from the Skeleton Generals, he had to go all-out in hunting them down and collecting as many as he could. That way, he would have a much greater chance of extracting a Secret Forging Design or an Advanced Secret Forging Design.

The designs within the Blood Smelting Fragments had been created by the God of War, and every one of these designs would help a Master Forger create an unbelievable item. It was even rumored that the items could even allow Tier 4 players or below to challenge opponents that were one tier higher.

Normally, players could only gain such power through Legendary items, but the items produced with the God of War's top three designs would be similarly effective. Even if these effects were limited to Tier 4 players or below, they were still astonishing.

If a first-rate Guild had one of these designs, it could instantly rise as a superpower and overlord in God's Domain.

Following Shi Feng's lead, the team went into a frenzy as they searched for and hunted Skeleton Generals.

Fortunately, nobody else had come to explore the Endless Desert yet, so, despite being mini Bosses, Skeleton Generals were quite common. The Skeleton Spirits in the way were the only problem, but Zero Wing's members didn't mind slaying them. With Shi Feng's three Tier 3 Demons, these Skeleton Spirits didn't present much of a challenge. They were little more than walking EXP. In addition, the team members activated their Berserk Skills from time to time, ramping up the team's overall DPS.

Most importantly, as Shi Feng continued to level up, his Demons grew stronger. Occasionally, Shi Feng would spend some Magic Crystals to activate Miniature World and Ring of Brilliance to speed up the grinding process, as well.

After just two short days, every member of the team had risen to Level 87. They couldn't help their desire to stay here forever after witnessing their leveling speed.

As for Shi Feng, he had reached Level 90. If he made his level public, the various superpowers would likely faint with anger.

Most of the various superpowers' peak experts were still far from Level 80, yet Shi Feng had reached Level 90 so quickly. Even if he only wore Level 90 Mysterious-Iron Equipment, his Basic Attributes would be leagues higher than those peak experts'.

Sure enough, everyone's leveling speed is slowing down, Shi Feng thought to himself as he killed another Skeleton General and saw the change to his experience bar. He recognized that it was impossible to get his team members to Level 90 before the competition.

If he could get Aqua Rose and the others to Level 90 and gear them out with Epic Equipment and Level Reduction Gemstones, they could all use Level 100 items. Starlink would then have to beg for mercy.

"Guild Leader, another Blood Smelting Fragment has dropped," Fire Dance joyfully announced as she snatched up a broken blade from the pile of loot the Skeleton General had dropped and handed it to Shi Feng.

"Another one?" Shi Feng could not help his grin as he looked at the broken blade, enveloped in a bloody mist. "With this, we finally have 10 fragments."

Over the past two days, they had hunted down Skeleton Spirits and Generals nonstop. They hadn't even logged out to rest. As a result, not only had they gained a lot of levels, but they had also acquired a lot of Blood Smelting Fragments.

The reason Shi Feng had pushed his team so hard was to increase their chances of extracting a Secret Forging Design, which they could only do by obtaining more fragments.

According to the various superpowers' experimentation, one would have a 20% chance of extracting a Secret Forging Design from five Blood Smelting Fragments. By attempting the extraction from ten fragments, they'd increase their chances to 30%. With ten fragments, they also had a small chance of obtaining an Advanced Secret Forging Design.

Although it was possible to increase the extraction success rate by using more Blood Smelting Fragments, Shi Feng didn't have much hope of collecting 15 or 20 fragments. He had discovered that only the Skeleton Generals' first spawn had a high chance of dropping Blood Smelting Fragments, and once they spawned a second time, they wouldn't drop a fragment at all. Unfortunately, there were only

so many Skeleton Generals in the Endless Desert, and it was simply impossible to collect 15 or 20 fragments. He felt fortunate already to collect 10 fragments.

Please let it be a success!

Shi Feng prayed as he activated Divine Providence. Although he wasn't sure whether Divine Providence would be of any help, he couldn't care less. He needed all the help he could get. After activating Divine Providence, Shi Feng used Mental Extraction, a skill unique to Master Forgers, on the Blood Smelting Fragments.

Chapter 2220 – 28 Blood Refining Designs[]

Under Shi Feng's control, the 10 Blood Refining Fragments floated into the air and stopped, suspended. The bloody mist grew denser, and a short moment later, it flowed away from the fragments and toward Shi Feng. At the same time, the 10 fragments visibly disintegrated.

After five seconds, all 10 Blood Refining Fragments had turned into dust, and the bloody mist that lingered around Shi Feng formed a threefold magic array.

Wonderful! It succeeded! Shi Feng rejoiced as he watched the magic array manifest.

Each subsequent layer of the threefold magic array was more complex than the last. The first layer was already three times more complex than an Intermediate Magic Array, and each subsequent array contained more power.

Despite the three magic arrays manifesting with completely different sets of runes, all three felt united and whole.

Not long after the threefold magic array completed, a streak of bloody light shot from the array and into Shi Feng's brain.

Suddenly, line after line of information swam in Shi Feng's brain.

[Casting Goldstone Design]

One of the God of War's 28 Blood Refining Designs. The Forged Lava Stone can be merged with the user's main weapon and liberate the weapon's potential. The greater one's mastery with the design, the stronger the Casting Goldstone's effects will be.

I struck gold! Shi Feng was elated as he took a rough glance at the information.

Although he only received a Basic Blood Refining Design, not an Advanced one, it was the extremely rare casting design.

In God's Domain, forgers fell into three categories.

The first type focused on weapons and equipment.

The second type focused on support items, such as armor kits and whetstones.

The third type focused on items that strengthened existing weapons and equipment, such as combat devices.

Among the three, the third category's designs were the rarest. Moreover, most strengthening items were temporary, so they tended to be the least valuable of forgers' products. However, the third category forgers were the most popular among the various superpowers.

Strengthening items were easier to produce, had higher production rates, and shorter production times than items from the other categories. This made mass-producing these items possible.

During Shi Feng's previous life, any forger that successfully learned a Secret Forging Design from this category would be treated like a god by the various major powers.

Although the Blood Refining Designs only belonged to the second or third category, there had been less than a handful of players who had learned these third category designs during Shi Feng's previous life.

Shi Feng had never thought that he would acquire a third category Blood Refining Design in this life.

After a brief, excited moment, Shi Feng earnestly inspected the Casting Goldstone's details. The moment he did, however, he was astonished.

It's no wonder why the various superpowers and forgers went mad over the Three Great Advanced Blood Refining Designs back then. If the Casting Goldstone is already this powerful, those Advanced designs' items can allow players to transcend tiers. Shi Feng was inwardly shocked as he read about the Casting Goldstone's effects.

Although the Casting Goldstone could only strengthen players' main weapon, it was not limited to metallic weapons. It could also be used on wood or crystal weapons like staves and bows. Moreover, the strengthening effects were permanent.

This category's forged items shouldn't be capable of such a thing, but the God of War had made the impossible possible.

The Casting Goldstone could accomplish the feat because it didn't strengthen the weapon itself. Instead, it reinforced the connection between the weapon and its wielder, giving the player a portion of the weapon's strength.

The amount of the weapon's strength the user could access depended on the quality of the Casting Goldstone.

The threefold magic array that had appeared before Shi Feng was none other than the Casting Goldstone's core. To increase the forged Casting Goldstone's quality, one would have to increase their mastery of the threefold magic array.

As long as one fully mastered the magic array, the Casting Goldstone could double up to a Tier 3 players' combat power. It would even be significantly helpful to Tier 4 players.

The Casting Goldstone's only flaw was the required materials.

Every material needed to produce the Casting Goldstone was incredibly rare and valuable, especially the Magic Molten Gold. A single ingot currently cost 20 Gold on the market. In total, each production attempt would cost 40 Gold or so.

With that kind of money, one could purchase a piece of Level 70 Fine-Gold Equipment.

It seems I'll have to research this Blood Refining Design carefully. Shi Feng could not help his grin as he looked at the Casting Goldstone Design.

He had still felt that the upcoming competition against Starlink would be quite difficult if he relied on Aqua Rose and the others. Starlink was no pushover, after all. With the Casting Goldstone, however, he was no longer concerned.

Ordinary powers might struggle to collect Magic Molten Gold, but for Zero Wing, it was a simple task. One word was all it would take for Zero Wing to acquire a stock of Magic Molten Gold from the Secret and Candlelight Chambers of Commerce. Needless to say, he could acquire the rest of the required materials through the same routes.

Thinking up to this point, Shi Feng had everyone return to White River City and get some rest. They hadn't rested for the past two days, and Aqua Rose and the others still had plenty of responsibilities in Zero Wing to attend to.

The team was a little disappointed that Shi Feng dismissed their grinding session, but it was true that they needed to return to their tasks. Following which, everyone took out a Guild Transfer Scroll and teleported to their respective bases of operations.

Although most teleportation means were prohibited in the Abandoned Land, Return Scrolls and Guild Transfer Scrolls were, fortunately, an exception.

After Aqua Rose and the others left, Shi Feng took out a Return Scroll and teleported to White River City. He intended to research the Casting Goldstone's production method in the Candlelight Trading Firm.

When Shi Feng returned, the city was as crowded as always. Only, far more Guilds occupied the city now than before. As Shi Feng walked through the city's business district, he saw players from several dozen Guilds. Many were even from large Guilds that were based in other kingdoms and empires.

These Guilds had gathered in White River City to visit the city's Auction House.

Since White River City's Auction House was linked with the one in Stone Forest City, players could find rare items and equipment that only dropped in the Bottomless Abyss.

The Bottomless Abyss was the current frontline in God's Domain. Ordinary expert players coveted the items found in the Regional Dungeon. Naturally, the various large Guilds' members couldn't miss this opportunity. Traveling to the Bottomless Abyss was a particularly challenging endeavor for players from outside of the Dark Night Empire, and entering the Regional Dungeon wasn't easy, either. At this point, a team shouldn't even dream of entering the Dungeon without five ordinary experts.

Because of this, White River City had become a hub for the players in the kingdoms and empires neighboring Star- Moon Kingdom. This situation instantly transformed White River City into a super-large-scale NPC city, with a player population of nearly twenty million. Players from the various large Guilds ran to White River City's Auction House to purchase items.

In addition, Zero Wing hosted and monitored daily bartering sessions for rare items in White River City's Auction House, which further enticed the various Guilds and expert players.

The easiest currency players could earn in God's Domain was Coins. Powerful players no longer needed Coins so desperately. Instead, they needed rare materials and top-tier equipment. However, most people selling these items were generally unwilling to accept Coins as payment, seeking items of equal

value. Meanwhile, Zero Wing's bartering sessions had made White River City a hub for rare materials and top-tier equipment.

White River City even began to show signs of becoming the main trade hub for Star-Moon Kingdom and its several neighboring kingdoms.

Just as Shi Feng had almost reached the Candlelight Trading Firm, the crisp sound of the system reached his ears.

System: White River City Auction House has met the conditions to unlock its advanced features. Do you wish to enable the advanced features?